



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

2021/2022 Supplemental Proposal Book

The enclosed proposals will be considered at the Board of Game meetings scheduled for January and March 2022 along with the proposals published in the 2020/2021 proposal book. Please visit the Board of Game proposal book website for a complete list of proposals visit:

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook



Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Dear Reviewer,

August 2021

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will consider the enclosed, supplemental proposals during the meetings scheduled for January and March 2022, in addition to those proposals published for the 2020/2021 meeting cycle. The proposals primarily concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations for the Central & Southwest Region (Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17); statewide provisions under 5 AAC Chapter 92; and annual reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions.

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. During its 2020/2021 meeting cycle, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic the board postponed its regulatory meetings to 2021/2022. As we move into the 2021/2022 meeting cycle, both the board and ADF&G intend to return to in-person meetings as identified in this book. However, at the time of this publication it is difficult to predict what complications related to COVID-19 will persist as we approach the meetings.

Individuals wishing to attend in-person meetings are advised ADF&G will employ a COVID-19 mitigation plan that complies with the state and hosting community mitigation requirements. While the details of that plan remain to be finalized, it will allow for a range of mitigation measures depending on the status of COVID-19 in the state and meeting community. The plan will also likely involve participant registration and agreement to abide by mitigation measures at the meeting. The mitigation plan will be published well before the January 2022 board meeting and ADF&G will work to provide consistent and clear communication to participants leading up to and during the meeting. For those unable to attend in-person, written comments are accepted before and during the meeting.

Proposals: Proposals have been submitted by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, ADF&G, and other agencies. With the exception of minor edits and clarifications, the proposals are published essentially as they were received, with the insertion of the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and a brief description of the action requested. The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are additions to the regulation text, and capitalized words in square brackets are [DELETIONS].

Readers are encouraged to view all proposals in both proposal books as some proposals may affect other regions and units. Proposals are grouped by each meeting to which they pertain (see Proposal Indices). The proposals are listed in the tentative order in which they are expected to be considered during the meeting. The final order of all proposals to be deliberated on, also known as the “roadmap,” will be available approximately two weeks prior to the meetings.

Public Comment Requested: Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like to consider your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities and interests. The board relies heavily on written comments and oral testimony explaining the effect of the proposed changes. Public comment, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff reports, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Anyone interested in or affected by the subject matter contained in the proposals scheduled for the January and March 2022 meetings are encouraged to provide written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board. Please review the additional information for providing written comment and testimony to the board on page v.

Written comments can be submitted to the board by the announced deadlines:

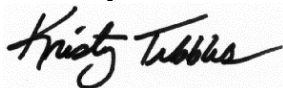
Online: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
Email: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (PDF attachment only)
Fax: 907-465-6094
Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
P.O. Box 115526 | Juneau , AK 99811-5526

Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Board of Game website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov or through the ADF&G Boards Support Section. Please watch the website for notices and updates closer to the meeting dates, or sign up at the same link to receive notices about the Board of Game. Preliminary board actions will also be posted on the website during the meeting, followed by final actions after the meeting.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-6098 at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with the Alaska Board of Game and the regulatory process.

Sincerely,



Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

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The following proposals are supplemental to those submitted for the 2020/2021 meeting cycle which are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook&boardcycle=2021-2022

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Guidelines for Written Comments and Public Testimony

The Board of Game (board) relies heavily on information provided by the public. Explaining the effect of the proposed changes help inform the board members for their decisions on the hundreds of proposals scheduled for consideration each year. The following information provides guidelines and helpful tips to be effective with submitting written comments and oral testimony.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

Timely submission: Written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted online at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov, by the set deadline for each meeting, usually two weeks in advance. Comments received by the deadline are provided to the board and the public on the meeting information webpages in advance of the meeting and are cross-referenced with proposals. Comments are public documents and part of the board record.

Tips for format and content:

- Clearly state the proposal number and your position by indicating “support” or “oppose”. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate “support as amended” and provide your preferred amendment in writing.
- Briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal to help the board members understand the pros and cons of each issue. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved, not the sum of total comments for or against a proposal.
- For advisory committees (AC), meeting recommendations should reflect why the AC voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple sentences is sufficient.
- Include your name and if including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.
- If using acronyms, please state what the acronym stands for.
- Page limits: For on-time comments, up to 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or organization; after the deadline, comments are limited to ten single-sided pages.
- If commenting on multiple proposals, please do not use separate pieces of paper.
- If handwriting comments, write clearly, use dark ink and write legibly. Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins.

Comments submitted after the deadline: Written comments may be submitted after the deadline via mail, fax, email, or hand-delivery. Comments received after the deadline are not cross-referenced with proposals and are distributed to board members and the public at the meeting. They are logged as “record copies” (also referred to as “RC”) with an assigned log number. Requirements are the same as above. Comments submitted at the meeting usually require 20 copies be provided for the public distribution. Due to mitigation measures for COVID-19, this requirement may change and will be announced on the board’s website at a future date.

GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Oral hearings are scheduled at the beginning of each regulatory meeting, typically following agency reports, and continue until everyone who has signed up by the announced deadline and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. Advisory committee (AC) representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings.

Persons planning to testify at Board of Game meetings must submit a **PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD** (blue card) to the Boards staff prior to the announced cut-off time. If submitting written comments at the meeting along with oral testimony, **20 copies** may be required unless COVID-19 mitigation measures specify otherwise as the meetings approach. PowerPoint presentations may be provided when testifying at meetings as long as hard copies of the presentation are provided and Boards Support staff are notified in advance to arrange the equipment. Written material submitted during the board meetings will be logged with a record copy ("RC") number, which should be referenced at the time of testimony.

Once the oral hearing portion of the meeting begins, Boards Support staff will prepare and post a list of testifiers. The chair will call testifiers in the order provided on the list. When it is your turn to testify, please go to the testimony table, press the button on the microphone, and state your name for the record, where you reside and whom you represent, if speaking for an organization. When giving testimony, be sure to reference the proposal number as well as the title or subject matter. Follow the tips for comments shown on page v.

The board utilizes a light indicator system for timing testifiers. When you begin your testimony, a green light will come on. When you have one-minute remaining, a yellow light will come on followed by a red light or buzzer to indicate your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments. Be aware that when you testify, you may not ask questions of board members or of agency staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **Please do not use derogatory or threatening language or you will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

The board allows testimony for one organization in addition to personal testimony or AC testimony and each testimony is allotted its own time. **If you are giving testimony for yourself and an organization or an AC**, you only need to turn in one sign-up card naming the group you wish to speak for. When giving testimony for yourself and an organization or AC, state on the record who you are speaking for. For example: give comments for the organization you are representing, then, after stating clearly that you are now testifying for yourself, give your individual comments.

The length of testimony time will be announced on the agenda just prior to meeting and by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The board typically allows five minutes for oral testimony for an individual or an organization and 15 minutes for ACs and regional advisory councils. Time limits on testimony do not include questions the board members may have for you. Preparing and practicing your testimony ahead of time will help ensure you stay within the time limit, while making your points clear.



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About the Board of Game & Advisory Committees

Alaska Board of Game

The Board of Game (board) is Alaska's regulatory entity authorized to adopt regulations to conserve and develop the state's wildlife resources and to allocate uses of those resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, and regulating methods and means. The board consists of seven members, serving three-year terms. Each member is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Alaska State Legislature.

The board considers regulatory topics on a three-year cycle, holding two to three meetings each year to address proposed regulations on a regional basis. Each year, the board solicits proposals for new regulations and changes to existing regulations. Any individual or organization may submit proposals and offer oral and/or written testimony for the board's consideration. More information about the Board of Game members, process and meeting information is online at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov.

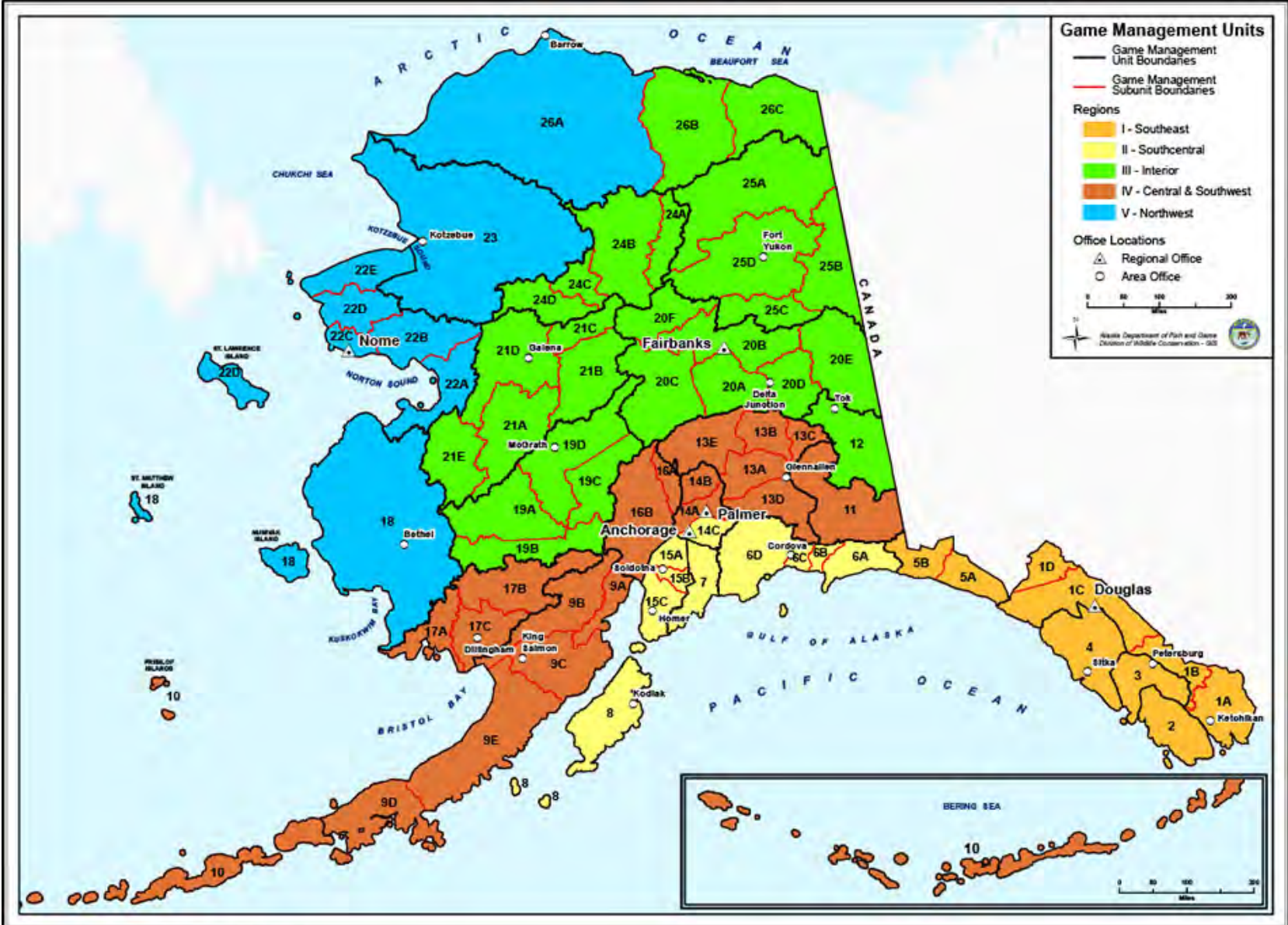
Advisory Committees

The local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) play a key role in the regulatory process for both fisheries and wildlife management. While the boards make the final decisions on proposed regulations, they rely heavily on ACs to offer their local knowledge on fish and wildlife issues of interest by submitting proposals and comments on proposals.

There are 84 ACs in the state; nearly all actively participate in the state regulatory process as well as the federal subsistence process. ACs have up to 15 members and many have community seats designated under regulation. AC members serve three-year terms and are elected by local community members. ACs begin meeting as early as September and throughout the board meeting cycle to review proposals and submit recommendations to the boards. Meetings are open to the public and meeting information is online at: www.advisory.adfg.alaska.gov, or from Boards Support Regional Coordinators.

Boards Support Regional Coordinators facilitate AC participation in the regulatory process by coordinating AC meetings and ensuring the ACs have the necessary information to be effective before the boards. Contact information for the Regional Coordinators can be found on the Boards Support staff listing on page xiv.

Region and Game Management Unit Boundaries



Commonly Used Acronyms & Terms

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code	Region III	Interior & Eastern Arctic Region – Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C
AC	Advisory Committee	Region IV	Central/Southwest Region – Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Region V	Western Arctic/Western Region – Game Management Units 18, 22, 23 & 26A
ANS	Amount Necessary for Subsistence	RAC	Federal Regional Advisory Council
AS	Alaska Statute	SAPCH	Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd
AWT	Alaska Wildlife Troopers	SHS	Selective Harvest Strategy
BOG/Board	Board of Game	UCH	Unimak Island caribou herd
BGCSB	Big Game Commercial Services Board	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
C.I.	Confidence Interval	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
C&T	Customary and Traditional U	WAA	Wildlife Analysis Area
CUA	Controlled Use Area	2DK	Second degree of kindred
DHCMA	Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area	Permit Hunt Abbreviations	
DWC	Division of Wildlife Conservation	<i>Some proposals reference specific permit hunt numbers that begin with the initials to indicate the type of hunt and big game animal, followed by three digits for the hunt number:</i>	
EO	Emergency Order	RB	Registration brown bear
FSB	Federal Subsistence Board	RC	Registration caribou
GMU/Unit	Game Management Unit	RG	Registration goat
GSPE	Geospatial Population Estimator	RL	Registration black bear
GUA	Guide Use Area	RM	Registration moose
HGL	Harvest Guideline Level	RX	Registration Musk ox
IM	Intensive Management Area	DB	Drawing brown bear
NAP	Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd	DC	Drawing caribou
NPS	National Park Service	DG	Drawing goat
OSM	Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior	DL	Drawing black bear
RY	Regulatory Year; July 1- June 30	DM	Drawing moose
Region I	Southeast Region – Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5	DS	Drawing sheep
Region II	Southcentral Region – Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, & 15	DX	Drawing must ox
		YM	Youth moose

**Alaska Board of Game**

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www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME****2021/2022 Meeting Cycle****Tentative Meeting Dates**

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
January 20, 2022 (1 day)	Work Session	Wasilla Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	January 14, 2022
January 21 - 28, 2022 (8 days)	Central & Southwest Region Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17	Wasilla Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	January 7, 2022
March 4 - 11, 2022 (8 days)	Statewide Regulations 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98	Fairbanks Pike's Waterfront Lodge	February 18, 2022

Total Meeting Days: 17

Proposal Deadline: Friday, May 28, 2021**Agenda Change Request Deadline: Monday, November 1, 2021***(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests following the November 1 deadline.)*



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Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game meeting cycle generally occurs from November through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping
- Changes specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92

Proposals pertaining for the reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before. Boards Support issues a “Call for Proposals” generally in January before the May 1 deadline, which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

Topic & Meeting Schedule
Southeast Region - Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2022/2023 2025/2026 2028/2029</i>
Southcentral Region - Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2022/2023 2025/2026 2028/2029</i>
Western Arctic / Western Region - Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A <i>Meeting Cycle: 2023/2024 2026/2027 2029/2030</i>
Interior and Eastern Arctic Region - Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C <i>Meeting Cycle: 2023/2024 2026/2027 2029/2030</i>
Central and Southwest Region - Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2021/2022 2024/2025 2027/2028</i>
Statewide Regulations* (see next page) <i>Meeting Cycle: 2021/2022 2024/2025 2027/2028</i>
*5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry is scheduled every six years: 2021/2022 2027/2028 2033/2034

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Statewide Regulations ~ 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98

General Provisions & Definitions:

- 92.001 Application of this Chapter
- 92.002 Liability for Violations
- 92.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- 92.004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and transporting game.
- 92.005 Policy for Changing the Board of Agenda
- 92.008 Harvest Guideline Levels
- 92.009 Policy Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
- 92.990 Definitions

Licenses, Harvest Tickets, Reports, Tags, & Fees:

- 92.010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- 92.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- 92.012 Licenses and Tags
- 92.013 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide Services
- 92.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- 92.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies

Permits:

- 92.020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- 92.028 Aviculture Permits
- 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- 92.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid and Wild Cat Hybrids Prohibited
- 92.031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
- 92.033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- 92.034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- 92.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- 92.037 Permit for Falconry (to be *addressed every 6 years*)
- 92.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- 92.040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- 92.041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- 92.042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
- 92.043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- 92.044 Permit for Hunting Bear w/the Use of Bait or Scent Lures
- 92.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- 92.049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- 92.050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.061 Special Provisions for Brown Bear Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- 92.068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- 92.069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- 92.071 Tier I Subsistence Permits
- 92.072 Community subsistence Harvest Hunt Area and Permit Conditions

Methods & Means:

- 92.075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- 92.080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- 92.085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- 92.090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- 92.095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- 92.100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- 92.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions

Intensive Management and Predator Control:

- 92.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- 92.110 Control of Predation by Wolves
- 92.115 Control of Predation by Bears
- 92.116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas

Possession and Transportation:

- 92.130 Restrictions to Bag Limit
- 92.135 Transfer of Possession
- 92.140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- 92.141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
- 92.150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- 92.151 Destruction of trophy value of game required in specific areas.
- 92.160 Marked or Tagged Game
- 92.165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- 92.170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- 92.171 Sealing of Dall Sheep Horns

Use of Game:

- 92.200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- 92.210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- 92.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- 92.230 Feeding of Game
- 92.250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
- 92.260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited

Emergency Taking of Game:

- 92.400 Emergency Taking of Game
- 92.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- 92.420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

Game Management Units:

- 92.450 Description of Game Management Units

Antlerless Moose Reauthorization:

- 98.005 Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Season



Alaska Board of Game

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Alaska Board of Game Members

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman, Bethel, Chairman Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov	6/30/2023
Orville Huntington, Huslia, Acting Vice Chairman Orville.huntington@alaska.gov	6/30/2022
Jerry Burnett, Juneau Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov	6/30/2024
Allen (Al) Barrette, Fairbanks Allen.barrette@alaska.gov	6/30/2022
Lynn Keogh, Wasilla Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov	6/30/2023
Jake Fletcher, Talkeetna Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov	6/30/2023
James Cooney, Eagle River James.Cooney@alaska.gov	6/30/2024

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached by contacting

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BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

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Southwest Region

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Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: 842-5142
Fax: 842-5514

Vacant positions are expected to be filled in September 2021. The staffing list will be updated at:
www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.regcoordinators

Central & Southwest Region

Supplemental Proposal Index

The following proposals will be considered at the Central & Southwest Region meeting in addition to the proposals submitted for the 2020/2021 cycle, excluding proposals 6, 12, 58, and 79 concerning reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions which were acted on by the board at the March 2021 meeting.

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Proposal 209: Modify the Copper River bison harvest opportunity in Units 11 and 13D40

Proposal 210: Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunts in Unit 1341

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Central & Southwest Region Meeting
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn, Wasilla, Alaska
January 21-28, 2022**

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 21, 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 22, 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued

Sunday, January 23, 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued/concluded

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, January 24 thru Thursday, January 27, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Friday, January 28, 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 465-6098 no later than two weeks prior to start of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide & Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 197

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption.

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

5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

- (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 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 primarily as a trophy species. 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 of Game 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-F21-037)

PROPOSAL 198

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

Eliminate bear baiting or prohibit bait stations within 50 miles of cabins as follows:

No bear baiting would be my solution. If not completely, 50 miles from nearest cabin.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bear baiting. As someone who lives in Unit 13 without road access or electricity and walks approximately half a mile to reach my cabin, I feel bear baiting puts me in danger of bear attacks more than it protects me from them. Over the last 38 years I've had several close encounters with black bear and brown bear. Last summer was the first time I've experienced brown bear coming back after encountering them. I'm sure it's mostly due to more stupid people being in the area. I have a suspicion that more bait stations are also around. Most of the people in my subdivision don't even know where my cabin is, so how are they supposed to bait a mile away? And a mile? You have got to be kidding What's that, a five-minute walk for a bear? Anyway, I propose we do away with bear baiting. If I find a bait station that I feel threatens me and my family, I will act accordingly. Thanks for your time.

PROPOSED BY: Harry Roehrig (EG-F21-028)

PROPOSAL 199

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Prohibit trapping within 50 yards of multi-use trails and trailheads in Units 13, 14, and 16 as follows:

5 AAC 92.550. Areas Closed to Trapping in Game Management Units 13, 14, and 16

(1-6) No change.

Add:

(7) 50 yards from either side of the following trails and trailheads in Units 13, 14, and 16:

Note: Maps for the following proposal are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting ADF&G Boards Support Section in (907)465-4046.

GMU	Trail Name	Description (as described in the 2016 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Management Plan)	Map
13A	Alfred Creek	Multi-use year round trail that is accessible from Belanger Pass Trail and Caribou Creek Trail. Alfred Creek Trail is considered part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	3
13A	Belanger Pass	Multi-use year round trail that provides access to a residential area and mining claims in the Talkeetna Mountains then continues on to the old mining area along Alfred Creek. It designated as a RS2477 trail. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Boulder Creek	Multi-use year round trail is accessible from the Purinton Creek Trail and trailhead. It is part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, it has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Maps 2 and 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2,3
13A	Caribou Creek	Multi-use year round trail that begins near the bridge crossing on the Glenn Highway and heads north alongside the river to the headwaters and Chitina Pass, where it connects with Boulder Creek Trail. Part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, it has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	3
13A	Chickaloon	Multi-use primitive trail that runs east-west between King River and Chickaloon River, it is part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 2. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2
13A	Crooked Creek	Multi-use year round trail located north of Eureka and accessible from Monument Trail and Belanger Pass Trail. Part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, it has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	3
13A	Crosswind Lake	Multi-use winter trail which is part of a large system of trails that start in Lake Louise and connect to a system of winter trails to the east toward Glennallen. It is groomed and marked every winter by volunteers from Lake Louise. Shown on Map 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	Dan Creek	Multi-use year round trail that is used to access the area west of Caribou Creek. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Eureka East	A multi-use winter trail that is part of a large system of trails connecting Eureka with Lake Louise. Groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise and Eureka. The trail has been surveyed and an easement reserved for public use. Shown on Map 4 . Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4

13A	Eureka West	Multi-use winter trail which is part of a large system of trails connecting Eureka with Lake Louise. It is groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise and Eureka and well marked for winter travel. The trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Maps 3 and 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	3, 4
13A	Gunsight Mountain (Squaw Creek)	Multi-use year round trail that begins south of Gunsight Mountain from a new trailhead facility on the Glenn Highway and heads north along the base of the mountain toward the Squaw Creek where it eventually connects to the Squaw Creek Trail (part of the Chickaloon-Nelchina-Trail). Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Hicks Creek (aka Pinochle)	Multi-use year round trail that begins on the Glenn Highway (a few miles east of HicksCreek crossing) and heads north toward the headwaters of Hicks Creek. It provides access to the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	3
13A	Index Lake	Hiking trail north of the Glenn Highway to Index Lake, near Victory. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Jackass Canyon	A year round hiking trail alongside Jackass Creek from Glenn Highway to Matanuska River. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Jan Lake Loop	A multi-use winter trail that is part of a large system of trails east of Lake Louise. The trail has been surveyed and an easement reserved for public use. Shown on Map 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	John Lake (Eureka area)	A multi-use winter trail that is part of a large system of trails starting at Lake Louise. Groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise. It heads south from Lake Louise to John Lake and onto Eureka and the Glenn Highway. Shown on Maps 3 and 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	3,4
13A	Lake Louise - Mendeltna	A multi-use winter trail that is part of a large system of trails starting at Lake Louise. Groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise. It heads south from Lake Louise to the Mendeltna area on the Glenn Highway. Shown on Map 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	Little Nelchina River	Multi-use year round trail that is accessible from the Nelchina Town Trail. It is a primitive route that follows the Little Nelchina River west from the Nelchina Town Trail toward the headwaters of the Little Nelchina River. Shown on Maps 3 and 4. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3, 4
13A	Monument	Multi-use year round trail that begins where Crooked Creek and Alfred Creek Trails merge, then eventually turns into the Nelchina Town Trail. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Moore Lake	Multi-use winter trail which is part of a large system of trails connecting Eureka with Lake Louise. It is groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise and Eureka, and is well marked for winter travel. Shown on Map 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	Nelchina Town	Multi-use year round trail is accessible from the Old Man Creek Trail and also connects to Monument. It is part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. Shown on Maps 3 and 4. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	3, 4
13A	North-South Seismic	A multi-use winter trail which is part of a large system of trails starting at Lake Louise. Groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise, it connects to a system of winter trails to the east toward Glennallen. This trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Map 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	Old Man Creek	Multi-use year round trail that provides access to Monument and Nelchina Town Trails. This trail is a well established, heavily used trail and is part of the historic mining routes connecting to the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Maps 3 and 4. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans	3, 4

13A	Purinton Creek	Multi-use year round trail that heads north from the Glenn Highway then west to Boulder Creek where it connects to the Boulder Creek Trail. It has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Maps 2 and 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2, 3
13A	Sheep Mountain Trail System	Sheep Mountain Trail System is a well-established trail system along the Glenn Highway on the south side of Sheep Mountain. This year-round trail is used by diverse groups including hikers, berry pickers, mountain bikers and hunters in the summer months and by dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers in the winter months. The Sheep Mountain 150 dog mushing race uses a portion of this trail system. Much of the trail system is located on state lands.	NA
13A	Squaw Creek	Multi-use year round trail is accessible from the Caribou Creek Trail and Gunsight Mountain Trail. Part of the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, it has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	3
13A	Startup Lakes	Multi-use year round trail that runs east from Belanger Pass Trail to the Start Up Lakes and east to the Eureka area. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Tahneta Pass	Multi-use trail that accommodates year round use with trailhead parking on the Glenn Highway. The trail provides access to the Squaw Creek Trail, just east of Gunsight Mountain. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13A	Tolsona	A multi-use winter trail that is part of a large system of trails starting at Lake Louise. Groomed by volunteers from Lake Louise. It also connects to a system of winter trails to the east toward Glennallen. Shown on Map 4. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	Tyone Creek	Multi-use year round trail that is accessible from the Nelchina Town Trail. It is a primitive route that follows Tyone Creek west from the Nelchina Town Trail toward the headwaters of Tyone Creek. Shown on Map 4. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	4
13A	Weiner Lake-Meadow Creek	A year round hiking trail just north of the Glenn Highway and Weiner Lake. Shown on Map 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	2
13A, 14B	Chickaloon River	Multi-use year round primitive trail that follows the Chickaloon River along the west side from the old town site of Chickaloon to the headwaters. It is a very primitive route, but it is possible to travel over the pass at the headwaters and drop down to the headwaters of the Talkeetna River. This trail has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 2. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2
13B	Clearwater Creek	Multi-use year round trail that connects the Denali Highway with Valdez Creek Trail and McLaren River Trail. The area and trails are managed by BLM. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	13
13B	Hatchet Lake	A multi-use year round trail accessible from the Denali Highway. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans. Area and trail managed by BLM.	13
13B	McLaren River	Multi-use year round trail that runs north-south along the west side of the McLaren River then heads west toward the Clearwater Mountains. The area and trail are managed by BLM. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	13
13B	Susitna River (aka Susitna-McLaren)	Multi-use year round trail accessible from the Denali Highway. Area and trail managed by BLM. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	13
	Valdez Creek	Multi-use year round trail that begins at the end of Valdez Creek mining road heading east toward Clearwater Creek Trail and Clearwater Mountains. The trail and area are managed by BLM. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	13
13B	Windy Creek	Multi-use year round trail that starts just east of the Susitna River crossing on the Denali Highway and runs east along the Windy Creek drainage, eventually	13

		connecting to Valdez Creek Trail. It has a RS2477 trail designation. The trail and area are managed by BLM. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	
13D	Blueberry Hill	Multi-use year round trail is actually a road maintained by a private communications company to access equipment located on a hill south of the Glenn Highway. This road is used as a trail year round for hunting and fishing; and provides access to the Goober Lake Trail and the Nelchina River Trail. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13D	Camp Creek	A year round hiking trail that leads south from the Glenn Highway to the canyon walls above the Matanuska River. A small wayside on the southside of the highway provides off highway parking. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13D	East Fork (of the Matanuska River)	Multi-use winter trail accessible from Goober Lake Trail up the East Fork Matanuska River. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13D	Goober Lake	Multi-use year round trail, primarily used in winter to access Nelchina River area from the Glenn Highway. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13D	Majestic Valley Ski Trails	Year-round multi-use, non-motorized trails crossing state and private land located on the south side of the Glenn Hwy at about Mile 115. These trails receive light to moderate use by skiers and snowshoers in the winter months and by hikers in the summer months. One loop of ski trails mapped.	NA
13D	Muddy Creek-Tatondan	Multi-use winter trail that crosses the frozen Matanuska River (near Muddy Creek) to Tatondan Lake. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13D	Nelchina River (Eureka-Nelchina-Barnette)	Multi-use year round trail located south of the Glenn Highway and used to access the Nelchina River and Glacier. It has a RS2477 trail designation. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13D	Trail Lakes (Eureka area)	Multi-use year round trail that provides access to small lakes south of the Glenn Highway near MP 118. Shown on Map 3. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	3
13E	Butte Creek	Multi-use year round trail that starts west of the Susitna River Bridge on the Denali Highway and heads southwest toward the headwaters of Butte Creek. The trail and area are managed by BLM. Shown on Map 13. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	13
13E	Chase	A multi-use trail located adjacent to the Alaska Railroad line north of Talkeenta that provides an access route for Chase residents. It is also used by recreationalists. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
13E	McWilliams Gold Creek	A multi-use trail with year round use, it is approximately 16 miles long and accessible from the Alaska Railroad (mile 263) just north of the old town of Curry. This trail is designated as a RS2477 route. Not mapped. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	NA
14A	17 Mile Lake	Multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and accessible from Buffalo Mine Road or Jonesville Road. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans	1,2,5
14A	3 Mile Lake	Multi-use year round trail that begins just west of Knik Lake. It is believed to be part of the Herning Trail (Knik-Talkeetna Mail Trail) that started in Knik and headed north toward Big Lake and the Willow-Hatcher Pass area. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	6
14A	7 Mile Canoe Trail	Non-motorized over-water summer route connecting Wasilla, Cottonwood, Mud and Finger Lakes. Portages maintained by Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks Division. Put-in and parking available at Finger Lake State Recreation Area and Wasilla Lake Park. State park use fee collected at Finger Lake and city fee at Wasilla Lake. A recent development displaced one of the portages. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	5

14A	Almond Lake	A multi-use winter trail accessed from Willow West Gateway Trailhead, or Willow Community Center. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Archangel	Use varies - year round trail managed by Alaska State Parks for backcountry access. Used for access to Reed Lake Trail and Fern Mine Trail. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1, 2
14A	Aurora Sled Dog	Non-motorized winter trail system for dog sled racing and training. Maintained and managed by volunteers of the Aurora Dog Mushers Club. Trailhead parking south of Big Lake Road on Aurora lease site. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 Trail Plans.	6
14A	Bald Mountain	Multi-use year round trail, some of which lies within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Shown on Map 1. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan	1
14A	Baxter Mine	Multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and accessible from Buffalo Mine Road or Jonesville Road. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	1,2,5
14A	Bench Lake	Multi-use year round trail which accesses Bench Lake from the town of Houston or from the old landfill road northeast of the Parks Highway. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	1
14A	Big Lake #5 – Iron Dog Connector	Big Lake Trail #5 is a well-established trail along a seismic line located north of Flat Lake. This year-round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers.	NA
14A	Big Lake Trail #1 – Klondike Inn and Call of the Wild Tract	This trail is a well-established trail along seismic lines on the north side of Big Lake and loops up around the Horseshoe Lake area. This year-round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers.	
14A	Big Lake Trail #10 – Cow Lake and Nancy Lakes Trail	A well-established trail located along a seismic line between Cow Lake and Manta Lake to the northeast. This year-round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers. This trail is located entirely on Mental Health Trust lands.	NA
14A	Big Lake Trail #14 – Purinton Junction and Susitna River Loop Trail	A well-established trail located along seismic lines from Susitna Parkway southwest to Flathorn Lake and then northwest to the Susitna River. This year round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers. Segments of the trail in the Flathorn Lake area have public use easements on state and borough lands (ADL 229108).	NA
14A	Big Lake Trail #15 – Marion Lake Trail	Big Lake Trail #15 is a well-established trail located along seismic lines south of Marion Lake. This year-round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers. A portion of the trail exists on the 16 Mile trail easement. This trail is located primarily on state and borough lands.	NA
14A	Big Lake Trail #2 – Beaver Lakes and North Little Su Trail	A well-established trail on the north side of Big Lake and runs through the Beaver Lakes area. This year-round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers.	
14A	Big Lake Trail #3 – Beaver Lakes Loop Trail	A well-established trail located north of Big Lake and south of the Little Susitna River. This year-round trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers, with portions of the trail seeing summer time use by ATVs and hikers.	

14A	Big Swamp	Multi-use winter trail west of Willow and accessible from Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Shown on Maps 6 and 7. Amendment to the 2000 Trail Plan adopted in 2007.	6,7
14A	Boot Lake	A multi-use winter trail accessible from Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Willow Community Center. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Burnt Butte Trail	A multi-use year round trail that provides a connection between the Rippy Trail and the Plumley-Maud Trail. This trail crosses Eklutna Native Corporation lands and has a 17b public use easement, which is 25' wide and restricted to non-motorized uses. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Butterfly Lake (aka Cow Lake)	Non-motorized over water route from the Little Susitna River to Butterfly Lake. This is part of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area trail system and managed by State Parks. Shown on Maps 6 and 7. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	6,7
14A	Carpenter Creek (Bartko Homestead)	A multi-use year round primitive trail east of Clark Wolverine Road heading east above the Matanuska River. A portion of this trail crosses land owned by Moose Creek-Chickaloon Native Corporation and has a 17b easement reserved for public use. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	1, 2, 5
14A	Corral Hill	Multi-use winter trail west of Willow accessible from Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Shown on Map 7. Amendment to the 2000 Trail Plan adopted in 2007.	7
14A	Cottonwood Creek Wetlands Trail	Cottonwood Creek Wetlands Trail is located off Hayfield Road in the Knik-Fairview area. This trail is used in the winter by hikers, skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers, and in the summer/fall by hikers, hunters and ATVs. Motorized use subject to seasonal conditions set forth by Alaska Department of Fish & Game.	NA
14A	Craigie Creek Trail	Use varies – year round trail within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Un-maintained trail with roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1
14A	Crevasse-Moraine	A non-motorized year round trail system maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for hiking, running, Nordic skiing, mountain biking, horse back riding and snowshoeing. A user fee is collected at the trailhead south of Palmer-Wasilla Highway. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Crooked Lake	Multi-use winter trail with limited roadside parking off of West Papoose Twins Road; or it can also be reached from the Iron Dog Trail, with parking on Big Lake when frozen. This trail serves as an alternative route for the Iron Dog, which it connects with just east of Susitna Station. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the Big Lake Community Comprehensive Plan.	6
14A	Elks Lake	Multi-use year round trail from the Glenn Highway to Elks Lake Camp. Located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	1,2,5
14A	Envy	Multi-use year round trail that runs alongside Caudill Road and is primarily used by Butte residents to access the Jim Creek area. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Eska Creek Falls	Pedestrian year round trail located north of Sutton and accessible from the old Eska Mine Road. Shown on Map 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	2
14A	Fern Mine	Pedestrian year round trail within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Maintained by Alaska State Parks for backcountry access to Talkeetna Mountains. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1, 2
14A	Figure 8 Lake Loop	A multi-use winter trail system west of the Point Mackenzie area. MSB fees collected for parking at maintained trailhead north of Point MacKenzie Road. Shown on Map 6. Included in the 2004 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	6

14A	Fish Creek	A multi-use winter trail that follows the drainage of Fish Creek and provides a route between the Flathorn Lake Trail and the Pipeline Trail. This trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 2000 Trail Plan.	6
14A	Fish Creek Trail	This is a multi-use, winter trail that crosses state and borough land with no nearby trailhead. Part of the State's Susitna Corridor Trail from Big Lake to Denali State Park overlaps this trail. Fish Creek Trail is located between the Iron Dog Trail and Big Swamp Trail southwest of Red Shirt Lake. The winter-use trail is located entirely on state and borough lands and is used by snowmobilers and dog mushers. This trail will be an important connecting link in Alaska State Parks' Susitna Corridor Trail.	NA
14A	Flat Horn Lake Connector Trail	Flat Horn Lake Connector Trail: Flat Horn lake Connector Trail is a well-established trail that runs between the Little Susitna Public Use Site and Flat Horn Lake. This trail is used primarily in the winter by snowmobilers, dog mushers, skiers and snowshoers. The trail runs along seismic lines and is located on state lands.	NA
14A	Flathorn Lake	A multi-use winter trail from the Point MacKenzie area to the Susitna River. This trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. MSB fees collected for parking at maintained trailhead north of Ayshire Road. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 2000 Trail Plan.	6
14A	Flathorn Lake Connector	Multi-use winter trail that is used to access the Iron Dog to the north. It serves as access to the Iron Dog and other trails to the north. Shown on Map 6. Noted Big Lake Community Comprehensive Plan	6
14A	Friday Creek	Multi-use year round trail accessible from the Knik Glacier Trail, with off-road parking near Sullivan Road. Located in the newly established Knik River Public Use Area, under State management. This trail has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Glacier Creek (Snowbird Mine / Snowbird Hut)	Pedestrian year round trail within the Hatcher Pass Management area, it provides backcountry access to Talkeetna Mountains (by way of the Reed Lake Trail). Trailhead parking off Archangel Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1, 2
14A	Government Peak Recreation Area Trails	There are 4 miles (6.5 km) of Nordic skiing/hiking trails built for all skill levels. There is an additional 4 miles of bike trails intertwining with the skiing/hiking trails. Below the Chalet there is a sledding hill for all ages. The ski trails area maintained by the Mat-Su Ski Club for both summer and winter use. Mountain bike trails are maintained by the Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers.	NA
14A	Haessler-Norris Sled Dog	An extensive system of dog sled trails maintained by mushers in the Willow area. No established trailhead, but some off road parking near Four Mile Road south of Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Map 2. Included in the 2004 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	2
14A	Houston Lake Loop (aka Muleshoe Lake)	Multi-use winter trail that goes north from Big Lake to Houston Lake and loops back. Shown on Maps 1, 6 and 7. Noted in the Big Lake Community Comprehensive Plan.	1,6,7
14A	Hunter Creek	A primitive hiking trail that follows the Hunter Creek drainage south from Knik River Road. There is a small parking area east of the bridge that crosses Hunter Creek. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	1
14A	Iditarod Link	A primitive winter route that follows a seismic line that connects the Pipeline Trail to the Iditarod Trail and Flathorn Lake Trail. This trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. MSB collects fees for parking at maintained trailhead north of Ayshire Road. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 2000 Trail Plan.	6
14A	Iditarod-Pipeline	A multi-use winter trail that follows a seismic line connecting the Iditarod Trail and Flathorn Lake Trail. This trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail	6

		easement reserved. MSB fees collect for parking at maintained trailhead north of Ayshire Road. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 2000 Trail Plan.	
14A	Iron Dog	Multi-use winter trail is legally accessed by crossing Big Lake and Flat Lake and following Flathorn Lake Connector northwest. Usually groomed by the Big Lake community, with parking and access available in several locations on Big Lake when frozen. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 2000 Trail Plan and Big Lake Community Comprehensive Plan.	6
14A	John Lake	A multi-use winter trail accessed from Willow West Gateway Trailhead, or Willow Community Center. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Jonesville Mine	A multi-use year round trail located west of Sutton in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. It connects with a larger system of trails in around the old coal mines. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	1,2
14A	King River (aka Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina)	A multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range east of Sutton. This trail is part (or a branch of) the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and has a RS 2477 designation. Shown on Map 2. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2
14A	Knik Glacier (aka Jim Creek)	Multi-use year round trail following the north side of Knik River to Knik Glacier. Located in the newly established Knik River Public Use Area, under State management. This is a RS2477 designated route. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Knob Creek (Knob Hill)	Multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and accessible from Jonesville Road. Shown on Map 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trails Plan	2
14A	Lazy Mountain Southside (Lazy Moose)	A pedestrian trail traversing the southwest flank of Lazy Mountain, provides an easier route up Lazy Mountain than the original trail. Shown on Map 5. Included in the 2008 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Lazy Mountain	A pedestrian year round trail maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for hiking. MSB fees collected for parking at trailhead south of Huntley Road. The trail has been surveyed and a public easement acquired. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Long Lake Connector	A non-motorized year round trail located between Matanuska Lakes State Recreation Area to the Crevasse Moraine Trail System. The trail provides an important link between these larger trail systems. The land it crosses is primarily owned by the University of Alaska. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Long Lake Interconnect (Willow Area)	A short trail within a road right of way between Long Lake and Willow Community Center. Part of a large multi-use winter trail system accessible from the Willow Community Center and West Gateway Trailhead. Not mapped. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Lucky Shot	A multi-use winter trail just south of Willow Creek, it is part of a large system of winter trails accessed from Willow West Gateway Trailhead, or Willow Community Center. Most of the trail falls within the boundaries of the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Matanuska Greenbelt / Crevasse Moraine / Single Track: Moose, Bear, and Fox Trails	Moose, Bear, and Fox Trails Single-track, non-motorized bicycle trails connecting to both the Matanuska Greenbelt and Crevasse Moraine trail systems. The Fox Trail is about 1.2 miles and the Bear Trail is about 0.9 miles long.	NA
14A	Matanuska Lakes/ Kepler-Bradley	A pedestrian year round trail system located within the Matanuska Lakes State Recreation Area and maintained by Alaska State Parks for hiking and lake access.	5

		A State Park use fee is collected at the park entrance north of Glenn Highway. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	
14A	Matanuska Moose Range Trails (Wasilla Cr Trails #14)	Matanuska Moose Range Trails are located between Palmer-Fishhook Road and Sutton. Portion of this trail system is documented as part of the original easement application (AOL 229485) for Sutton area trails on state lands. This trail system is currently being groomed and is used in the winter by snowmobilers, skiers, dog mushers, snowshoers and mountain bikers. The trails are used in the summer by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, ATVs and OHVs.	NA
14A	Matanuska Peak	A pedestrian year round trail maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. MSB fees collected for parking at trailhead located at the east end of Smith Road. The trail has been surveyed and a public easement acquired. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Meadow Lakes Community Trails	Trail routes are primarily along existing roads and section line easements that provide recreational opportunities within the community and connectivity with and access to broader trail systems in the Hatcher Pass Management Area and the Willow area. These year-round multi-use trails are used by hikers, equestrians, and ATVs in the summer and by skiers, dog mushers, and snowmachiners in the winter.	
14A	Metal Creek	Multi-use year round trail accessible from the Knik Glacier Trail, with off-road parking near Sullivan Road. Located in the newly established Knik River Public Use Area and under State management. This trail has a RS2477 designation. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Mint Glacier (Little Susitna River)	Pedestrian year round trail managed by Alaska State Parks for hiking and backcountry access. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1, 2
14A	Moorehouse	A hiking trail that follows a bench along the west side of Lazy Mountain, from Clark Road to Wolverine Creek. Shown on Maps 1 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	1,5
14A	Moose Creek Branch RR	A trail atop the old rail corridor owned by the Alaska RR and permitted to the Borough for use as a pedestrian trail. Access is from the parking lot at the Moose Creek State Wayside. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trails Plan.	1,2,5
14A	Moose Lick – Government Peak Trail	Trail extends north from N. Moose Lick Circle up the southern side of Government Peak within the southeastern area of the Hatcher Pass Management Area. The lower portion of the trail receives year-round use, from hikers and equestrians in the summer and skiers and snowshoers in the winter. The upper portion of the trail is primarily summer use only by hikers. This trail will provide an alternate means of access to the Government Peak Recreation Area Nordic ski area.	
14A	Morgan Horse Trail	A non-motorized year round trail that follows a section line south from the Lazy Mountain Trailhead to Smith Road and then to Maud Road. It connects the Lazy Mountain area with the Knik River area. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Mud Lake (Nancy Lake)	Multi-use winter trail accessible from Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Shown on Map 7. Amendment to the 2000 Trail Plan adopted in 2007.	7
14A	Old Government Peak (Fishhook Creek)	Pedestrian year round trail/ The trail was once a road leading to the mining areas east of Government Peak. Shown on Map 1. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1, 2
14A	Old Hunters	Part of a large multi-use winter trail system accessible from the Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, and groomed by volunteers from Willow. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7

14A	Oswald	Multi-use year round trail that is accessible from the Knik Glacier Trail which is primarily used for hunting. It is a steep primitive trail which follows a ridge along the west side of Friday Creek. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Palmer-Sutton RR (aka Matanuska Branch RR)	Pedestrian year round trail that follows an abandoned rail corridor from Palmer to Sutton, and which is permitted to the MSB for pedestrian trail use. Roadside parking off Eagle Street in Palmer and at Moose Creek State Wayside. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	1,2,5
14A	Permanente (aka Castle Mountain)	A multi-use year round trail with limited roadside parking off the Glenn Highway. Located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Shown on Map 2. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2
14A	Pioneer Ridge/Austin Helmers	Pedestrian year round trail up the northeast flank of Pioneer Peak. Named for Austin Helmers who located and helped develop this route to the summit. It is minimally maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for hiking. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Pipeline	A multi-use winter trail that follows a large gas pipeline corridor toward the lower Susitna River Basin from Point MacKenzie area. The trail has been surveyed and an easement reserved to the Susitna River. The MSB collects fees for parking at maintained trailhead north of Ayshire Road that provides access to this trail. Shown on Map 6. Noted in the 2000 Trail Plan.	6
14A	Plumley-Maude	A multi-use year round trail maintained by the Matanuska Susitna Borough, with trailhead parking north of Plumley Road, or off road parking at the east end of Maud Road. The trail crosses Borough-owned land and is reserved for recreation. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Premier Mine	Multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and accessible from Buffalo Mine Road or Jonesville Road. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	1,2,5
14A	Purchases Creek	Multi-use year round trail, a portion falls within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1
14A	Red Shirt-Nancy Lake	Uses vary seasonally. Most of the trail is located within the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area and maintained as access for fishing at Red Shirt Lake. Shown on Maps 6 and 7. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	6
14A	Reed Lake – Snowbird Mine	Pedestrian year round trail within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Maintained by Alaska State Parks for hiking and backcountry access. Trailhead parking off Archangel Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1, 2
14A	Reflections Lake Trail	Reflections Lake Trail is located south of Palmer just off the west side of the Glenn Highway on the north side of the Knik River. This year-round trail is used in the winter by hikers, skiers and snowshoers, and in the summer/fall by hikers, hunters and fishermen.	NA
14A	Rippy Trail	A multi-use year round trail located in the newly established Knik River Public Use Area, which is under State management. There is limited parking near Jim Lake and Mud Lake. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Rolly Creek	Multi-use winter trail southwest of Willow and accessible from Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Shown on Map 7. Amendment to the 2000 Trail Plan adopted in 2007.	7
14A	Scout Ridge Loop Trail	Scout Ridge Loop Trail is a well-established trail located off Hayfield Road in the Knik- Fairview area. This year-round trail is used in the winter by hikers, skiers and snowshoers, and in the summer by hikers.	NA
	Sexton (aka River Road)	A multi-use year round trail located in the newly established Knik River Public Use Area, and under State management. The trail provides access to the Jim Creek and Knik River areas. There is trailhead parking south of Sullivan Road near the corner of Caudill Road. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	5

14A	Sunset Trail	A year-round, multi-use trail that runs west from Knik-Goose Bay Road along section line easements and connects to the 3-mile Lake Trail. This trail is used year-round by hikers, ATVs, and equestrians in the summer and by dog mushers and snowmachiners in the winter. The route provides an important connection from the Knik-Goose Bay separated pathway to the 3-mile Lake Trail, Herning Trail, and the Iditarod Trail.	
14A	Swan Lake Canoe (aka Jim-Mud Lake Canoe)	A water route for canoes and kayaks located in the newly established Knik River Public Use Area under State management. There is a put-in and small parking area near Mud Lake, just south of the Maud Road Extension (Rippy Trail). Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5
14A	Upper Willow Creek	Use varies - year round trail within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Unmaintained trail with roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1
14A	Wasilla Creek Headwaters	A multi-use year round trail with a small trailhead at the east end of Wendt Road. Located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range, some of the area is managed by Division of Forestry. Access is also available from Murphy Road, just west of Buffalo Mine Road. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	1,2,5
14A	West Bodenburg Butte	A pedestrian year round trail maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for hiking. MSB fees collected for parking at a trailhead off Mothershead Lane (just south of Bodenburg Loop Road). This trail was built by the Borough in 2002 to replace the privately owned trail on the southeast side of the butte. Shown on Map 5. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	5
14A	Wet Gulch (Baldy Mountain)	Multi-use year round trail, a portion falls within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1
14A	Willow Sled	Multi-use year round trail, some of which falls within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 10. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1,10
14A	Willow Swamp	Part of a large multi-use winter trail system accessible from the Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. This trail has been surveyed and a public use recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Willow West Gateway	Multi-use winter only trail that is the primary route from a trailhead on Crystal Lake Road that leads west to a system of winter trails near the Susitna River. The trail is groomed and maintained by volunteers. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 Trail.	7
14A	Windsock	A multi-use winter trail accessed from Willow West Gateway Trailhead, or Willow Community Center. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14A	Wishbone Hill	Multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and accessible from Buffalo Mine Road or Jonesville Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 2. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trails Plan	1,2
14A	Wishbone Strip Mine	A multi-use winter trail accessible from Buffalo Mine Road and Jonesville Road, it is located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Shown on Maps 1, 2 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan	1,2,5
14A	Wolverine Canyon	Multi-use year round trail used to access the Wolverine Creek Trail. Shown on Maps 1 and 5. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	1,5
14A	Wolverine Creek	A multi-use year round primitive trail with limited roadside parking off Clark Wolverine Road. It follows the creek on the northeast side of the drainage to the headwaters. Shown on Map 5. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	5

14A	Woodcutter	Multi-use winter trail southwest of Willow accessible from Willow West Gateway Trailhead or Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Shown on Map 7. Amendment to the 2000 Trail Plan adopted in 2007.	7
14A	Young Creek	A multi-use year round trail located in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Shown on Map 2. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	2
14A, 16A	Iditarod Common Use Reroute	Iditarod Common Use Reroute Trail Is a proposed reroute of a well-established trail to move it off private property and on to public (borough) lands. The trail is used by winter recreationists including dog mushers, skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers and mountain bicyclists. The route is used in the Excursion 120, Knik 200, Klondike 300, Junior Iditarod and Nome Sign 40 dog mushing races. The trail runs along seismic lines and through swamps.	NA
14A, 16B	Iditarod (Historic)	Multi-use winter trail, portions of the route are surveyed, most is not used. Portions that cross Matanuska Susitna Borough-owned land have been reserved. This is a RS 2477 designated route and it managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Shown on Maps 6 and 8. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 Trail Plans.	6,8
14B	Bluff Trail	A multi-use trail with year round use that follows the bluff along the south bank of Twister Creek. The trail can be accessed from Rubberneck at the end of Christiansen Lake road. The trail is proposed to extend to the Spur Road. The trail connects to downtown Talkeetna in winter, but dead-ends in summer. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	Canyon Creek	Multi-use year round trail, a portion falls within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Map 1. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan; and Hatcher Pass Management Area Plan.	1
14B	Central	Multi-use year round trail within the Kashwitna Management Plan Area. Roadside parking off Hatcher Pass Road. The trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. The trail provides access to Willow Mountain and Mail Trail. Trailhead parking available at Willer-Kash Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 7. Noted in the Kashwitna Management Area Plan.	1,7
14B	Dorothy Jones Trail / Su Valley Ski Trail	Trail system consists of a series of loops built on rolling hills between the Su Valley High School and Montana Lake. There are varying levels of difficulty from novice to expert. One short loop circles a small pond for winter use.	NA
14B	Emil J. Stanec Dog Sled	An extensive system of dog sled trails north of Willow Hatcher Pass Road and maintained by mushers in the Willow area. The trails are accessible from the Talkeetna Mail Trail and the East Gateway Trailhead off Shirley Towne Road, just north of Hatcher Pass Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	1,7
14B	Emil Lake	Multi-use winter trail used by the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Association (MCDMA) for their longer races. There is trailhead parking at the Montana Creek Dog Mushers race staging area. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	10
14B	Grey's Creek	A short pedestrian trail which begins on the Parks Highway and is used almost exclusively for fishing along Grey's Creek. Shown on Map 7. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14B	Luthman (aka Montana Falls)	Multi-use year round trail that follows the Middle Fork of Montana Creek from Yoder Road and provides access to the 80 foot waterfall. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan as the Montana Falls Trail.	10
14B	Mail (Herning) (Tank)	Multi-use year round trail within the Kashwitna Management Plan Area, most of which is classified for forestry and managed by Division of Forestry. Trailhead parking available at Willer-Kash Road. The trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Map 1 and 7. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan and Kashwitna Management Area Plan.	1,7
14B	Mail Trail Connector	Multi-use year-round trail that connects the Mail Trail with the Central Trail. Within the Kashwitna Management Plan Area, most of which is classified for forestry management and managed by the Division of Forestry. This is an	1,7

		unmaintained trail with trailhead parking at Willer-Kash Road. The trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Maps 1 and 7. Noted in the Kashwitna Management Area Plan.	
14B	Mail Trail Re-Route	Multi-use winter trail just south of Hidden Hills Road in the Kashwitna River area. The trail was put in by residents of the Caswell Lakes area to provide a connection to the old Talkeetna Mail Trail (aka Tank Trail and aka Herning Trail). The trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Map 7 and 10. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7,10
14B	Montana Creek 50 Mile	A multi-use winter trail used by the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Association (MCDMA) for their longer races. Accessible from the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Club and race staging area. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	10
14B	Montana Creek Dog Mushers/Sled System	on-motorized winter trail for dog sled races and training. It is maintained and managed by the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Association. There is trailhead parking at the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Club and race staging area. Portions are designated a RS2477 route. Shown on Maps 9 and 10. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	9,10
14B	Montana Creek Falls (aka MCDMA 50 Mile Race)	Multi-use year round trail that ascends a ridge from the South Fork Montana Creek Trail to a ridge overlooking Montana Creek Falls and the Middle Fork of Montana Creek. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan, and shown as part of the MCDMA 50 Mile Race Trail.	10
14B	N. Fork Kashwitna (Drew's Knob)	A primitive route accessible via the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Trail System or Sheep Creek drainage. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	10
14B	Old Lake (aka Old Town Road)	A multi-use trail with year round use located which provides access between Christiansen Lake Road and Beaver Road just east of Talkeetna. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	Old RCA	A multi-use trail with year round use just north of Christiansen Lake near Talkeetna. The trail connects to the Ridge Trail and Old Lake Trail, creating a loop. The trail can be accessed from Comsat Road and Rubberneck. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	Rainbow Lake	A primitive, remote route, used mostly in winter, that follows the North Fork of the Kashwitna River, north toward Sheep River and on to Rainbow Lake. Shown on Map 10. Noted in 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	10
14B	Ridge Trail	A multi-use trail with year round use that connects to several trails east of Talkeetna. The trail can be accessed from Beaver Road or Comsat Road. Efforts are underway to develop a recreation management plan for Borough owned lands that underlie the trail and reclassify those lands as public recreation. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	S. Fork Montana Creek	Multi-use winter trail that follows the South Fork of Montana Creek from Yoder Road to the small lake near the headwaters of the creek. Shown on Map 10. Amendment to the 2000 Trail Plan adopted in 2004.	10
14B	Shirley Lake	A multi-use winter trail just south of Willow Creek, it is part of a large system of winter trails accessed from Willow West Gateway Trailhead, or Willow Community Center. Shown on Map 7. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7
14B	Ski Hill	A Nordic ski trail system just west of the Talkeetna Spur Road. The trail system has been surveyed and a recreational trail easement has been obtained. The trail system is managed and maintained by volunteers from the Denali Nordic Ski Club. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	South Fork Loop (aka MCDMA 50 Mile Race)	Multi-use year round trail primarily used in winter by dog mushers for training. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	10

14B	Sunshine	A historic route used primarily in winter. Montana Creek Dog Mushers Association (MCDMA) use portions of the trail for their longer races. There is trailhead parking at the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Club and race staging area. Shown on Maps 9 and 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	9,10
14B	Talkeetna Lakes Park	A trail system for skiing, hiking and mountain biking located within the Talkeetna Lakes Park. Construction of a trailhead facility at the park entrance was completed in 2007. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	Talkeetna Mail-Central Connector	Multi-use year-round trail that connects the Mail Trail with the Central Trail. Within the Kashwitna Management Plan Area, most of which is classified for forestry management and managed by the Division of Forestry. Shown on Maps 1 and 7. Noted in the Kashwitna Management Area Plan.	1,7
14B	Talkeetna River Trail	A multi-use trail with year round use that runs along the Talkeetna River Slough from the corner of F-street and Beaver Road upriver to the start of the Ridge Trail. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	Twister Creek Winter Trail	A multi-use winter trail just south of the Talkeetna Airport that connects the Old Lake to the Ski Hill area. The trail traverses lands owned by a Native corporation, the State of Alaska and the Alaska University. Shown on Map 11. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11
14B	Upper S. Fork Montana Creek	Multi-use winter trail that heads northeast from South Fork Montana Creek Trail up the smaller drainage of the Upper South Fork. Shown on Map 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	10
14B	Willow Mountain	Multi-use year round trail, portions are within the Kashwitna Management Plan Area, most of which is classified for forestry and managed by Division of Forestry. This is an unmaintained trail with trailhead parking available at Willer-Kash Road. Shown on Maps 1 and 7. Noted in the Kashwitna Management Area Plan.	1,7
14B, 16A	MCDMA 300 Mile Race	Multi-use winter trail used by the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Association (MCDMA) for their longer races. Accessible from the Montana Creek Dog Mushers Club and race staging area. Shown on Maps 9 and 10. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	9,10
14B, 16A	Parker Lake	A multi-use winter trail accessible from the Susitna Landing a privately run parking– staging area on the Susitna River. The trail has been surveyed and an easement reserved for public use. Shown on Maps 7, 9 and 10. Noted in 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	7,9,10
16A	Amber Lake Trail	Multi-use winter trail that heads west from the Parks Highway to Amber Lake. It connects with Oilwell Road and other winter trails in the area. Shown on Maps 9 and 12. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	9, 12
16A	Black Creek (Collinsville)	Multi-use year round trail that leaves the Petersville Road near the Forks Roadhouse and travels west toward the mining district. It is still used as a freight trail for mining operations west of Peters Creek. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	12
16A	Cache Creek	Multi-use year round trail that connects Black Creek Trail to the Peters Hills and Cache Creek mining areas. The trail has been surveyed and the RS2477 route documented. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	12
16A	Chulitna Bluff	Multi-use winter trail that begins on E. Susitna River Road. A trailhead at Mile 122 of the Parks Highway provides parking and access to the trail. Shown on Map 11 and 12. Noted in 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11,12
16A	Deep Creek	A multi-use winter trail just east of Petersville Road, it is accessible from the winter trailhead near Kroto Creek. This trail has been surveyed and a public recreation trail easement reserved. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 2004 Amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	12
16A	Deshka Crossover Trail	This is a multi-use, winter trail that crosses state and borough, with a trailhead at Deshka Landing in Willow. Part of the State’s Susitna Corridor Trail from Big Lake to Denali State Park overlaps this trail.	NA

16A	Deshka Su Trail	This is a multi-use, winter trail that crosses state and borough land with a trailhead at Deshka Landing and Susitna Landing. Part of the State Parks Susitna Corridor Trail from Big Lake to Denali State Park overlaps this trail. It is a winter-use trail located entirely on state lands, is groomed and marked and is used by snowmobilers and dog mushers.	NA
16A	Dutch Hills (aka Peters Creek or Dutch Creek)	Multi-use year round trail that follows old mining roads to the Dutch Hills area. The trail has been surveyed and the RS2477 route documented. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	12
16A	E. Petersville Road	Multi-use year round trail which is actually along the unmaintained portion (Mile 19 and beyond) of Petersville Road. It is often groomed in winter by volunteers of the snowmachine clubs in the area. This is a RS2477 designated route. Shown on Map 12. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	11, 12
16A	East-West Express	Multi-use winter only trail that runs from a trailhead on the Parks Highway to the Deep Creek Trail. It intersects several trails to the south. It is usually groomed by volunteers from the local snowmachine club. Shown on Maps 11 and 12. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	11,12
16A	Gopher Creek Loop	A multi-use year round trail located north of Petersville area accessible from the Petersville Road (Trail). Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	12
16A	Mona Lakes Trail	Mona Lakes Trail is located primarily along seismic lines west of the Susitna River and travels from the Deshka River northwest to Oilwell Road. The trail is located almost entirely on state lands, including the subdivided lands around the Mona Lakes. This trail system is currently being groomed by various individuals who reside along the trail route and is used in the winter by snowmobilers and dog mushers.	NA
16A	Oilwell Road/Trail	Multi-use year round trail that follows Oilwell Road starting south of Amber Lake. This trail is within a forest management area of the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Shown on Maps 9 and 12. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	9, 12
16A	Parker Lake – Neil Lake	Multi-use winter trail that provides access to Neil Lake from the Parker Lake Trail. It is accessible from the Susitna Landing. Shown on Map 9. Included in the 2007 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	9
16A	Peters Hills	Multi-use winter trail that runs northeast from Petersville Road up and over Peters Hills. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	12
16A	Petersville Road/Trail	Multi-use year round trail which is actually along the unmaintained portion (Mile 19 and beyond) of Petersville Road. It is often groomed in winter by volunteers of the snowmachine clubs in the area. This is a RS2477 designated route. Shown on Map 12. Noted in both the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	12
16A	Safari Lake	Multi-use winter only trail that begins at the Kroto Creek trailhead on Petersville Road and heads north to connect with the East-West Express Trail and others north of Safari Lake. It is usually groomed and maintained by volunteers. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	12
16A	Susitna – Neil Lake Trail	A heavily used, primarily winter trail used by skiers, dog mushers, and snowmachiners. The western portion between Neil Lake and the Deshka River is upgraded to a drivable road surface and is used in the summer by hikers and ATVs. The trail provides recreational opportunities as well as access to private properties on Neil Lake.	
16A	Susitna River Route Trail	This trail is an old overgrown logging skid road northeast of Trapper Creek and runs eastwest between the Chulitna Bluff Trail on the west and the Susitna River on the east.	
16A	Tokositna River	Multi-use winter trail that begins at north end of the Safari Lake Trail in the Petersville area and ends at the Tokositna River. It is accessible from the Kroto Creek trailhead on Petersville Road. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	12

16A	Trapper Lake (aka MCDMA 300 Mile Race)	Multi-use winter trail accessible from the Susitna Landing that crosses the Susitna River when frozen to Trapper Lake. Shown on Maps 7 and 9. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	7,9
16A	Trapper Lake Link (aka MCDMA 300 Mile Race)	Multi-use winter trail that provides access to the main route of the Trapper Lake Trail. Shown on Map 9. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	9
16A, 16B	Collinsville	Multi-use year round trail that starts west of Black Creek and heads south west to the old mining town of Collinsville and circles around north toward Chelatna Lake and back along the Kahiltna River. The trail has been surveyed and the RS2477 route documented. Shown on Map 12. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 MSB Trail Plans.	12
16A, 16B	McDougall Seismic (aka Lake Creek-Kahiltna)	Multi-use winter trail that connects the Parker Lake Trail to the old town of McDougall and the Yentna River area. Shown on Maps 8 and 9. Noted in the 2000 MSB Trail Plan, and in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan as the Lake Creek-Kahiltna Trail.	8,9
16B	Fish Lake (Yentna area)	A multi-use winter trail that connects Skwentna to the area near Fish Creek and Lake Creek. Shown on Maps 8 and 9. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	8,9
16B	Hiline Lake – Middle Talachulitna	A multi-use winter trail that connects Skwentna to Hiline Lake and Talachulitna River areas. Shown on Map 8. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	8
16B	Iditarod (Race)	Multi-use winter trail which is maintained by volunteers of the Iditarod Trailblazers. Shown on Maps 6, 8 and 9. Noted in the 1984 and 2000 Trail Plans.	6,8,9
16B	Iditarod Checkpoint (aka Skwentna Cutoff)	Multi-use winter trail running south from the town of Skwentna to the Historic Iditarod Trail. Shown on Map 8. Noted in the 1884 MSB Trail Plan	8
16B	KML (aka Donkey Creek Lake)	A multi-use winter trail, accessed from the Collinsville Trail, it heads south toward the Kahiltna and a private lodge. Shown on Map 12. Included in the 2006 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan; and noted in the 1984 Trails Plan as Donkey Creek Lake Trail).	12
16B	Shell Lake	A multi-use winter trail that connects Skwentna to the area near Shell Lake. Shown on Map 8. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	8
16B	Sleeping Lady	A multi-use winter trail connecting the Yentna River area to Susitna Mountain (Sleeping Lady) area. Shown on Map 8. Included in the 2004 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	8
16B	Sorenson's Boulevard	A multi-use winter trail that runs between Skwentna and Donkey Creek Lake along sloughs up the Yentna River. Shown on Maps 8 and 12. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	8,12
16B	Susitna Station	A multi-use winter trail that follows a seismic line clearing from Skwentna to the confluence of the Yentna and Susitna Rivers at Susitna Station. Shown on Maps 6 and 8. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	6, 8
16B	Trail Lake Access (Yentna)	A multi-use winter trail that provides access to Trail Lake from the Iditarod trail near the Yentna River. Shown on Map 8. Included in the 2004 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan.	8
16B	West Line	A multi-use winter trail. An un-maintained trail that runs east of the Skwentna River from Skwentna to the area near Finger Lake and Hayes River. Shown on Map 8. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	8
16B	Whiskey Lake (Skwentna area)	A multi-use winter trail that connects Skwentna to the area near Whiskey Lake and Hewitt Lake. Shown on Map 8. Noted in the 1984 MSB Trail Plan.	8
16B	Yentna Cutover	A multi-use winter trail accessed from the Iditarod trail near the Yentna River. Shown on Map 8. Included in the 2004 amendment to the 2000 MSB Trail Plan	8

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We seek no-trap setbacks to protect people who recreate and their pets on the area's most utilized multi-use trails.

While most trappers set traps a responsible distance from multi-use trails, dangerous trap placements by some close to trails and trailheads have incurred serious consequences for others who recreate on designated multi-use trails. When this issue was brought to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Assembly in 2017, over 3,500 MSB residents petitioned assembly members to protect multi-use trails after 11 dogs had been caught in traps locally.¹ Land managers and law enforcement do not track trap-safety incidents (pets or humans), so reports are collected ad hoc and considered incomplete. As a result of citizen engagement, the MSB approved trapping regulations on six borough-managed trails and on school grounds, but did not issue regulations for state-managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game.

While the borough regulations limited trapping on a few trails in 2017, each year since there have been reports of pets in off-leash areas being ensnared or caught in legally set traps near unprotected public trails. Traps near popular recreation areas continue to pose a risk to people who recreate, families with children, and pets during winter recreation.

During the 2020-21 trapping season, the public submitted reports of trap encounters, which were verified to include:

- Dog killed in conibear trap at Crooked Creek Trailhead
- Motocross rider pulled off motorbike from snare in Jim Creek Recreation Area
- Dog caught in snare at Iditarod headquarters on KGB
- Dog caught in snare in Western Matanuska Range Trail system
- Dog caught in snare in Meadow Lakes
- Dog caught in trap near Big Lake Airport

Many people live in Alaska for the year-round recreational activities, and tens of thousands of people in the MSB and surrounding areas enjoy multi-use trails in the region. As summarized by the MSB Trails Information Page, *“Residents and visitors use trails year-round for fishing and hunting, access to remote recreation property, hiking, horseback riding, biking, off-road vehicle riding, skiing, snow machining, dog mushing, skijoring, and snowshoeing. Demands for quality trails increases every year and is expected to continue as visitors and residents get outside and enjoy the MSB's natural beauty and wild country in ever increasing numbers.”*² We respect the rights of trappers to utilize multi-use trails, and seek reasonable, regulated boundaries that ensure safe multi-use on the area's most heavily-used trails for thousands of other trail users.

The goal of this proposal is not to unduly restrict trapping, but to protect and reduce the uncertainty for users of multi-use trails by providing defined boundaries on trap placement. Trapping would still be permitted near the above-listed trails, provided they are placed farther than 50 yards from the trail and trailheads.

¹ “Assembly bans trapping in 8 parks”- March 8, 2017 Press Release, <https://www.matsugov.us/news/assembly-bans-trapping-in-7-parks>

² Matanuska-Susitna Borough “About Trails”, <https://www.matsugov.us/trails/about-trails>.

Why these trails?

Trail selection was an intentional process designed to identify true multi-use trails utilized by a variety of users during the trapping season.

First, we referenced the 2016 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Plan (Adopted June 2017) for a consolidated list of trails in the proposal area.³ This comprehensive trails plan includes over a dozen adopted community trail plans under one umbrella, including those of: Big Lake, Chase, Chickaloon, Glacier View, South Knik River, Knik-Fairview, Lake Louise, Lazy Mountain, Meadow Lakes, Point MacKenzie, Sheep Mountain, Susitna, Sutton, Talkeetna, and Willow.

Relative to the thousands of trails identified in MSB Recreational Trails Plans since 1984, 253 trails are considered “regionally significant” in the most recent plan. Regionally significant trails are defined as: “existing or proposed trails requiring borough action that are likely to attract recreationalists due to the quality of the recreational opportunities the trail provides.” Regionally significant trails may be managed by the state, federal or borough governments, and are “considered to be the borough’s highest priority for preservation.”⁴

From the list of 253 Regionally Significant Trails, we further narrowed eligible trails to those that:

- Exist (omitted proposed trails and connectors)
- Have documented year-round use from multiple user groups
- Are regularly maintained for multi-use

The intent is to present a fair list of true year-round multi-use trails for consideration under this proposal.

Why 50 yards?

Fifty yards is the minimum precedented distance for trap setbacks in Alaska. In Unit 1C, for example, Juneau-area designated trails have a regulated ¼ mile trap setback. For trails outside the Juneau area in Unit 1C, the ¼ mile setback is also applied except for traps with an inside jaw spread of five inches or less, which can only be set if they are at least five feet above the ground and snow *and* are more than 50 yards from the trail. Additionally, in 2019 the Anchorage municipality passed an ordinance for 50 yard no-trap setbacks from designated trails in the Anchorage Municipality.⁵ In sum, this distance is precedented as a reasonable compromise between various users, and has been implemented in other areas of the state.

The average backpacking speed is two miles per hour (mph). Assuming trappers are moving between one – two mph, this distance would take between one - two minutes to walk from the trail, and thus presents minimal burden to trappers. Many trappers use snow machines, which would cover this 50-yard setback in less than one minute.

The proposed setback zone does not occupy enough space to significantly limit trapper opportunity. Further, by selecting only the most utilized and popular trails, primitive or trapper-maintained trails are not restricted by setbacks and would not reduce current trapping opportunity.

³ 2016 Matanuska- Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Plan (Adopted June 2017), pages 6-1 through 6-47.

⁴ 2016 Matanuska- Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Plan (Adopted June 2017), Page 5-3.

⁵ AO No. 2019-50(S)

The setback distance is small enough to not significantly reduce the Board of Game’s ability to manage wildlife. Should trapping of a species within this setback be proven biologically necessary, the board may utilize a temporary permit system that identifies active traps in specific cases or modify the list of trails in the setback system.

In areas that permit off-leash dog use, dogs must still be under voice and sight control to be protected by this setback. For the protection of users and wildlife, dogs must be in voice and sight control in all multi-use settings.

Trappers who follow the Trapper’s Code of Ethics’ third tenant, to “promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals,” already trap away from heavily used trails. This setback will likely not impact trappers who already avoid trap conflicts in multi-use areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Alliance

HQ-F21-003

Dillingham Area Proposals – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 200

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. The goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in 2013 after hearing much comments from heavily invested groups such as

the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

The Unit 17A moose management plan calls for antlerless moose hunting opportunity when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. When the population exceeds 1,200 moose, a bag limit of up to two moose is needed to provide increased opportunity and to reduce moose abundance to protect habitat. Based on the most recent survey with good conditions in March 2017, both conditions have been met with a population estimate of 1,990 \pm 437 moose. After further analyses, this estimate will be corrected for sightability which will result in a higher population estimate further supporting liberal harvest strategies. 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 Unit 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-F21-029)

PROPOSAL 201

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Allow motorized vehicles for hunting moose and caribou in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area in Unit 17B as follows:

5 AAC 92.540(5)

(A) the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 17(B);

(ii) the area is closed to the use any motorized vehicles for **guided hunters hunting** big game, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game from August 1 through November 1, except that the use of an aircraft or a boat is not prohibited, and a motorized vehicle in a legally permitted hunting camp is not prohibited;

(iii) hunters with a RM 583 or RC 503 permit may use motorized vehicles no bigger than 1800 lbs to hunt big game in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use area: from August 1 through November 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Access to the area is closed to big game motorized hunting. Resident hunters can access the same area with motorized vehicles for small game, waterfowl and berries but if they see a moose or caribou hunters are not allowed to harvest big game. Only hunters who have access to planes can hunt off the river corridor which discriminates against subsistence gatherers, handicapped, and resident hunters. Subsistence hunters on a RM583 or a RC503 who live on the river don't have the resources to hunt by airplane.

PROPOSED BY: Richard King (HQ-F21-014)

PROPOSAL 202

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

Allow the use of a firearm to take beaver while trapping in Unit 17 as follows:

We would recommend that the regulation be changed to read like most of the western units in the state that:

A firearm is allowed to take beaver during the season within the bag limits that are established in regulations.

In this case, at this time for Unit 17 it would mean all season with no limits

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 17 has some of the most complex regulations for beaver in the state. We would like to see the regulations cleaned up for simplicity for both the trappers and law enforcement.

Currently a person cannot use a firearm to take beaver from October 10- November 30. Then on December 1 until April 14 a firearm can be used to take an unlimited amount of beaver. Then on April 15 until May 31 a firearm may be used to take up to two beaver a day that must be used for human consumption.

As you can see, this is very complex. How law enforcement can determine that a particular beaver was shot at one time of the year, and not another so it's illegal to use as bait but must be consumed is beyond us.

We can currently trap as many beaver in a day as we want the entire season. The use of a firearm as a method of take will simply help achieve the goal of securing a few additional beaver for fur, food, or bait. Some people worry that this will lead to the demise of the beaver but our personal experience in hunting beaver has shown us that really shooting more than three or four in a day would be a major undertaking with a lot of luck. This is due to the limited amount of time beaver are actually out of their huts and available to take with a firearm.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Fritze and Kenton Moos

(EG-F21-025)

PROPOSAL 203

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for muskrat in Unit 17 as follows:

I would propose that the muskrat season be changed to mirror the beaver season in the spring so they can be taken simultaneously making it more efficient and effective for trappers. The new regulations would be as follows:

Muskrat

November 10 - May 31 [NOVEMBER 20 - MARCH 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The season for muskrats in Unit 17 is currently November 10 - March 31. This gives us a very limited amount of time to trap muskrats some years, and virtually no time without drilling through substantial amounts of ice most years. During the majority of this season muskrats are under the ice and hard for trappers to find in any volume.

There are plenty of muskrats in Unit 17 but they are generally available to trap ice free in the spring April and May months. Extending the season to mirror the beaver season would give trappers added opportunity to take muskrats along with beaver. Unit 17 is one of the few units in the state and the only western unit that does not have a spring muskrat season so those of us who use their fur or consume them must trap them through the ice which is very time consuming and quite unproductive overall.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Fritze

(EG-F21-029)

King Salmon Area Proposals – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 85.045(a)(8). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Lengthen moose seasons in Units 9B and 9C and align hunt areas in Unit 9C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8)		
Unit 9(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or 1 antlered bull by registration permit only	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20] Dec. 15–Jan. 15	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registra- tion permit only		Sept. 5–Sept. 15
Unit 9(C), [THAT PORTION DRAINING INTO THE NAKNEK RIVER]		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or 1 antlered bull by registration permit only	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20] <u>Dec. 1–Jan. 15</u> [DEC. 1–DEC. 31]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by registra- tion permit only		Sept. 5–Sept. 20
[REMAINDER OF UNIT 9C]		

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT SEPT 1–SEPT. 20
ONLY; OR

1 ANTLERED BULL BY DEC. 15–JAN. 15
REGISTRATION PERMIT
ONLY

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20
OR ANTLERS WITH 3 OR MORE
BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY
REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose populations in Units 9B and 9C are above management objectives regarding bull-to-cow ratios and could sustain additional bull harvest under registration moose permits RM272 (residents only). There are no moose population estimates for Unit 9, however, composition surveys indicate that the bull:cow ratio in Unit 9B was high in 2018 and was 67 bulls:100 cows in Unit 9C in 2020. This proposal would add five days to the fall season and 15 days to the winter season in Units 9B and 9C. On average (2011–2019), in Unit 9B there were 35 moose harvested annually during the fall season (86%) and 6 during winter (14%). In Unit 9C harvest averaged 21 moose in the fall (83%) and four during winter (17%). Winter seasons are often hampered by lack of snow. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will monitor bull:cow ratios and recommend reverting to shorter seasons if necessary.

This proposal would also remove the split of Unit 9C into Naknek River drainages and the remainder portion for registration hunts RM272 and RM282 (nonresidents). The only difference currently is a two-week shift later in the winter season for the remainder portion for resident hunters. The proposed winter season dates for RM272 would span the entire range of current winter dates for both portions of Unit 9C.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-21-022)

PROPOSAL 205

5 AAC 92.112 Intensive Management Plan I.

Reauthorize the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd Intensive Management Plan as follows:

5 AAC 92.112 Intensive Management Plan I. (b) is entirely deleted and replaced by the following:

(b) Southern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this subsection, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf

population reduction or wolf population regulation program on the Alaska Peninsula in Unit 9(D); the control area includes all drainages of the Alaska Peninsula west of a line from the southernmost head of Port Moller Bay to the head of American Bay, encompassing approximately 3,819 square miles;

(1) this is a continuing control program that was first established by the Board of Game (board) in 2008 for wolf control; it is designed to increase the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (SAPCH) on the mainland portion of Unit 9(D) to aid in achieving intensive management (IM) objectives;

(2) Caribou and wolf objectives are as follows:

(A) the IM population objective for the SAPCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 1,500–4,000 caribou;

(B) the caribou harvest objective for the SAPCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 150–200 caribou in combination with harvest from the Unimak caribou herd (UCH);

(C) the management objective for Unit 9 wolves is to maintain a wolf population that will sustain a 3-year average annual harvest of at least 50 wolves; and

(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 SAPCH 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(D) 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 is currently below IM objectives for the SAPCH, however harvest is below objectives because of low hunter participation;.

(D) wolves are a major predator of caribou in the range of the SAPCH and were an important factor in population and harvest levels falling below IM objectives during the mid 2000's;

- (E) a reduction of predation was successful in achieving IM objectives in the late 2000's, setting a precedent for future actions;
 - (F) nutrition is not considered to be the primary factor limiting caribou population growth;
 - (G) future reduction in predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;
 - (H) future reduction in predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns; and
 - (I) future reduction in predation is in the best interests of subsistence users, and is recognized under the state's intensive management law as an area where caribou are to be managed for high levels of human consumptive use.
- (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 will 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; and
- (5) Time frame is as follows:
- (A) through June 30, 2031, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the SAPCH Predation Management Area to aid in population growth or improve harvest of SAPCH caribou; and
 - (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 mid-point of the IM population or harvest objectives for the SAPCH are achieved;
- (B) if, after three years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the IM 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;
- (E) if, after three years, fall calf-to-cow ratios show no appreciable increase;
- (F) if, after three years, any measure consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the caribou population are identified; or
- (G) when the caribou population and harvest objectives within the SAPCH Predation Management Area have been met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (SAPCH) Intensive Management Plan was suspended during July 2010 and expired on June 30, 2017. IM population objectives for the SAPCH have been achieved since Regulatory Year (RY) 2012–13. Since RY08, the SAPCH has been increasing by an average of about 11% per year and was near 3,100 caribou (based on survey data and modeling) by RY20. However, harvest objectives have not been met because of low hunter participation.

During the three years that the IM program was active, a total of 38 (64%) wolves were removed by ADF&G staff on the calving grounds versus 21 (36%) taken from the wolf assessment area by hunters and trappers. Since suspension of the IM program in RY10, a total of 35 wolves (57%) were harvested by nonresident hunters and 26 wolves (43%) were taken by residents through RY19. Nonresident hunters harvest most of the wolves in Unit 9D and maintaining a tag fee exemption for nonresidents is expected to keep harvest at such a level where the department does not expect to implement active predation control in the near future.

To comply with the protocol for intensive management plans, ADF&G is removing unnecessary and outdated information from regulation and introducing specific language for the intensive management plan for the SAPCH predation management area. There have been no significant changes to the plan. This reauthorization proposal allows the board to modify the programs objectives and give further guidance to ADF&G if warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-041)

PROPOSAL 206

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

Open a resident only early/late season for brown bear in Unit 9 as follows:

The best solution would be for the Board of Game to provide a resident only early/late season by including the original season dates in Unit 9 that were wrongly shortened for residents in 2018:

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula brown/grizzly bear

RBXXX or DBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–6

RBXXX or DBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 26-31

Another solution would be to create a resident only draw hunt with a limited allocation determined by the Department of Fish and Game, mirroring the current RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts, to allow a spring season on odd numbered years and a fall season on even numbered years.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula brown/grizzly bear

DBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

DB XXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident hunting and harvest opportunity for brown bear in Unit 9.

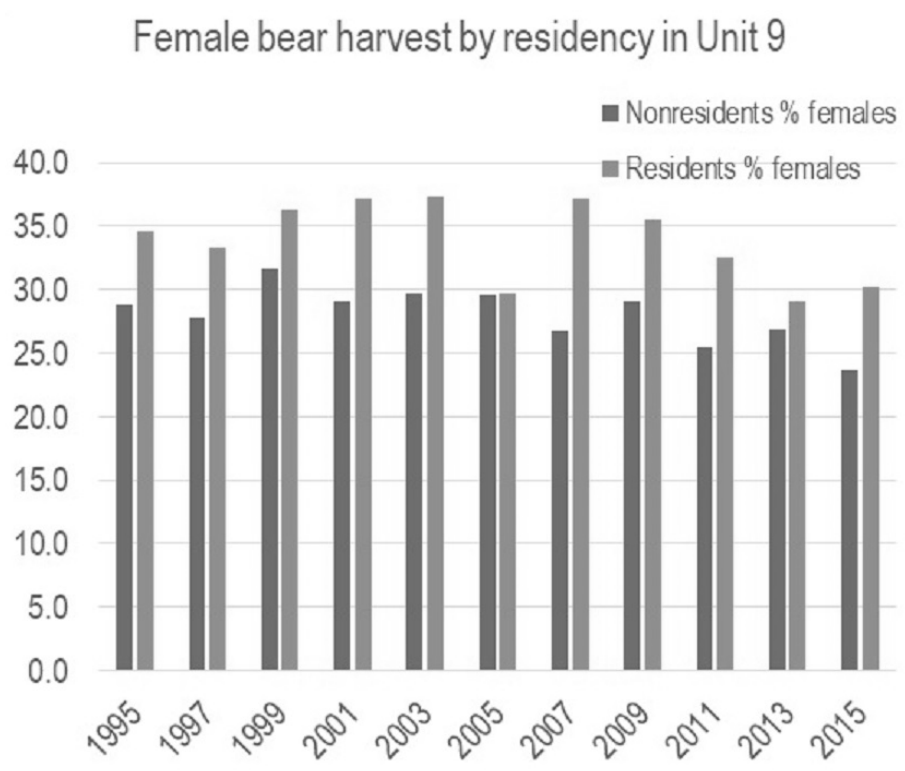
We continue to receive reports of conflicts between resident brown bear hunters and guides in Unit 9, particularly those guides that operate on federal lands with exclusive guide concessions. We also continue to receive reports of conflicts among different guides on state lands in Unit 9, as well as among guides and resident hunters. There are limited places to land an aircraft, and guides have most areas essentially “locked up.” The limited number of air taxis that will fly into Unit 9 often won’t fly resident hunters because of agreements with guides. When resident hunters do fly in they often get complaints from guides that it is “their area” and they should move on to another place, and if they go somewhere else they run into the same issues where competition between the nonresident hunters/guides and resident hunters leads to conflicts.

During the last Region IV (Central/Southwest) cycle, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) addressed this with Proposal #132, requesting resident-only early spring and fall brown bear seasons in Unit 9. We included data from the ADF&G on harvest levels by residents and nonresidents that showed (and still does) that nonresident guided hunters take 80 percent of the brown bear harvest each season.

Surprisingly, ADF&G stated during the last Region IV cycle meeting that they suddenly had conservation/biological concerns for the Unit 9 brown bear population, after years of unlimited nonresident opportunity and nonresident guided hunters taking 80 percent of the harvest. The board amended our proposal to do the very opposite of what we requested and shortened the spring and fall brown bear seasons in Unit 9 by one week for both residents and nonresidents based on those ADF&G concerns. From the meeting summary on Proposal 132: “Open a resident-only early

season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts. The board amended the proposal by changing the existing registration hunt dates in Unit 9 to October 7-21, and May 10-25, excluding the subsistence hunts.”

This was completely uncalled for as nonresident guided hunters are the component continually taking the vast majority of the harvest in Unit 9, and are most responsible for any overhunting or other biological effects on the bear population. Resident hunters should not have had their seasons shortened when it is nonresident hunters taking so much of the harvest.



As to sow harvests, the graph below from the ADF&G shows that the sow harvests among residents and nonresidents are not that far apart, but this data is misleading because it compares the total nonresident harvests with the total resident harvests:

This data below, also from ADF&G is a better example of what is really going on with sow harvests, and shows that it is the nonresident hunters who are overwhelmingly taking the vast majority of the sows among the Unit 9 brown bear population:

	Nonresidents		Residents	
	<u>no. females</u>	<u>% females</u>	<u>no. females</u>	<u>% females</u>
1995	109	28.8	45	34.6
1997	121	27.8	41	33.3
1999	166	31.7	53	36.3
2001	156	29.1	48	37.2
2003	143	29.7	54	37.2
2005	153	29.5	35	29.7

2007	139	26.7	39	37.1
2009	142	29	38	35.5
2011	123	25.4	39	32.5
2013	110	26.8	25	29.1
2015	87	23.7	26	30.2

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F21-012)

PROPOSAL 207

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

Close brown bear hunting in Unit 9A as follows.

Page 65 in the 2020-2021 Alaska Hunting Regulations:

Proposed Action: Close Game Management Subunit 9A to brown bear hunting (currently designated as Registration Permit Hunts RB368 and RB370) with no open season in all Regulatory Years, odd and even.

As it stands now, it is recognized that in RY2022 all of Unit 9 is already closed to brown bear hunting and it should remain so. The intent of this proposal is to close future Regulatory Years to brown bear hunting in Unit 9A. It is also recognized a Spring RY2020 Unit 9 brown bear season was approved in 2020 and is ongoing at proposal deadline. Per ADF&G, results from that hunt will not be available until late June, 2021 at the earliest. And it is recognized fall and spring RY2021 Unit 9 brown bear hunts are already scheduled, making three consecutive season hunts (spring, fall, spring) at a time when the Unit 9A brown bear population is already overharvested. Consideration should also be given to closing Unit 9A brown bear seasons in RY2021 by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear management in Unit 9 is on a subunit basis. The brown bear population in Unit 9A is small, under increasing and unsustainable hunting pressure, and is likely declining. The Unit 9A hunting season should be closed in all regulatory years, odd and even, to protect that resource.

Measured by the number of permittees who reported hunting, ADF&G data indicates increasing hunting pressure RY2011-RY2017 in Unit 9A though it is decreasing in Unit 9 as a whole. Accordingly, based on ADF&G bear populations estimates and reported kills, the Unit 9A brown bear harvest is unsustainable. Contrary to Unit 9 as a whole, Unit 9A reported brown bear kills have been increasing RY2011-RY2017. Based on ADF&G Unit 9 population estimates and density extrapolations, the brown bear population estimate for the portion of Unit 9A open to hunting is low. The average annual harvest for the period RY2011-RY2017 from that same area open to hunting is 11.6%, well above the level ADF&G considers sustainable (6-8%).

Although “widely misinterpreted by Division staff” (Interpretation of Bear Harvest Data, Miller and Miller, 1990), brown bear age-at-death data is still used by ADF&G to evaluate the status of the Unit 9 brown bear population. Namely, ADF&G maintains the lack of change in that metric indicates a stable population. But even by that apparent misinterpretation, ADF&G harvest age

data for Unit 9A shows a significant decline in the average age of harvested male bears from 2014-2015 to 2016-2017 (10.9 to 9.1 years of age). In 2018-2019 it fell further, to 8.1 years of age, though that was on a smaller sample size due to pandemic-influenced, reduced non-resident hunting effort.

While the area open to hunting is comparatively small, Unit 9A also represents an important link in the coastal brown bear habitat between Lake Clark National Park and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge, both of which are increasingly popular brown bear viewing areas. Closing Unit 9A to brown bear hunting would increase the opportunity, and just as important, the appeal for expanded bear-viewing along the coast with increased positive economic impacts to the state and local economies. ADF&G could institute a system similar to registration permits but which would require the payment of permit fees for bear-viewers and bear-viewing operators using that portion of Unit 9A to replace and likely dramatically increase any state revenue lost by its closure to bear hunting.

More analysis and information will be provided in proposal commentary when more data and reports are available from ADF&G in the coming months, including the first Species Management Report since 2014 which should be available by late summer. Based on some of the information available now, following is a more detailed analysis in support of the closure of Unit 9A to brown bear hunting. All data is from ADF&G reports and correspondence. In most cases, RY2019 data is not used for comparisons due to the pandemic-related anomaly of the Spring 2020 hunt.

Overall, since RY2011, registration permit data indicates the number of hunters in Unit 9 has been declining. The number of Unit 9 permittees who reported hunting in RY2017 was substantially lower, less than half (48.5%) of those who reported hunting in RY2011. Similarly, reported RY2011-RY2017 harvests for Unit 9 have been declining with the RY2017 reported harvest only 39.5% of RY2011 reported harvest.

But contrary to Unit 9 overall, in Unit 9A the number of permittees who reported hunting in RY2017 was substantially higher, an increase of 173.4% over those who reported hunting in Unit 9A in RY2011. Similarly, and contrary to Unit 9 as a whole, Unit 9A reported harvest in RY2017 was also substantially higher, up 157.5% from the RY2011 reported harvest.

These ADF&G permit and harvest data for Unit 9A indicate increasing hunting pressure and harvest in the small portion of Unit 9A open to hunting.

From the “Species Management Report & Plan, in prep. Crowley 2021, Table 1. Bear abundance and density estimates in Unit 9, 1989 – 2005”, based on 2003 surveys, the most recent conducted in Unit 9A, the ADF&G average of the two 2003 Double Count Distance Sampling (DCDS) population estimates (693 and 703 bears) for all of Unit 9A, including areas closed to hunting, is 698 bears. From the same ADF&G report, the average of the two 2003 DCDS population estimates (367 and 406 bears) for the portion of Lake Clark National Park in Unit 9A, which is closed to hunting, is 387 bears. That leaves an average estimate of 311 bears in the areas of Unit 9A outside of Lake Clark National Park. However, the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge is also part of Unit 9A and is also closed to bear hunting. The most recent published “Brown Bear Management Report” for Unit 9 (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014) states “The McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and national parks within Unit 9 are thought to contain 2,000-2,500 additional

brown bears.” At a combined area of approximately 1000 km² for the Sanctuary and Refuge, and using the lowest ADF&G Unit 9A bear density estimate of 122 bears/1,000km², that extrapolation would yield a population estimate of at least 100 bears in the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge which is also closed to hunting. Using these most recent ADF&G-based estimates, the area of Unit 9A open to hunting has an estimated population of approximately 211 bears. This is considerably lower than the Unit 9A estimate of 296 bears in the area open to hunting which ADF&G had used for 30+ years.

For the four regulatory years with open seasons (RY2011, RY2013, RY2015 and RY2017), ADF&G Unit 9A reported brown bear harvest data (not including illegal or unreported kills) is 40, 45, 48, and 63 respectively. The average of the annual reported harvest percentage during that eight-calendar year period is 11.6%, well above the level ADF&G considers sustainable (6-8%). The RY2017 reported harvest alone represents 29.8% of the estimated population in the Unit 9A area open to hunting. An additional Spring RY2020 Unit 9 season was approved by the Board of Game (board) in 2020. Results from that hunt are not available as of the proposal deadline. RY2021 Unit 9 fall and spring hunts are already approved making a total of three consecutive Unit 9 open seasons when Unit 9A has already been subject to unsustainable hunting pressure. Conservative management principles would include closing Unit 9A brown bear seasons in RY2021 as well.

In Unit 9A, the small part currently open to hunting representing a small part of total Unit 9, there is another, more sustainable and revenue-producing use of brown bear. The economic impact of bear-viewing and the bear viewing industry has grown dramatically along western Cook Inlet from Lake Clark National Park to the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge and Katmai National Park. Closing Unit 9A to brown bear hunting and the elimination of the current unsustainable harvest level will promote even more bear-viewing opportunity and positive economic impact as the Unit 9A bear population increases. ADF&G could implement a fee-based registration permit system for bear-viewers and bear-viewing operations using the state lands in Unit 9A between Lake Clark National Park and the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge. This would result in a substantial boost to ADF&G revenue and allow bear-viewers to financially support their interests in wildlife. And the inevitable increase in the Unit 9A brown bear population will also in time increase the population in adjacent Unit 9B, which would remain open to hunting on the alternating, odd-RY schedule.

I urge approval of this proposal and will provide additional information before the January 2022 Board of Game meeting comment deadline.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Hall

(HQ-F21-016)

PROPOSAL 208

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

Change the brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9C to align with Unit 9A as follows.

If the Board of Game adopted this solution, the new regulation would be as follows:

1) SEASON DATES EVEN NUMBERED YEARS:

Units 9A, 9B and **9C**: May 10-May 31; Units 9D, and 9E: May 10-May 25

2) SEASON DATES ODD NUMBERED YEARS:

Unit 9A and **9C**: October 1 – October 21; Units 9D and 9E: October 7 – October 21

Note: The map referenced in this proposal is available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook>.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like to see the Board of Game address is the change of season dates in Unit 9C to align more with the “upper Alaskan Peninsula” season dates of Unit 9A.

Unit 9C, when looked at on a map (attached), is primarily the Katmai Preserve on the northern side, then wraps around to the west (BLM lands and private lands) and down towards the south, connecting to a small section of state land on the lower southwest corner. This is highlighted yellow on the attached Game Management Unit 9 map for reference.

When looking at Unit 9C, one can see that the majority of land is the Katmai National Park, where hunting is prohibited. This national park acts as a buffer from the lower Alaskan Peninsula of Units 9E and 9D. When the dates changed, Unit 9C was left out of being included with keeping its original dates of the upper peninsula like 9A and 9B and was instead “looped in” with 9E and 9D.

Unit 9C being on the upper Alaskan Peninsula has weather trends that are totally different from Units 9E and 9D. Unit 9C is adjoining 9B to the north and the majority of the southern line is the Katmai National Park adjoining Unit 9E to the south. In the fall and the spring, Units 9C’s weather patterns are more identical to Units 9A and 9B, rather than 9E and 9D. In the winter Unit 9C’s colder winter weather comes much earlier. In the spring the thaw tends to be much later. So with the change of the seasons to match the lower Alaskan Peninsula Units 9E and 9D, this puts 9C at a disadvantage of bear activity and movement and the weather patterns tend to limit successful hunting opportunity. The area in Unit 9C that is open to hunting is very small and limited since the majority of 9C is Katmai National Park, closed to hunting. By changing the seasons back to the original dates will allow both resident and nonresident opportunities at better weather patterns more in line with Units 9A and 9B with better success as well.

PROPOSED BY: Cabot Pitts

(EG-F21-020)

Glennallen Area Proposals – Units 11 & 13

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC 85.010(a)(1) Hunting seasons and bag limits for bison.

Modify the Copper River bison harvest opportunity in Units 11 and 13D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 11, east of the Copper River, south of the Klawasi River, and west of a line from Mount Sanford to Mount Wrangell to Long Glacier, and west of the Kotsina River, and that portion of Unit 13(D) east of the Edgerton Highway	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)
1 bison every 10 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to <u>50 permits</u> [24 permits] may be issued.		
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to increase the number of permits allowable for the Copper River bison hunt in Units 11 and 13D (DI454) to provide additional harvest opportunity for resident and nonresident hunters in response to a growing bison population. The Copper River bison herd has been slowly increasing in abundance from an average of 70 animals in the mid 1990's to an average of 181 animals over the past five years. The maximum number of permits (24) have been issued annually since 2004, except for 2008 (18 permits) and 2012 (15 permits). Due to an administrative error, there were 30 permits issued in 2017 and 45 permits issued in 2018. Over the past 10 years, permit success averages 38% and hunter success averages 56%, but harvest (average of 10 animals annually) does not optimize the harvestable surplus under maximum sustained yield as the herd grows. Additional permits will allow for additional sustainable bison hunting opportunities and will provide the tools to adjust the trajectory of the herd and prevent negative impacts of increased bison abundance on the range.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-020)

PROPOSAL 210

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

Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunts in Unit 13 as follows.

Eliminate the community harvest moose hunts in Unit 13. General season moose hunt for all should be September 1st to September 20th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Discontinue community harvest moose hunts. This hunt, in its sixth or seventh year has destroyed the moose population in Unit 13. My family has survived off Unit 13 moose for 20 years continuously. On and off we have lived off them since 1961. We have gone two years, hunting every day of the 20-day season without seeing a legal moose. The community hunt is putting too much pressure on moose, and since they can also harvest spike-fork or 50", 4 brow tines moose before the general season without it counting on the community harvest quota, there is increase pressure on those moose, thus removing them from the woods before the general season. I live in the middle of Unit 13, and this fall, for the first time in 20 years, I will be forced to travel to other areas to harvest moose meat. Tier I caribou tied to moose in Unit 13 also has put added pressure on moose in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy

(EG-F21-005)

PROPOSAL 211

5 AAC 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas.

Repeal the Copper Basin area community subsistence harvest hunt area for moose and caribou as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 92.074(d)(1) - (13)

The Alaska Board of Game would then implement **AS 16.05.258. Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game** consistent with **Article 8, Section 3. Common Use** under 5 AAC 92.070 - 71 whenever a reasonable opportunity for harvesting amounts necessary for subsistence are not being met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal the **Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentesta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kash Community Harvest Area for moose and caribou 5 AAC 92.074(d)**; it has not achieved the goal intended by the Board of Game (board) when it was adopted. In 2006 the board assumed that under the current Tier I & II system (5 AAC 92.070 and .071) hunting permits had shifted from the most dependent local residents to less subsistence dependent urban residence. The board took action to provide local communities in the Copper Basin with a priority to hunt moose and caribou. The board's action was challenged in state court and determined to be unconstitutional, **Alaska State Constitution, Article VIII. Sec. 3 Common Use**.

After 15 years of implementation by ADF&G, the proposers of the proposal to create the Copper Basin Community harvest area are achieving their original request to the board on federal lands through the Federal Subsistence Board.

Federal law, ANILCA Title I, Sec.101(b)(C) allows for Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC) to achieve their goal of exclusive community member moose and caribou hunts on federal lands in Units 11, 12, and 13.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council

(EG-F21-038)

Note: The following proposal is an updated submission for Proposal 66. It was submitted by the proposal deadline for the 2020/2021 proposal book to replace the original submission, but was inadvertently omitted.

PROPOSAL 212

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:

The regulatory condition of the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit should read:

“No more than one Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit for caribou may be issued per household every regulatory year, the head of the household, as defined in 5 AAC 92.071 (b), and 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? There is ambiguity in regulatory wording that leads to a lack of agreement and understanding of the regulation. The current interpretation by the Department of Fish and Game (as found in their Subsistence Permit Hunt Supplement) seems to exceed the rule making authority of the board.

A regulatory condition of the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit states, in part: “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 condition should only apply to state hunts, which are under the authority of the board.

The department has interpreted this to include limitations on federal subsistence hunts. Their hunt supplement states: “If you apply for this hunt, you and your household cannot participate in federal hunts for caribou or moose outside of Unit 13”. As the board’s regulatory authority covers state authorized hunts, there is questionable legal validity for the board to place limits on federal subsistence hunt opportunities for which they have no legal control. It would be beyond “the scope of authority conferred” (Chapter 62. Administrative Procedures Act, Sec. 44.62.020, Authority to adopt, administer, or enforce regulations). For the department’s interpretation to be valid and enforceable, it seems that the board would need the authority to regulate federal subsistence hunt opportunities; this authority would need to be delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board.

The current interpretation by the department leads to confusion, may lead to unwarranted citations, legal liability, and future lawsuits, and also seems arbitrary in nature. The purpose of the regulation was to reduce overcrowding and excessive pressure on the resources. Currently, a limited number of federal subsistence hunters do not apply for the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou hunt because they may want to hunt moose outside of Unit 13, perhaps to avoid the crowds that still persist. This relatively low number of additional federal subsistence hunters that could participate in the Unit 13 Tier I hunt would likely have no significant impact to the purpose of reducing excessive crowding and pressure. It is not “reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of the statute” (Chapter 62. Administrative Procedures Act, Sec. 44.62.030, Consistency between regulation and statute.).

In addition, there is inconsistent application by the department of regulations between game and fish. In a very similar manner of regulatory language, 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan states, in part: “A household may not be issued both a Copper River subsistence salmon fishing permit and a Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon permit.” Historically, the department has not interpreted this to mean that if one gets a state Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit, then that person would be ineligible for a federal subsistence fishing permit in the Copper River. It is implicit that this condition applies only to the fisheries under the authority of the department.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee

(HQ-F21-007)

PROPOSAL 213

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

Remove the requirement for Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13 as follows:

The solution would be to remove the requirement that Alaskans would have to hunt moose in Unit 13, or remove Tier I altogether and manage the population with increased draw tags and increased Tier II tags.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the removal of the requirement to hunt moose in Unit 13 if an individual receives a Tier I caribou permit. The purpose of this requirement has failed in its intention to limit Alaskans who apply for these permits. With the closures of federal land in Unit 13, this has compounded the crowding and user conflicts that is the cause of the Unit 13 land closures. The removal of this requirement will spread out users and lower conflicts in this area and allow Alaskans increased opportunities throughout Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin

(EG-F21-039)

PROPOSAL 214

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

Eliminate all moose drawing permit hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate all moose draw permit hunts in Unit 13 and comply with Section 16.05.258, if there is a shortage of resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate all moose draw permit hunts in Unit 13.

Remove DM324 for resident hunt for antlerless moose with season dates of October 1 – October 31 and March 1 - March 31.

Remove resident hunt DM324 for one bull with season date of October 1- October 31.

Remove nonresident hunt DM335 - DM339 for one bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tine on at least one side with season date September 1 – September 30.

The young bull moose population in Unit 13 is low. It is at or below management objectives in three of the subunits of Unit 13.

In Unit 13A the moose population has shown a slight decline in the past three to four years. The ratio of yearlings to cows is 2.8 per 100 cows. It is below ideal ratio of ten yearlings to 100 cows.

The moose population has dropped to the mid-point in the management objective. The mid-point population is the trigger to conduct a wolf control program. Due to a low moose count, the predator control program for wolves in Unit 13B has been ongoing since last year to reduce the wolf predation. Unit 13A has been added to the wolf program because it is adjacent to Unit 13B and also has a low yearling count.

Both Unit 13B and Unit 13D are below the moose management objectives. The moose are 1,000 under the management objective in Unit 13B.

Draw hunt permits must be eliminated to conserve the moose population. Subsistence law, Section 16.05.258, are in place to give priority to subsistence hunters in times of a shortage of the resource. Community Subsistence Harvest Tier II hunters are harvesting less moose in the field during the hunting season which may be due to low moose population.

With a low yearling count and below management objective moose count (-1,000), it is necessary to eliminate all Unit 13 moose draw hunts. ADF&G must take action to protect moose numbers and protect subsistence rights and eliminating all Unit 13 draw permit hunts will do so.

DM324 – bull moose hunt in October month needs to be removed. Hunting moose during the rutting season when moose are vulnerable and meat is not edible shouldn't be allowed in regulation. Moose will be needlessly killed and meat will be inedible.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene'

(HQ-F21-001)

PROPOSAL 215

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13A 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:		
...		
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 Mar. 1–Mar. 31 (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. 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 of Game adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the inception of this hunt, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has issued 10 permits annually for a hunt 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 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. There were 20 permits issued for RY20 and 25 permits were issued for RY21.

Moose abundance has fluctuated in Unit 13A 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 2017–2020. 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 to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-028)

PROPOSAL 216

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

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

Units and Bag Limits (11)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: ...		
<u>1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only in Unit 13(C); up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf, or a cow accompanied by a calf</u>	<u>Oct. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season</u>
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To maintain moose populations within their population and sex ratio 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 abundance in Unit 13C has increased from less than 2,000 moose in 2004 to more than 3,300 moose in 2019 and 2020. The current abundance is in line with the peak observed for the Unit 13C population in

the late 1980s and late 1990s. Most recently the population peaked between 3,800 and 4,000 moose in 2014–2016 and then declined, supporting the long-term observations that suggest that Unit 13C cannot sustain those 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 is typical of an ungulate population as it becomes less productive when the population approaches the carrying capacity of the area.

The harvest objective for Unit 13C is 155–350 moose. Moose harvest in this subunit over the past five years averages 98 moose annually, which represents the highest harvest numbers since 1998. 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 under the current intensive management program. An antlerless hunt in Unit 13C will allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to maintain the moose population within abundance objectives and composition objectives. Stabilizing the population within the objectives will allow for a more productive population, producing more bulls as well as cows for an increase in overall harvestable surplus.

If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are not available for Unit 13C, 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-F21-021)

PROPOSAL 217

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

Eliminate all caribou drawing permit hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate draw permit hunts in Game Management Unit 13 for Nelchina caribou and comply with Section 16.05.258 regulatory law and criteria.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove all Unit 13 caribou draw permit hunts from the regulations. Remove resident draw permit hunt DC485 with a season of August 20 – September 20 and October 21-March 31.

Remove nonresident draw permit hunt DC475 with a season of August 20 – September 20 regulations.

Unit 13 Nelchina Caribou calf survival is below management objective.

This past year DC485 was closed on January 10, 2021, RC561, RC562 and CC001 were closed on January 22, 2021. Unit 13 Nelchina caribou season was closed due to overharvest by draw permits, and Tier I permit hunt.

Good snow conditions, warm winter, and the Nelchina caribou herd staying in Unit 13 throughout the winter provided easy access to harvest caribou. Consequently, ADF&G deemed it best to combine CC001, RC561 and RC562 and closed the caribou season.

Draw hunt permittees were allowed to harvest 817 Nelchina caribou and CC001 hunters were only allowed to harvest 292 caribou before the Unit 13 caribou hunting season was closed.

Section 16.05.258 was not complied with, whenever consumptive uses for caribou cannot be met for all users, subsistence Tier II criteria must be applied. CC001 hunt quota was not reached (400 quota), yet CC001 subsistence hunt was closed before the season ended. The draw hunt was kept open far too long. The draw hunt should have been closed in January 2021, and CC001 should have been kept open until March 31st.

Eliminate the draw permit hunts for Unit 13 Nelchina caribou and comply with Section 16.05.095 subsistence laws whenever a decision is to be made to close the caribou hunting season.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' (HQ-F21-002)

PROPOSAL 218

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

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

Unit 13: Allow two grizzlies per regulatory year to be taken.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Grizzly populations in Unit 13 are very high and having a detrimental effect on moose populations, particularly in Unit 13B. On an average spring I will find dozens of dead moose calves, uneaten, and killed by grizzlies. In the last ten years, populations have at least doubled. Allowing baiting to be legal a few years ago has helped, but we are still gaining bears. Many hunters after moose and caribou will pass on shooting a grizzly incidentally unless they see a large one. But if two grizzlies were allowed to be harvested, those hunters would be more likely to shoot the first legal grizzly seen, and then hold out for a bigger one on their second one.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy (EG-F21-006)

PROPOSAL 219

5AAC 92.121. Intensive Management Plan V.

Modify the Unit 13 predation control program as follows:

5 AAC 92.121. Intensive Management Plan V (b) is amended as follows:

(b) **Unit 13 Predation Control Area**. the Unit 13 Predation Control Area is established and consists of all lands within Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), **13(D)**, and that portion of Unit 13(E) east of the Alaska Railroad, except National Park Service and other federal lands where same-day-

airborne take of wildlife is not allowed, encompassing approximately **21,066** [15,413] square miles;

(1) This is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in 2000 for wolf control; it is currently designed to increase moose numbers and harvest by reducing predation on moose by wolves, **thereby improving recruitment rates**, and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 13;

(2) Moose and wolf objectives are as follows:

(A) Moose IM objectives for Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), **13(D)**, and 13(E) as established in 5 AAC 92.108 are 3,500–4,200, 5,300–6,300, 2,000–3,000, **1,200–1,900**, and 5,000–6,000 moose respectively; [THESE OBJECTIVES ARE BELOW THE MAXIMUM MOOSE NUMBERS ESTIMATED IN THESE AREAS BETWEEN 1987 AND 1989 AND ARE LIKELY ATTAINABLE GIVEN THE HISTORY OF PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVAL PATTERNS IN THIS AREA; THE BULL-TO-COW OBJECTIVE IS 25:100 FOR UNIT 13;]

(B) The moose harvest objectives for Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), **13(D)**, and 13(E) as established in 5 AAC 92.108 are 210–420, 310–620, 155–350, **75–190**, and 300 - 600 moose respectively; [WITH THE HARVEST OF BULLS AND COWS, THE CURRENT HARVEST OBJECTIVES CAN BE MET IN UNIT 13(A) AND ARE LIKELY ATTAINABLE IN UNITS 13(B) GIVEN THE HISTORY OF HARVEST PATTERNS IN THIS AREAS; THE HARVEST OBJECTIVES FOR UNIT 13(E) MAY NOT BE ATTAINABLE AND WILL BE RE-EVALUATED;]

(C) The department adopted 135–165 wolves as the late winter **minimum** abundance [OBJECTIVE] **for Unit 13**. Maintaining this **minimum** population size will allow for sustained yield of wolves and will ensure that wolves persist in the control area;

(3) Board findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:

(A) Moose harvest has been consistently below IM objectives in Units 13(B), 13(C), and 13(E);

(B) predation by wolves is an important cause of the failure to achieve population and harvest objectives;

(C) a reduction in wolf predation in Unit 13 can reasonably be expected to make progress toward achieving the Unit 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), **13(D)**, and 13(E) IM objectives for moose;

(D) reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;

(F) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns, and

(F) reducing predation is in the best interest of subsistence users; Unit 13 has long been an important subsistence hunting area for local area residents and much of the state's population in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, as well as Fairbanks and other communities around the state; it is recognized under the state's intensive management law as an area where moose are to be managed for high levels of human consumptive use.

(4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 13 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles;

(B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial permits or public land and shoot permits as a method for wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(5) Time frame is as follows:

(A) through **July 1, 2031** [JULY 1, 2027], the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the Unit 13 Predation Control 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 moose 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 mid-point of the IM population and harvest objectives for the moose population are achieved;

(B) when wolf inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers below the management objective of 135 wolves specified in this subsection;

(C) if after 3 years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves;

(D) predation control activities may be suspended:

(i) if after 3 years, there is no detectable increase in the total number of moose in the control area;

(ii) if after three years, any measure **such as estimates of rump fat, short-yearling mass, and twining rates,** consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the moose population are identified;

(iii) when the moose population and harvest objectives within Unit 13 predation control area have been met.

(c) Habitat Enhancement. The department may plan and execute habitat enhancement projects in areas identified for improvement based on evidence at the landscape or population level through prescribed burns, wildfire, or mechanical means to increase the potential carrying capacity across the range in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 13D was excluded from the original Unit 13 Predation Control Area to provide a refugia for wolves and ensure that wolves remained to contribute to repopulation into adjacent subunits. Since the inception of the Unit 13 predation control program, moose abundance in all other subunits has rebounded except for Unit 13D which has a declining moose population that would benefit from wolf reduction before the population reaches a low-density-dynamic-equilibrium mediated by predation. As the Unit 13 Predation Control Area continues to be used as an effective adaptive management tool it may be necessary to keep some subunits closed to aerial wolf removal due to high moose abundance in those areas. This may require that more than 165 wolves remain in Unit 13 in some years. To provide for maximum effectiveness and adaptive application, the minimum of 135 wolves in the spring should remain in the plan, but a maximum number of wolves annually is no longer necessary. In addition, in areas where moose abundance has increased but antlerless hunts are not available to adjust population trajectory and bull:cow ratios or take advantage of increased harvest opportunities; aerial wolf removal should be suspended until such time as the moose population is reduced below the midpoint of the objective.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-042)

PROPOSAL 220

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

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

Close moose and wolf hunting within Unit 13A as follows:

My solution would be too close Unit 13A to ALL moose hunting and wolf hunting for five years and let nature take its course allowing the whole moose population to rebound. Perhaps only allow caribou hunting with check stations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Aerial wolf and moose hunting in Unit 13A. Gentleman/Ladies, understanding that there is a low bull cow ratio in Unit 13A, I do not believe that wolf hunting is the answer. Overhunting is the major problem! I have seen undersize bulls come out of there many times. Unit 13A is overrun with hunters. What is going to happen when the moose population tips over from a bad winter and the wolves are too low to blame? Hunters know that if they make it to the highway in the dark, they are home free as there are no check stations north or south. Also, I have considered the requirement of 50-inch with four brow tines, but I believe this would result in many animals left dead in the field. I've considered cow hunts, but you cannot take your breeding stock out of the field at this time. Thank you for your time.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Lopetrone (HQ-F21-018)

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Align otter and beaver trapping seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

We would like the otter trapping season to directly align with the current beaver season. September 25th to May 31st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Otter trapping is tough to do when the waters are frozen in Unit 13. It is very difficult to catch them, except during beaver trapping season, which runs from September 25th to May 31st. We would like to see otter trapping season align with beaver trapping season. River otters are tough on the beaver population in this unit. Every year we have to turn in a few otters to the troopers that we accidentally trap during beaver season. We have never understood why these two water animals trapping season doesn't coincide with each other, as the pelts are excellent on both beaver and otter during the entire beaver season trapping period.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy

(EG-F21-004)

PROPOSAL 222

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

Align the ptarmigan hunting season for all of Unit 13 and reduce the bag limit to five per day as follows:

In order to provide a hunting opportunity for a period of time in Unit 13 where few exist, move all of Unit 13 to August 10 to March 31st, and have a bag limit of five per day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan hunting seasons, Unit 13: The changes in the ptarmigan seasons have led to decreased outdoor opportunities in the spring. It was reduced from March 31st to February 15th a couple of years ago. This change didn't make any sense, as ptarmigan numbers are good in Unit 13. As someone who spends over 300 days a year in the field across all parts of Unit 13, the reduction in hunting season doesn't make sense. The late February, all of March season was great opportunities for hunters of all ages to participate in the sport when almost all other hunting is shut down. If there is a proven and documented study that shows the numbers are down, then it would be better to address the issue with a reduction from ten per day to five per day.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy

(EG-F21-003)

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

PROPOSAL 223

5 AAC 92.122 Intensive Management Plan VI.

Reauthorize the Unit 16 Intensive Management Plan as follows:

5 AAC 92.122. Intensive Management Plan VI. (b) is amended as follows:

...

- (b) **Unit 16 Predation Control Area:** the Unit 16 Predation Control Area is established, which is focused primarily on mainland Unit 16(B), and consists of all lands within the [MAINLAND PORTION OF] Unit 16(B) and that portion of Unit 16(A) west of a line beginning at the confluence of the Yentna and Susitna rivers, then northerly along the western bank of the Susitna River to the confluence with the Deshka River, then northerly to 61° 48.80' n. Lat., 150° 21.77' w. Long., then west to 62° 01.47' n. Lat., 150° 24.06' w. Long., then north to the northern end of Trapper Lake at 62° 01.47' n. Lat., 150° 16.67' w. Long., then west to 62° 01.47' n. Lat., 150° 24.06' w. Long., then north to 62° 09.65' n. Lat., 150° 24.06' w. Long., then west to the southwestern end of Amber Lake at 62° 09.65' n. Lat., 150° 33.42' w. Long., then north to 62° 18.03' n. Lat., 150° 33.42' w. Long., then west to 62° 18.03' n. Lat., 150° 51.04' w. Long., then north to 62° 27.97' n. Lat., 150° 51.04' w. Long., then west to the Denali National Park boundary at 62° 27.97' n. Lat., 151° 09.22' w. Long., encompassing approximately 11,105 square miles; notwithstanding any other provision in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf and black bear and brown bear population reduction or wolf and black bear and brown bear population regulation program in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area.

(1) [THIS IS A CONTINUING CONTROL PROGRAM THAT WAS FIRST AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD IN 2004 FOR WOLF CONTROL AND WAS MODIFIED BY THE BOARD TO AUTHORIZE BLACK BEAR CONTROL IN 2007 AND BROWN BEAR CONTROL IN 2011;] **This program** [IT] is currently designed to increase moose numbers and harvest by reducing predation on moose and is expected to contribute [MAKE A CONTRIBUTION] to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 16.

(2) Moose, wolf, black bear, and brown bear objectives are as follows:

- (A) Moose IM objectives [AS] established [BY THE BOARD FOR] **in 5 AAC 92.108 for** Unit 16(B) are 6,500–7,500 moose with a sustainable annual harvest of 310–600 moose. This population is composed of subpopulations that reside within in the unit; however, a subpopulation from the flanks of Mount Yenlo and in the upper Lake Creek drainage mixes in winter with moose from Unit 16(a) in the Kahiltna River drainage, and a subpopulation from the flanks of Mount Susitna and the drainages of Alexander Creek and lower Yentna River winters with moose from Units 14(a), 14(b), and 16(a) in the lower Yentna and Susitna rivers.

- (B) the wolf control objective is to reduce the population to 35–55 wolves in [THE MAINLAND PORTION OF] Unit 16(B);

- (C) the black bear control objective is to reduce the population to 700 black bears in [THE MAINLAND PORTION OF] Unit 16(B);
- (D) the brown bear control objective is to reduce the population to a minimum of 375 brown bears in [THE MAINLAND PORTION OF] Unit 16(B);

(3) Board findings concerning populations and humans use are as follows:

- (A) **repealed:**[THE POPULATION OBJECTIVES FOR MOOSE IN MAINLAND UNIT 16(B) ARE NOT BEING MET, LARGELY DUE TO HIGH PREDATOR NUMBERS AND THE INABILITY OF THE MOOSE POPULATION TO RECOVER GIVEN THE HIGH PREDATION RATES;]
- (B) predation by wolves and bears is an important cause of the failure to achieve moose population and harvest objectives;
- (C) a reduction in wolf and bear predation in [THE MAINLAND PORTION OF] Unit 16(B) and portions of Unit 16(A) can reasonably be expected to make progress towards achieving the Unit 16(B) intensive management objectives for moose;
- (D) reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;
- (E) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns.

(4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:

- (A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles **as provided in 5 AAC 92.080.**
- (B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits or public land and shoot permits as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;
- (C) hunting of black and brown bears by the public in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting regulations set out elsewhere in this title;
- (D) the commissioner may issue public bear control permits to reduce the black bear and brown bear populations within the Unit 16 Predation Control Area by the following methods and means:
 - (i) legal animal is any black bear, including sows and cubs, and any brown bear, except sows with cubs of the year and cubs of the year;
 - (ii) no bag limit;
 - (iii) same-day-airborne taking of [BLACK] bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the airplane;
 - (iv) same-day-airborne taking of bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the use of any type of aircraft, such as fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter, to access bear baiting stations from April 15 through October 15, except that helicopters may not be used from August 5 through September 25;

(v) April 15 through October 15 baiting season for bears; up to four bear bait stations per permittee;

[(VI) SAME-DAY-AIRBORNE TAKING OF BEARS IF THE PERMITTEE IS AT LEAST 300 FEET FROM THE AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING THE USE OF ANY TYPE OF AIRCRAFT, SUCH AS FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTER, FROM APRIL 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15, EXCEPT THAT A HELICOPTER MAY NOT BE USED FROM AUGUST 5 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25; A HELICOPTER MAY BE USED ONLY TO TRANSPORT RESIDENT PERMITTEES, GEAR, AND HARVESTED BEARS AND PARTS OF BEARS DIRECTLY TO AND FROM A FOOT-SNARING CAMP; UP TO 10 HELICOPTER PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED TO HELICOPTER PILOTS; HELICOPTER PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND A PERMITTEE MUST ATTEND A DEPARTMENT-APPROVED ORIENTATION COURSE;

(VII) TAKING OF BEARS BY FOOT-SNARING BY PERMIT ONLY FROM APRIL 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15; PERMITTEES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER PERSON, AGE 18 OR OLDER, WHEN CONDUCTING FOOT-SNARING ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD; FOOT-SNARING PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT BASED ON PREVIOUS TRAPPING EXPERIENCE, ABILITY TO HELP TRAIN OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND LENGTH OF TIME AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN A SNARING PROGRAM; A SELECTED FOOT-SNARING PERMITTEE MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A DEPARTMENT-APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAM, MUST BE A RESIDENT 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, AND REPORT ALL ANIMALS TAKEN BY THE PERMITTEE TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS OF TAKING;

(VIII) FOOT SNARES MAY ONLY BE PLACED ON THE GROUND DIRECTLY UNDER THE BUCKET SNARE, OR IN BUCKETS, AND MUST BE CHECKED BY THE PERMITTEE AT LEAST ONCE EACH DAY;

(IX) ALL BROWN BEARS THAT ARE CUBS OF THE YEAR OR A SOW ACCOMPANIED BY CUBS OF THE YEAR INCIDENTALLY SNARED MUST BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT; IF PRACTICABLE, AN INCIDENTALLY SNARED BROWN BEAR WILL BE RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT STAFF; HIDES AND SKULLS OF INCIDENTALLY SNARED BROWN BEARS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE AND MUST BE SALVAGED AND DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT;]

(5) Time frame is as follows:

(A) through July 1, 2031, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves, black bears, and brown bears in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area.

(B) annually, the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board an annual report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including

implementation activities, the status of moose, wolf, and bear 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 mid-point of intensive management objectives for the moose population are achieved;
- (B) when wolf population surveys or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers below the midpoint of the intensive management objective of 35–55 wolves specified in this subsection;
- (C) when black bear population inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing black bear numbers below the management objective of 700 black bears specified in this subsection;
- (D) when brown bear population inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing brown bear numbers below the management objective of 375 brown bears specified in this subsection;
- (E) if after 3 years if the harvest of predators is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves, black bears or brown bears; the program may be temporarily suspended for one or more of the predator species;
- (F) Predator control activities may be terminated:
 - (i) if the moose population can be maintained at the midpoint of the IM population objectives, and moose harvest objectives have been met;
 - (ii) if after 3 years, there is no detectable increase in the total number of moose in the assessment area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game has designated Unit 16 as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use and established objectives for population size and annual sustained harvest of moose consistent with multiple-use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area.

The Intensive Management Plan for Moose in Unit 16 was suspended during RY17 and expired on July 1, 2021. The moose population was within the population objectives as of RY11 and was over 7,400 as of RY17. As of 2021, the population is estimated to be 8,485. The moose harvest objective of 310 – 600 was first achieved in RY15 and has remained within objectives. Management of the herd may require adjusting bull-to-cow ratios during or after periods of recovery as well as to correct the trajectory of the population. The wolf population was reduced from a pre-control estimate of 175–180 wolves to 28–39 wolves in Unit 16B in RY15. As of spring 2021, the wolf estimate for all of Unit 16 is 106–111 with a minimum count of 67–68 wolves in Unit 16B. Despite increased harvests of brown and black bears initially in the control program, harvest returned to pre-control levels after several years and it is believed that the control program did not affect the bear population estimate of 3,200–3,800 black bear and 625–1,250 brown bears.

To comply with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) protocol for intensive management plans, ADF&G is introducing new regulatory language for the intensive management plan for the Unit 16 predation control area. This proposal incorporates guidance the Board of Game (board) gave to ADF&G after the board reviewed the intensive management plan for the Unit 16 predation control area during the February 2015 Central/Southwest Region meeting. ADF&G recommends that foot snaring be removed from this plan. Foot snaring is labor intensive for both the public and staff, and did not prove to be an effective method of removing bears in Unit 16.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-043)

PROPOSAL 224

5 AAC 84.045(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. 25 (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 (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 (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 November 2020 yielded an estimate of 7,112 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and less than the 2019 survey estimate of 7,900 moose indicating that the increased antlerless harvests are having the desired effect of reducing the population. A sex and age composition of the 2020 survey demonstrated a bull ratio of 30 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 36 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. Continued increased harvest based on the increased permit levels is expected to bring the population back to within the objective for the unit of 6,000–6,500.

The current increases in the harvest have seemingly slowed the population growth; however, it has not reduced the moose population to within objectives. An increase the number of moose-human conflicts is anticipated as the moose density increases, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population's growth and recommended to provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

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 338 moose per year were killed in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area during the last five years of average snowfall and substantially more are killed during higher snowfall years. ADF&G 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-F21-027)

PROPOSAL 225

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

Eliminate antlerless moose hunts in Units 14 A and B and allow harvest by nuisance hunt program as follows:

If there are moose causing problems, then they should be hunted via the nuisance moose hunt program and not the antlerless moose permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The antlerless permit hunts in Units 14A and B should be no longer allowed. Population studies have been done in February when other moose, not resident, winter at Point McKenzie and bulls are losing their antlers, causing inflated population results. During May thru November, the resident population must bear all the

antlerless permits. This is decimating the local Big Lake/Point McKenzie population and should therefore be stopped.

PROPOSED BY: Somerset Jones

(HQ-F21-019)

PROPOSAL 226

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

Open resident bull permit hunts in Unit 14A as follows:

One antlered bull by permit with season dates of August 25 - September 25 - with up to 10 permits issued for each of the following antlerless moose permit hunt areas /options: DM 400, DM401, DM402, DM403, DM406, DM407, DM408, DM410, YM412.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the Game Management Unit 14A moose hunt to provide an option for resident hunters to harvest one antlered bull by permit with areas and season matching current antlerless moose hunts DM400, DM401, DM402, DM403, DM406, DM407, DM408, DM410, YM412. Up to ten antler bull moose permits may be issued per drawing hunt area for a total of up to 90 bull moose permits to be issued per year in Unit 14A.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data available when this proposal was written showed the Unit 14A moose population above both the populations objective and the bull to cow ratio objective. According to the area game management biologist, the trends with harvestable surplus moose and harvestable surplus bull moose have occurred during each of the last three moose census/surveys for Unit 14A. In consultation with the ADF&G area management biologist, issuing up to ten permits for any antlered bull moose for the nine areas/hunts identified above would spread any additional hunting effort and harvest throughout Unit 14A. Issuing a total of up to 90 antlered bull moose permits should maintain the Unit 14A bull to cow moose ratio at or above objective level, while providing additional Unit 14A moose harvest opportunity. If population trends change, the ADF&G would have the ability to adjust permit levels on an annual basis, and the Board of Game could also adopt additional changes at future Board of Game meetings.

Unit 14A is a popular moose hunting area with high hunter interest for hunts that increase the chance of harvesting a moose and make it easier to clearly identify a legal moose. Additional ADF&G revenue for management could likely be generated through permit fees. There are currently enough harvestable surplus bull moose to provide this hunt option.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Couch

(EG-F21-017)

PROPOSAL 227

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

Reduce the bag limit for grouse in Unit 14A and eliminate the ruffed grouse differentiation as follows:

Bag Limits - Unit 14A

- Ptarmigan: 10 per day, 20 in possession
- Grouse: **5 per day and 10 in possession** [15 PER DAY AND 30 IN POSSESSION OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN 2 PER DAY AND 4 IN POSSESSION MAY BE RUFFED GROUSE.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the Unit 14A daily grouse limit to five per day with no differentiation for species. Ruffed Grouse were introduced to this unit during the 1980s and are now well established and widely distributed. The current different limit for different grouse species is now unnecessary on a biological basis and increases the chance of hunters making an honest mistake. Please simplify this regulation.

A large portion of Unit 14A is bisected by roads and trails with easy access, and high amounts of human use. Reducing the daily bag limit from 15 to five grouse may better maintain harvestable grouse numbers throughout the season, and may also spread the harvest out amongst the large number of hunters who use this popular hunting area. A limit of five grouse per day in this heavily hunted Unit 14A would follow the same logic as the hare limit in this area, and be set at the same five per day. Unit 14C has a similar five per day ten in possession grouse limit -- but differentiates between species.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Couch

(EG-F21-018)

PROPOSAL 228

92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require trap identification tags in Units 14A, 14B, and 16 as follows:

Traps set for furbearers in Units 14A, 14B, and 16 should be marked with permanently affixed tags identifying the individual by reference to the individual's trapping license number, or other information sufficient to provide law enforcement with the individual's name and address.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Portions of Units 14A, 14B and 16 are heavily populated while trapping of furbearers is authorized in these parts of the State of Alaska. There have been numerous incidents of dogs being caught in traps near trails, trailheads, campgrounds, and permanent dwellings. The identification of individuals setting illegal traps will aid law enforcement, and more importantly, provide a disincentive to individuals who might be tempted to place a trap where it is illegal to do so. This has been done for traps set in Chugach State Park by the Board of Game, and has been helpful in reducing incidents of illegally placed traps.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor

(HQ-F21-010)

PROPOSAL 229

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Lengthen the marten trapping season in Unit 14A as follows:

Adjust the Unit 14A marten trapping season to November 10th through January 31st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The marten season in Unit 14A is shorter than that for weasels and mink, and also shorter than the marten season in the bordering Units of 14B, 16, and 13. The difference in season for weasels, mink, and marten put an unnecessary burden on the trapper, as the same trapping techniques are effective for weasels and marten, and to a lesser extent, mink. Along with this, the longer season in the surrounding units makes the Unit 14A season confusing and limiting. Overall, lengthening the Unit 14A marten trapping season to November 10 - January 31st to match that of mink and weasel will decrease bycatch, and make the regulations easier to follow.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Warta

(EG-F21-023)

Statewide Regulations

Supplemental Proposal Index

The following proposals will be considered at the Statewide Regulations meeting in addition to the proposals submitted for the 2020/2021 cycle, excluding proposals 174 - 190 concerning reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions which were acted on by the board at the March 2021 meeting.

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Statewide Regulations Meeting
Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska
March 4-11, 2022**

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, March 4, 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, March 5, 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued

Sunday, March 6, 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued/concluded BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, March 7 thru Thursday, March 10, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Friday, March 11, 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 465-6098 no later than two weeks prior to start of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Definitions

PROPOSAL 230

5 AAC 92.990(a)(30). Definitions.

Change the definition for "full-curl horn" as follows:

Change 5 AAC 92.990 "full-curl horn" of a male (ram) Dall sheep from "at least eight years of age" to "at least **seven** years of age" as determined by horn growth annuli.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The evaluation of a legal Dall sheep ram in the field under the current full-curl rule can be a complicated and risky endeavor for many hunters. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) *Division of Wildlife Conservation Dall's Sheep News – Research and Management Update, Winter 2017 – Why Full-Curl Management* (at the bottom of page 6), "The primary reason that the regulation eventually ended up at full curl, however, is that some influential hunters and guides wanted bigger sheep on the mountain. There has also been an ongoing, inaccurate perception that too many rams are being harvested." According to the above statement from ADF&G, this proposed change to 5 AAC 92.990 would allow hunters a little more margin of error when judging a legal ram in the field without harming Alaska's wild sheep resource.

PROPOSED BY: Philip Nuechterlein

(EG-F21-030)

PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). Definitions.

Change the definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swans as follows:

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

(a) In addition to the definitions in AS 16.05.940, in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 92, unless the context requires otherwise,

(26) "edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swans, the meat of the breast, [BACK,] the meat of the **legs** (femur and tibia-fibula) [(LEGS AND THIGHS)], and the meat of the **upper wing (humerus)** [WINGS, EXCLUDING THE METACARPALS]; however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably lost as a result of boning or a close trimming of the bones, or viscera;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For harvested swans, geese and sandhill cranes, the requirement to salvage meat of the back is not an important conservation

measure. Meat on the back consists of two small strips of meat along furcula and coracoid bones, and small nuggets of meat atop the ischium behind the hip. The remaining meat clinging to the spine, shoulder girdle and hip region are not practical to remove and are useful only for soup meat. Similarly, small amounts of meat on the ulna and radius of the wings do not constitute substantial portions of edible meat warranting salvage. The requirement to salvage small bits of back and outer wing meat is not worth the effort for most hunters, it makes butchering inconvenient and complicates some methods of cooking.

Though thorough salvage of meat is desirable, many hunters traditionally discard the insignificant bits of meat on the back and outer wings. This regulation seems oriented to certain cultural practices, and it should allow flexibility for other non-wasteful traditions.

The most important outcome of this proposal is to preclude elevating salvage of small portions of meat to a violation of regulations. There is also no requirement in any other state that requires this meat to be salvaged on waterfowl.

There is no federal requirement for salvage of specific types of meat, or use for human consumption--only that migratory birds are retrieved and not subjected to "wanton waste" 50 CFR Part 20.25

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Waterfowl Association, Hugh Clark, President (EG-F21-037)

Unlawful Methods

PROPOSAL 232

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

Allow the use of dogs to recover wounded furbearers as follows:

Add regulatory language that would better facilitate recovery of furbearing animals as follows:

Methods for Trapping

You may use any method to take furbearers with a trapping license unless it is prohibited below. The following methods and means are illegal for taking furbearers;

YOU MAY NOT:

- use a dog (except to retrieve dead **and wounded** furbearers);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recovery rates for wounded and crippled small game and waterfowl go up substantially when utilizing a well trained hunting dog to track, locate and retrieve them. The same could be said of wounded furbearers such as fox, lynx, coyote, etc. if a dog is allowed to be used for recovery. This change would not change any restrictions already established on the use of dogs while hunting furbearers but would only allow for the recovery of furbearers already wounded by the hunter/trapper. This small regulation change would only be a benefit to recovery of game.

PROPOSED BY: Elijah Barbour

(EG-F21-041)

PROPOSAL 233

5 AAC 92.085 (3)(a). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Eliminate the requirement for peak draw weight of bows or establish peak draw weight for taking species as follows:

The most preferable solution would be to eliminate the regulatory requirements for peak draw weight of bows. The current goal of educating hunters in the appropriate tackle used for taking game can be accomplished through the required bowhunter's education certification.

A secondary solution could be to restructure the regulations to coordinate with the anatomical resilience of game. 5 AAC 92.085(3)(a) would read:

(3) with a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow, unless the

(a) bow is not less than

(i) **35** [40] pounds peak draw weight when hunting black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine;[BLACK BEAR, DALL SHEEP, AND CARIBOU]

(ii) **45** [50] pounds peak draw weight when hunting **black bear, Dall sheep,** mountain goat, and caribou; [MOOSE, ELK, BROWN/GRIZZLY BEAR, MUSKOX, AND BISON,]

(iii) 55 pounds peak draw weight when hunting moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, musk ox, and bison.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations do not accomplish the goal of their intent. The goal is to reduce unrecovered game through the use of tackle appropriate for the species. However, the regulations allow great latitude in the tackle available to hunters. For example, a 50 pound homemade longbow can be crafted which casts an arrow inefficiently, but is legal for the taking of moose. Conversely, a 40 pound modern compound bow would deliver much more kinetic energy, but is illegal for the taking of moose.

Additionally, black bear are grouped with black-tailed deer under this regulation. I don't think that anyone would argue that black bear are far more resilient anatomically than black-tailed deer. Mountain goat are likewise grouped with moose, muskox, and brown bear.

To reiterate, the current set of regulations restricting archery tackle does not accomplish the goal of reducing unrecovered game.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Riberio

(EG-F21-002)

PROPOSAL 234

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow use of stationary game cameras that transmit photos wirelessly as follows.

There are two possible solutions I would suggest to provide for a legal and responsible means to utilize stationary game cameras that can transmit photos wirelessly. #1: Specifically pertaining to bear bait stations under the 3:00 a.m. requirements listed in 5 AAC 92.080 (7) (I), OR #2 Pertaining to a more broad change that would bring all wireless communication into uniformity with the “3:00 a.m. on the following day standard” listed in 5 AAC 92.080 (7)(I)

Solution #1:

5 AAC 92.080

(7)

(H) any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication; **except stationary sensory cameras capable of sending messages, photos, or videos through wireless communication may be used if placed within 100 feet of a bear bait station.**

OR

Solution #2: (remove (H))

5 AAC 92.080

(7)

[(H) ANY CAMERA OR SENSORY DEVICE THAT CAN SEND MESSAGES THROUGH WIRELESS COMMUNICATION;]

(I) wireless communication, including audible, text, photo, or video, sent to or from a wireless transmitting device, to take a specific animal by a person until 3:00 a.m. following the day after the use of the device, except that.....(I) continues as currently written.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to address the inconsistency of the language regarding unlawful methods of take in 5 AAC 92.080 (7) (H) “any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication”, as compared to allowances for other forms of wireless communication (I) “wireless communication to take a specific animal by a person until 3:00 a.m. following the day after the use of the device,” specifically as it pertains to bear bait stations. Since adoption several years ago, many of these newer items dealing with wireless communication have been confusing to hunters, and some hunters have been given conflicting information from ADF&G and even state troopers on the subject. The language in (H) completely prohibits the possibility of legal use of stationary game cameras that are able to send photos through wireless signals and it could also be interpreted to include any use of cell phones (regardless of time and location), being that most contemporary cell phones are cameras capable of sending messages through wireless communication as well.

Stationary game cameras that can wirelessly transmit photos can be a valuable tool at a bear bait station if they happen to be in areas that have cellular reception. They can provide a benefit to the hunter primarily by saving them time and fuel, but can also be useful for monitoring bait levels, and for safety purposes, to know if there have been grizzly or brown bears, or sows with cubs in the area before going into a bait site. I do not believe them to provide an unfair advantage beyond what a non-transmitting camera provides to the hunter. Even if it was legal, the idea that a hunter can sit at home, get a picture, then immediately go kill that bear simply isn't realistic. Further, the scarcity of cellular reception in many (or most) areas is a limiting factor in itself. I don't think that a person should be able to sit at home or a few hundred yards away, waiting for a picture, to sneak in and immediately shoot the animal (even if possible in some circumstances), but bringing these types of devices in line with the 3:00 a.m. allowance listed in (I) would both allow hunters to use these cameras in a responsible manner without detriment to the resource, and would clear up interpretation issues such as whether a text message about a recent bait site check would be in violation of the statute. Most of these cameras can be programmed to send all images from a 24-hour period at once, so it would be very easy to stay in compliance with a 3:00 a.m. allowance.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Freel

(EG-F21-010)

PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game.

Allow the use of artificial light while hunting small game animals that have no closed seasons and no bag limit as follows:

Page 18 of the Hunting Regulations Handbook:

- Using artificial light, EXCEPT:

--While hunting small game animals that have no closed season *and* no bag limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Snowshoe hares are extremely abundant in certain areas of the state, which is reflected in many places having no closed season and no bag limit for snowshoe hares. Because of the high reproductive rate of snowshoe hares, as well as the difficulty in effectively hunting them, allowing the use of artificial light while hunting would provide a new, unique opportunity without damaging the population. Using artificial lights would increase the time when hunters could effectively take hares, and also provide an advantage. Because of this, the regulation would only take effect in game management units where there is no closed season *and* no bag limit. Since similar logic would apply to other small game animals with no closed season and no bag limit, the proposed legislation allows for artificial light while hunting any small game animal that meets the requirements of no closed season and no bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Warta

(EG-F21-024)

Permits for Bear Baiting

PROPOSAL 236

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

Require ADF&G to notify bear bait station registrants of other bait stations within a one-mile radius of desired bait station location as follows:

I recommend creating a system to allow hunters registering a bait station to be notified of how many bait stations are currently and previously (year prior) registered, within ¼ mile, ½ mile and one mile radius (proposed distances flexible) of the desired bait station location. The exact locations are not needed, nor is it legal to give those, however, similar to the statistics produced by ADF&G for advanced harvest data, the information would serve a summary purpose to inform hunters. This does not prevent a hunter from setting up a bait station knowing one or more already exist within 200 yards, it simply provides them with awareness and information for avoiding conflict and increasing safety. Similarly, if a hunter with a bait station has an encounter with someone that setup a bait station a few yards away, it is known that they were well aware of the proximity prior to setting it up.

This would require a database capable of producing these numbers instantly. The data exists in backend, server tables for prior and current year registered stands. When a GPS coordinate is given, it would simply be put in the system by ADF&G, and those coordinates would automatically calculate distances compared to other GPS coordinates in the system, and return the bait station numbers for the specified distances. Although it would require basic programming to produce the numbers, the data and capability exists to make bear baiting safer and with less conflict.

This could be taken a step further and also result in the requirement to provide GPS coordinates for all bait station sites, or simply omit those from the numbers due to the inability to pinpoint those locations.

** Alternate solutions include creating minimum distances between stands, but that would create others issues as well (establishing priority, fake stands, inability to have a friend or second station close, etc.).

DRAFT REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

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

(b) (14) before a person establishes a bear baiting station and places bait at the baiting station that person shall, at the time of registration, provide to the department the specific location of the baiting station on a form provided by the department[.] **and will be provided with the number of registered bait stations within ¼, ½, and 1 mile radius from the current and prior year.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A system needs developed to assist with spreading out bear bait stations. Currently, it is legal for two different individuals to register and setup a bait station within feet of each other. It is illegal to harvest a bear that is influenced by a bait station when they don't have permission to hunt that bait station, however, there is irony in the ability for someone to register a bait station close to the established bait station, then harvesting a bear that is influenced by the established bait station becoming legal due to the new station's proximity.

Allowing close proximity of bait stations results in a safety risk and hunter conflict. No system or effort has been attempted to try and prevent this safety risk or conflict. Most hunters are ethical and would not purposely setup a station on top of someone else, but that is why a system is needed, to help hunters that want to avoid conflict and safety issues, establish a bear bait site.

The unique problem here is bait stands take a lot of time and effort to setup, they are setup early in the spring before hunting actually takes place, and they are preferably setup in a place that isn't obvious or can easily be identified as a bear bait station. It is very easy for two different hunters to setup a bait stand within a hundred yards of each other, without ever knowing the other is there. Once the season starts, bears are moving, and both hunters are likely to visit their stands at the same time... this is when it's discovered they are hunting on top of each other. At this point in time, it's too late to move a stand since the season already started. Each hunter already spent a considerable amount of time and effort setting their stand up, bears are already active, and moving the stand might result in setting up on someone else. Hopefully both hunters are understandable and can work out a mutual understanding to ensure safety and the least amount of conflict, but that's a difficult situation when each may feel like the area and bears should be theirs to hunt without someone else on top of them and no way to separate.

PROPOSED BY: Adam Harris

(EG-F21-015)

PROPOSAL 237

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

Clarify that ADF&G will not issue permits to use bait or scent lures near prohibited areas already defined in regulation as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.044(b)(5) to read:

[A PERSON] **the department** may not **issue a permit to** use bait or scent lures within

(A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;

(B) one mile of a

(i) house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station;

(ii) business; or

(iii) school; or

(C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

This amendment would ensure that any questions regarding the placement of a bait station are resolved prior to permit issuance rather than being sorted out through the court system in a criminal case. Although it would place additional burden on ADF&G, the location of the bait station is already a required under existing regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the current version of 5 AAC 92.044(b)(14) a person "shall, at the time of registration, provide to the department the specific location of the baiting station on a form provided by the department." Additionally, under 5 AAC 92.044(b)(5) a person may not use bait or scent lures within

(A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;

(B) one mile of a

(i) house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station;

(ii) business; or

(iii) school; or

(C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

Oftentimes hunters will select a location for a bait station that is inadvertently too close to one of these locations. Sometimes this is due to an incorrect measurement, usually by GPS. Sometimes it is because of an unknown cabin that is not on any map. Sometimes it is because a road is further than ¼ mile by the access trail, but closer in a straight line. Sometimes it is because “developed recreational facility” is an undefined term, subject to interpretation. Whatever the reason, this requirement can turn an inadvertent mistake into a misdemeanor charge.

PROPOSED BY: Kirk Schwalm

(EG-F21-027)

Permits for Possessing Live Game

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

5 AAC 92.030. Possession of wolf and wild cat hybrids prohibited.

Modify the regulations to allow the possession of Czechoslovakian Vlcak in Alaska without a permit as follows:

5 AAC 92.030. Possession of wolf and wild cat hybrids prohibited

Allow the Czechoslovakian Vlcak officially recognized by State of Alaska as a breed of dog, and not a wolf hybrid.

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

Allow the Czechoslovakian Vlcak dog breed to be owned and possessed in the State of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As everyone knows, adopting a puppy is a major decision that requires a great deal of long-term commitment and responsibility, as well as research to understand the needs, temperaments, and compatibility of a given breed for your household. After having been involved in this process for some time, I discovered and fell in love with a breed known as the Czechoslovakian Vlcak (pronounced vul-chyk) as it embodies a great deal of who I am as an individual and Alaskan.

These dogs were initially bred for working patrol dogs by the Czechoslovakian military in the 1950s from roughly 40 German Shepherds and four Carpathian wolves, and today are used in both Europe and North America for search and rescue, tracking, agility, drafting, and working dog sports. The breed is characterized by their hardiness and independence, a couple of hallmarks for those of us who live in this great state, and make for an amazing companion for an active lifestyle full of hiking, camping, and time in the outdoors.

While there may have initially been wolves bred into the breed, they currently make up an approximate 25-30% of their genetic makeup, there has not been a wolf bred into the line in more than ten generations which far exceeds the guidance in 5 AAC 92.030 that requires wild cat breeds to be “at least four generations removed from a wild ancestor.” This is also the standard to which I believe species of dog should be held and is a sentiment that was shared with the state permitting biologist, when I spoke with her both via the phone and email about the subject.

In addition to the above standard, the Czechoslovakian Vlcak is recognized by the United Kennel Club as of 1 July, 2006, and as an official breed and has been recognized by breeder’s associations in Europe as a breed since as early as 1982. There are currently approximately 200 pedigreed Czechoslovakian Vlcaks in the United States (as of 2018). As of 2001, the breed is recorded by the American Kennel Club (AKC) Foundation Stock Service (FSS) and has been able to compete in AKC Companion Events since 1 January, 2010.

It is with these things in mind that I would request that an amendment be made to 5 AAC 92.030 and/or 5 AAC 92.029 so that the State of Alaska recognizes the Czechoslovakian Vlcak as a standard dog breed so that they will be allowed to be registered with an accredited kennel club

(AKC, UKC, FCI), imported, and possessed in the state without the fear of being mistaken for a wolf or wolf hybrid.

Below are references and a statement from Terri Wemigwans, a Vlcak breeder and a board member of the Czechoslovakian Vlcak Club of America:

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/czechoslovakian-vlcak/>

<http://www.czechoslovakianvlcak.org/>

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/czechoslovakian-vlcak>

My name is Terri Wemigwans I am a Board member of the Czechoslovakian Club of America and also a Czechoslovakian breeder located in Michigan. The Czechoslovakian Vlcak club of America and I are working towards a goal of having the Czechoslovakian Vlcak, also known as the Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, legal in all 50 states.

The Czechoslovakian Vlcak "CSV" has been bred with a military-like precision since the inception of the breed. Each dog, from the first cross with 40 German shepherds and three Carpathian wolves with a fourth added in 1985, has been carefully selected and put through a rigorous series of health and temperament tests. Only those dogs that meet or exceed the standards have been allowed to contribute to the breed.

This stringent set of testing continues to this day in the breed's patron countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where most of the US breeding dogs originate. The Czechoslovakian Clubs breeding committees research each and every litter to ensure that the breed maintains a healthy, temperamentally sound dog. In these European countries, a breeding license must be obtained to whelp a litter and the US CSV club's CSVCA continues to maintain this same type of breeding structure.

We would like the CSV to be added to the Clean list to ensure that this unique breed of dog is differentiated from the more common wolf hybrid and can legally dwell in the great state of Alaska without fear of being reclassified as a wolf hybrid.

In the past when we have placed a CSV in a wolf hybrid illegal state after communicating with the state who then decided that the CSV is a dog, and therefore legal. The cute puppy then grows into a wolfy-looking animal, and a Good Samaritan neighbor calls the local authorities to report an illegal wolf-hybrid living nearby. Authorities show up and see what to them looks like a wolf-hybrid. They decide to solve the issue by having the 'dog' submit to a DNA test. The DNA test comes back as "wolf hybrid" causing the dog to be classified as a wolf-hybrid, and thus not legal. The animal was then required to leave the state. This type of scenario has happened several times in "wolfdog illegal" states.

DNA tests submitted by CSVs often come back a wolf hybrid because of the genetics of this rare and unique breed. Since the breed's inception, no dogs have been bred into the line. Therefore, the original wolf percentage of 25 to 30% stays intact and does not dilute and the breed's wolf percentage stays stable. All CSV alive today are at least nine or more generations away from the wolf ancestor, with most of the dogs alive being 15+ generations away from the wolves. CSV are a primitive breed of dog, but they are in no way a wolf hybrid nor should they be treated as such.

We have worked with several wolf hybrid illegal states, Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, and are now in the process with Pennsylvania. So far, each state changed or added an addendum to the

wolfdog or wolf hybrid illegal law. In each of these states, the CSV is legal if the CSV is registered AKC, UKC or FCI and has papers proving that the dog is registered. The same CSV with no registration papers could be considered a wolf hybrid, and thus subject to legal action.

We understand that Alaska's 'Clean list' list will accomplish the same goal. Therefore we ask that you add the Czechoslovakian Vlcak, AKA Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, to the Clean List.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

(Note: Contact information for Teri Wemigwans is available from ADF&G Boards Support upon request.)

PROPOSED BY: James Majetich

(HQ-F21-009)

Hunting and Other Permits

Note: The following proposal is an updated submission for Proposal #152.

PROPOSAL 239

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Require all resident registration permit hunts be available for application online as follows:

Possible Solution: Amend 5 AAC 92.050 Required permit hunt conditions and procedures to add:

(a) The following conditions and procedures for permit issuance apply to each permit hunt:

(1) the applicant or the or the applicant's agent shall complete the application form; two hunters may apply as a party in a drawing permit hunt, and if drawn, both applicants will receive a permit; a permit application that is incomplete, or that does not include, if required, an Alaska big game hunting license number, or that contains false statement, is void; the applicant must obtain or apply for an Alaska big game hunting license before submitting a drawing permit application; **All registration permit hunts available to residents shall be made available for application online;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Resident registration permits not available online everywhere in the state.

There are several resident registration permit hunts in various parts of the state that require travel to the region to pick up a permit, typically within a limited timeframe well ahead of when the hunt occurs. Other registration permit hunts with a limited number of permits require a trip to a local ADF&G office, where hunters often show up the night prior and camp out or stand in line awaiting a chance to pick up a permit.

The rationale behind the provision to not allow all Alaskans to apply online for a registration permit equally available to all, and to have to travel to a more remote area to pick up a permit, is to curtail opportunity for non-local residents who may not live within that area or region by making it so expensive to fly out (and back) to another part of the state ahead of time just to pick up a permit. The rationale to require hunters to pick up a limited number of registration permits at a local ADF&G office, rather than allow online applications, appears to center on an in-person first-come first-serve basis that gives priority to those willing to show up early and stand in line, or to locals who live in the area, over those who sit ready at the computer keyboard awaiting the permit application start.

If a hunt is a registration permit hunt, and any Alaskan is eligible to participate, whether permits are limited or not, then all Alaskans should be able to apply online for that hunt, just like they can for other registration permits. If the ADF&G or the Board of Game wants to give a defacto priority to local Alaskans over non-local Alaskans regarding the ability to receive a registration permit, that is no different really than the federal system that gives a priority to local federally qualified subsistence users.

The intent of this submission is to withdraw proposal #152 and replace it with this proposal which addresses registration permits, NOT draw permits.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F21-011)

PROPOSAL 240

5 AAC 92.031(b). Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies.

Allow the sale of a game skin or trophy from a revokable trust as follows:

5 AAC 92.031(b). Permit for selling skins, skulls and trophies.

(b) A court appointed or duly authorized estate executor, or a referee in a bankruptcy, may sell a game skin or trophy in a bankruptcy or probate action, **or from a revokable trust,** if that person first obtains a permit from the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I went down to get a permit to sell my husband's sheep mount a few years after he passed away, but since our estate is in a revokable trust, thereby avoiding probate entirely, the wording of this regulation wouldn't allow them to give me the permit, even though I am the executor and trustee of his estate.

(From NOLO.com legal encyclopedia, "the main feature of a living trust is that it appoints a trustee to manage and distribute trust property after your death and this takes the place of the executor working with the probate court").

PROPOSED BY: Cheryl Beckley

(EG-F21-012)

PROPOSAL 241

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.

Remove allocations between guided and nonguided nonresident hunters as follows:

Amend the various draw permit regulations under 5 AAC 92.057, 92.061, and 92.069 for all current must-be-guided species and must-be-guided species hunts so that there is no distinction or differing allocations among nonresident hunters. Draw permit allocations among all nonresident hunters are equal and all nonresident hunters, whether required to hire a guide or hunting with the second degree of kindred relative have an equal chance to draw a permit by lottery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? All nonresident draw permits should be equally available to all nonresidents, whether hunting with a guide or a resident relative within second degree of kindred.

There are several nonresident draw permit hunts in the state where currently the Board of Game has instituted differing allocations to nonresidents hunting with a registered guide and those hunting with a resident relative within second degree of kindred.

When the 5th Alaska legislative session in 1967 considered a new law requiring all nonresident U.S. citizens and nonresident aliens to hire a guide when hunting certain species, there was a lot of contention over the initial draft of the bill (SB 51) to require nonresident U.S. citizens with family living in Alaska to hire a guide. Many legislators at the time felt that nonresidents with family members living in the state should be able to hunt those species with their resident relative(s). And so the first draft of the bill was amended as it went through committee hearings, and the law as it stands today states:

AS 16.05.407. Nonresident Hunting Big Game Animals Must Be Accompanied.

(a) It is unlawful for a nonresident to hunt, pursue, or take brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep in this state, unless personally accompanied by

(1) a person who is licensed as

(A) a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter under AS 08.54 and who is providing big game hunting services to the nonresident under a contract with the nonresident; or

(B) a class-A assistant guide or an assistant guide under AS 08.54 and who is employed by a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter who has a contract to provide big game hunting services to the nonresident; or

(2) a resident over 19 years of age who is

(A) the spouse of the nonresident; or

(B) related to the nonresident, within and including the second degree of kindred, by marriage or blood.

This law as passed was clear that all nonresident U.S. citizens were equal in terms of whether they had to hire a guide or not for certain species. But over time as more draw-only hunts were created for nonresident hunters, the guide industry complained to the Board of Game that too many nonresidents with family members living in the state were receiving permits over those who were required to hire a guide, and successfully advocated for the board to make distinctions among nonresident hunters from other states in order to secure more permits for those required to hire a guide.

So in many cases we now have several draw permit hunts across the state that differentiate between nonresident hunters and allocate a specific percentage of permits to nonresidents who are required to hire a guide, and those who hunt with a relative within second degree of kindred. In Unit 8, not only are the nonresident second degree of kindred brown bear draw permits but a fraction of those allocated to nonresident must-be-guided hunters, but those nonresident second degree of kindred permits are in the resident pool of tags. In Units 12, 13C, and 20D in the Tok Management area, the Dall sheep draw permits are split equally among the must-be-guided and second degree of kindred nonresident hunters. The board even went beyond the intent of the legislature by instituting their own must-be-guided species hunts for moose and in one such case (DM 809/810/811) separated out the draw permits by allocating 50% of the available permits to nonresidents, and out of those allocated 70% to the nonresident hunter who is now required to hire a guide.

Yet for other hunts, like the Delta Controlled Use Area sheep hunts, there are no distinctions between the nonresident hunter allocation. All nonresidents are equal and have equal chance to draw a permit, as the law intended.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F21-013)

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 92.050(a)(6)(B). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Allow hunting permits to be reissued for military personnel under "any official military deployment" as follows:

Change verbiage from "Combat Zone" for transfer and reissues to " any official military deployment which covers the entirety of the prescribed season". As military we are often ordered to conduct missions that are not in a combat zone such as NATO support, humanitarian/ disaster relief, or on-going presence missions in certain countries. Many military are not qualified for certain hunts until one-year residency is established if they draw a tag their second year in Alaska and have to deploy in support of another non-combat requirement they are ineligible to draw the third year and may never experience that hunt. If a service member is not on orders for the entirety of the season they have an opportunity. (Page 11 of the 2020-2021 regulation book.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Term "Combat Zone" in permit transfers and reissues for Department of Defense military personnel.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Rethage

(EG-F21-019)

PROPOSAL 243

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Update 5 AAC 92.050 to recognize changes made by the Alaska Legislature regarding the transfer of drawing permit hunts as follows:

5 AAC 92.050(a) The following conditions and procedures for permit issuance apply to each permit hunt:

(5) except as provided in (6) of this subsection, a permit is nontransferable; however, the department may reissue an invalidated Tier II subsistence hunting permit to the highest-ranked applicant remaining in the original pool of eligible applicants;

(6) the commissioner may reissue or transfer a permit as follows:

(D) upon request, a drawing hunt permit may be transferred to a qualified substitute in the event of the original permit holder's death, as provided for in AS 16.05.404 and AS 16.05.420(c).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In May 2021, the Alaska Legislature adopted SB125 that allows the transfer of a draw hunt permit to an eligible substitute, which is defined as an "immediate family member" meaning parent, sibling, or child related by

blood, marriage, or adoption. The transfer must be applied for before the end of the hunting season for which the permit is valid, can only be reissued for the same hunt, and the substitute must meet all qualifications that the original awardee met including, but not limited to, holding a valid hunting license, and being eligible to receive the permit. The original permit holder must be an Alaska resident, and the qualified substitute must be an Alaska resident as well. Changes need to be made to 5 AAC 92.050 because 5 AAC 92.050(a)(6) listed the specific instances under which the commissioner may reissue or transfer a permit, and this new statutory provision provides for additional permit transfer opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-044)

PROPOSAL 244

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

Eliminate all community subsistence harvest hunts as follows:

Abolish all community subsistence permit hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abolish the community subsistence hunts.

The community subsistence hunts have gone away from their original intent of subsistence living and have instead become a free for all for any groups of 25 people to gain extra days to hunt before the general season, giving them an unfair advantage to harvest game that should be available to all residents. There are no check or limits to the number of people who can obtain the community harvest permits.

Currently there are 2741 community harvest tags for moose and caribou in Unit 13, an extremely high percentage of those tags are going to people located in Anchorage and other urban areas as well as several tags going to people that do not even have Alaska addresses. This is not subsistence. Furthermore, the way the community harvest permits are handed out, it leaves this program wide open to fraud and abuse. This can be seen by the number of urban addresses and out of state addresses given in this year's permit winners. The way that the community harvest regulations are written, a person does not even have to be in the state while someone else is hunting his or her tag. Subsistence hunting is the act of hunting for survival. Those that live in rural environments already qualify for federal subsistence hunting areas and tags. There are also ways to proxy hunt for the elderly and disabled. The community subsistence hunts are an unfair advantage to a few and are currently being abused. Giving preferences to a group of any size would be considered unconstitutional. Article 8, Section 3 of Natural Resources states, Common Use — wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Gillham (HQ-F21-015)

Salvage and Sealing Requirements

PROPOSAL 245

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

Eliminate the requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for moose, caribou, and bison as follows:

The intent of this proposal is to make the salvage requirements regarding rib meat consistent statewide for moose, caribou, and bison, notwithstanding the requirements for the community subsistence harvest permit under 5 AAC 92.220(6).

One solution would be to remove “and ribs” from 92.220(d)(3) as follows:

(d)(3) for moose taken before October 1 in Units 13, 19, 21, 23, 24, and 25 for caribou taken before October 1 in Units 13, 19, 21(A), 21(E), 23, 24, and 25(A), and for bison taken before October 1 in Units 19, 21(A), and 21(E), the edible meat of the front quarters, **and** hindquarters, [AND RIBS] must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for moose and caribou in various units.

Meat on bone requirements for moose and caribou in several game management units were put into effect over concerns with meat spoilage, and in part so wildlife enforcement could better ensure salvage requirements were met. But these salvage requirements are not consistent statewide. Only Units 13, 21, 23, 24, and 25 have the requirement that the rib meat of moose and caribou (and bison) must be salvaged naturally attached to the bone.

Hunters are fully capable of salvaging the rib meat without leaving it attached to the bone, and without it spoiling, as is evident that this requirement does not apply statewide. As to identifying that the rib meat was completely salvaged, again the requirement does not apply statewide to other moose, caribou, and bison hunts in high-use areas or off the road system.

It is both difficult and cumbersome to leave rib meat attached to the bone, and we don’t see the removal of this salvage requirement having any negative effects on overall meat salvage, spoilage, or on enforcement efforts. Rib meat dries out fast when attached to the bone and “rolling” or filleting the ribs is an optimum way to salvage and keep rib meat from spoiling or drying out. Many hunters on longer hunts, or when the harvest happens at the beginning of a hunt, choose to eat the rib meat in the field so the extra weight and space of the rib bones is not such a factor. Aircraft hunters would like to be able to legally remove the rib meat from the bones before loading into the airplane to save space and weight.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F21-008)

PROPOSAL 246

5 AAC 92.171. Sealing of horns and antlers.

Change the sealing method for Dall sheep horns to avoid damage as follows:

I would like to see the board adopt language that removes [PERMANENT] from the sealing requirement and allows for the use of a locking tag attached to the skull or through a hole drilled in the skull plate, or another method that does not require damage to the sheep's horns. Perhaps even a provision could be made to let a hunter choose the permanent plug if they wish, but the statute would be brought into line with the temporary nature of sealing of other Alaskan trophy animals and furbearers such as brown bears, some black bears, wolves, lynx, otters, and wolverines with a locking tag that can be removed during the taxidermy process.

5 AAC 92.171.

A person may not alter, possess, transport, or export from the state, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in Units 6-11 and Units 13-17, or the horns of a Dall sheep taken under a registration permit in Unit 19(C), unless the horns have been [PERMANENTLY] sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department. **The seal must remain on the skull or skull plate until the taxidermy cleaning process has commenced;** except the horns of a ¾-curl or less sheep taken in the registration hunt in Units 25(A) and 26(C) do not need to be sealed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current sealing methods for Dall Sheep horns (using a numbered aluminum “plug”) cause unnecessary and often unwanted damage to a hunter's trophy. Upon sealing, a hole is drilled into one of the sheep's horns, and a permanent plug is inserted. Although common for sealing sheep horns in other states, this method of permanent sealing provides no inherent useful data, research materials, testing samples, resource protection, or other tangible benefit to the State of Alaska that could not otherwise be provided by sealing with a locking tag on the skull or skull plate, but it does require permanent damage be done to the trophy itself.

It is also notable that only one of the sheep's horns is sealed (suggesting that both horns are staying naturally attached to the skull or skull plate and considered “sealed”), and sealing is not required for some horns such as winter-killed pick-ups, or horns taken before sealing was required (If taken care of, it's effectively impossible to distinguish between horns taken two years ago, and 25).

This sealing method is also not consistent with most other big game animals and species that require sealing in Alaska, including CITES animals like brown bears, which are sealed with a locking tag that can legally be removed and damage repaired during the taxidermy process. They are sealed in a manner that is not permanently damaging to the trophy. The sealing process and requirement for Dall sheep is valuable and beneficial to the resource and its management, but the specific method of permanent sealing currently used causes unnecessary and often unwanted damage to the trophy. Many of the state's sheep hunters would prefer a less destructive sealing method, such as the locking tag that was used in 2004 and 2005 in the first years that sealing of sheep horns was required.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Freel

(EG-F21-009)

Miscellaneous Topics

PROPOSAL 247

5AAC 92.110. Control of predation by wolves.

Discontinue lethal taking of wolves under predation control implementation plans as follows:

I recommend:

Non-lethal predator control only.

Discontinuation of all "Judas wolf" programs.

Full protection of all wolves in a ten mile boundary surrounding federal conservation areas, state and national parks.

Prohibition on killing of wolves, including pups, during seasons of reproduction and care of the young.

An end of all aerial hunting of wolves.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current methods used to manage wolves in Alaska, as explained in previous letters:

- **Are based on poor science and inadequate predator/prey population surveys;**
- **Are not scientifically peer reviewed;**
- **Do not recognize or protect natural variability of dynamic ecosystems;**
- **Do not account for the growing ecological impacts of climate change;**
- **Are designed for mostly urban, not rural subsistence, hunters;**
- **Are not supported by many Alaska citizens;**
- **Can result in prey populations exceeding habitat carrying capacity, thus degrading habitat;**
- **Can lead to unintended consequences, including increasing predation due to immigration of predators into control areas;**
- **Prioritize consumptive use of wildlife over non-consumptive use, contrary to the Alaska constitution; and**
- **Produce little scientific evidence that the programs are effective.**

It is time for reputable, professional wildlife scientists in ADF&G to admit such practices harm more than helping.

I urge you to do the following:

1. Discontinue all lethal programs of so-called predator control and institute only non-lethal methods.

2. Immediately discontinue and disallow "Judas wolf" programs which undermine the health of the ecosystem.
3. Directly prohibit any taking or hunting in any form of wolves within 10 miles of federal and state parks, conservation units and other protected areas. As experts and lay persons know well, the range of wolves does not necessarily adhere to government delineated boundaries, and without protections, wolves will be eliminated from areas which should be safe for them.

I am not a resident of Alaska. When I visited Alaska, I was appalled by the dominance of the "bad boy" hunter mentality in which frankly ignorant views are promoted over scientific ones, and in which torture and cruelty to valuable predators is not just tolerated but encouraged. Please work to revise your so-called predator control laws. Wolves help maintain a healthy ecosystem and lead to better prey hunting for those who choose to do so, not worse. Let science and not ignorance prevail. You have the power to make the change.

Sincerely, Lydia Furman MD

Member of Alaska Wildlife Alliance

PROPOSED BY: Lydia Furman

(EG-F21-022)

PROPOSAL 248

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Allow nonresident youth to harvest big game on behalf of an adult permit holder as follows:

On page 13 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations book, we could simply add nonresidents to the following regulations. See below:

Big game bag limit for hunters under age 10, all hunts: **Resident and nonresident** hunters under age 10 may not have their own big game bag limit, so they may not obtain harvest tickets or permits. They may only take big game on behalf of a licensed hunter at least 18 years of age, and they must be under the direct, immediate supervision of that hunter. The supervising adult hunter is responsible for ensuring all legal requirements are met, and must comply with big game locking-tag requirements, if applicable, and validate required harvest tickets or permits.

Big game general season hunts for hunters age 10 and older: Hunters age 10 and older have their own big game bag limit and must obtain their own harvest tickets. Adult supervision is not a requirement for hunters with their own harvest tickets. Big game youth hunts only: Basic Hunter Education is required for all youth hunters participating in "youth hunts." See page 35 for "youth hunt" definition and additional information.

Big game permit hunts for hunters age 10 and older: Hunters age 10 and older are allowed their own big game bag limit and may obtain their own permits. Adult supervision is not a requirement for hunters with their own permits (except youth hunts). Resident **and nonresident** hunters age

10–17 who have successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course are allowed to hunt on behalf of an adult permit holder, under the direct, immediate supervision of that adult. The adult permit holder must be a licensed hunter, 18 or older, and is responsible for ensuring all legal requirements are met. This does not apply to harvest tickets. In all cases, if a youth is hunting big game on behalf of an adult, the bag limit and responsibility to report belongs to the adult.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska regulations limit the amount of opportunities for non-resident youth hunters. We as outdoors-men (outdoors people), need to promote youth involvement in every aspect. Alaska regulations allow for resident youth age 10-17 to "hunt on behalf of an adult permit holder." There needs to be an opportunity for nonresident youth to experience an Alaskan hunt in the same manner. This would allow many youth who may not have an opportunity to come to Alaska, the ability to experience what this amazing state has to offer.

Changing this regulation does not affect draw results, nor does it dilute the applications. It simply allows for youth to LEGALLY harvest an animal under someone else's tag. This would afford the same opportunities to ALL youth hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Adam Bowers

(EG-F21-021)

Interior and Arctic Region Hunts

Note: Proposal 193 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting originally scheduled for March 2021, and postponed to March 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROPOSAL 193

5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.

Establish a hunt for muskox within a portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Open a hunt in that portion of Unit 26A west of the Topagoruk River following W156 south to the Unit 26A border with season dates of August 1 – March 15, and a bag limit of one musk ox.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Cape Thompson musk ox population in Units 23 and 26A has been increasing, and a recent survey indicated the portion of the population in Unit 26A is large enough to allow for the harvest of up to six musk ox.

The board will need to determine if there is a positive or negative customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for these animals now found in western Unit 26A. If the board determines there is a positive C&T finding, the board will need to determine if the existing positive customary and traditional use finding for Unit 23 should be applied to the herd now found in western Unit 26A or apply the existing positive customary and traditional use finding for Units 26A and 26B combined. Muskox were not present in western 26A when the board deliberated customary and traditional use findings for muskox in the eastern portion of 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-ACR4)

Note: Proposal 196 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting originally scheduled for March 2021, and postponed to March 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROPOSAL 196

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

Allow ADF&G to utilize a targeted hunt for registration caribou hunts (RC860 & RC867) in Units 20 and 25 as follows:

We would like to expand ADF&G's ability to utilize the targeted hunt option for the entire fall and winter registration hunts. A targeted hunt would allow ADF&G to stagger the number of hunters in all or a portion of the hunt area in order to better control the harvest, keep the quota from being exceeded, and reduce the need for emergency closure. This would be an important management tool to use if the Fortymile herd size and harvest quota are reduced, which will likely occur in fall 2021, and thousands of hunters who have previously participated in this hunt are likely to return.

A targeted hunt option would also ensure that Alaskans who participate in crowded portions of the hunt area will have a reasonable opportunity to harvest an animal before the hunt closes, allow ADF&G to meet management objectives, as well as spread out hunting pressure, which would

reduce dangerous conditions resulting from congestion and minimize negative impacts on the land.

ADF&G already has the ability to administer a targeted hunt and utilizes this tool elsewhere in the state. The structure allows for equal access, as applicants do not have to be among the first to apply or compete with thousands of others in order to harvest an animal before the hunt closes. Additionally, hunters who apply for but do not receive a targeted permit would be allowed to hunt Fortymile caribou in less crowded locations of the hunt area under the normal fall and winter registration permit hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 2020 fall Fortymile caribou hunt along the Steese Highway resulted in an exceedingly high volume of hunters in a short period of time, which had a number of unintended negative consequences, including, detraction from the quality of the hunt, unsafe roadside and field conditions, and defacement of state and federal lands, and will ultimately limit equal access for all Alaskan's in future hunts. Specifically, it is unlikely that next years' fall quota and bag limit will remain the same (5,000 animals and two caribou of any sex respectively), however, there will be continued high levels of hunter interest and participation. As a result, all users will not have equal access or a reasonable expectation of success because of a probable early emergency closure.

Harvest objectives for the Fortymile caribou herd could easily be exceeded in one day under the current harvest options if the same number of hunters participate and the harvest quota decreases when the herd size is intentionally reduced. When the harvest quota returns to normal levels, a targeted hunt would enable ADF&G to better control the harvest and keep the quota from being exceeded when large numbers of caribou congregate near roads and high numbers of hunters respond to these aggregations.

The board is not scheduled to review Fortymile caribou proposals until spring 2023. Without a targeted hunt option for ADF&G to use in the 2021 fall hunt and early portion of the winter hunt, allowable harvest that is otherwise biologically sustainable would be precluded if the harvest cannot be adequately controlled using only registration hunts.

In fall 2021 and 2022, the Fortymile caribou herd harvest quota will likely be significantly less than the 2020 quota. Hunter participation, however, is likely to remain high because of their experiences harvesting these caribou in recent years. The combination of a reduced harvest quota and increased hunter participation increases the likelihood that the 2021 harvest quota would be exceeded. Additionally, reduced birth rates, newborn survival, and calf survival to 1 year along with high mortality of adults in this herd would make it more difficult for the herd to recover from overharvest.

If the problem is not solved prior to the regular meeting cycle, Alaskan's will not have a reasonable expectation of success during the fall 2021 hunt because of a likely early emergency closure. Potential overharvest in fall 2021 could cause the population to be reduced below desired levels and, as a result, impact future harvest quotas.

Additionally, without tools to effectively manage the hunt, continued high levels of participation over short periods of time will lead to continued hunt degradation, persistence of a chaotic and dangerous atmosphere, and additional damage to the land.

The request is primarily biological in nature due to concerns of overharvest. Hunters have become increasingly accustomed to high quotas and bag limits, and large congregations of caribou readily accessible from major roadways. While the herd size has been intentionally reduced in 2020, it will become increasingly difficult for ADF&G to manage harvest within hunt quotas in the future. Such overharvest could cause the population to be reduced below desired levels, impacting future harvest quotas.

Although this request is primarily biological in nature, we are also asking that the board consider this proposal outside of the regular cycle to address wide community concern over the 2020 fall Fortymile caribou hunt, which has set an unfortunate precedent. Residents of Central were deeply troubled by what they observed during the hunt—a chaotic and dangerous atmosphere, unsportsmanlike behavior, and environmental damage. Similar concerns were publicized in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, have been prolific on social media, and were discussed at a fall Fairbanks advisory committee meeting.

The board considered and passed a targeted hunt for the winter hunt only, at the spring 2012 Board of Game meeting as part of Proposal 192. This targeted hunt, however, is only an option during the December 1–March 31 portion of the winter hunt and is not available during the winter hunt opening in October or during the fall hunt, when the majority of hunters participate, overharvest is most likely, and safety concerns have been the greatest.

PROPOSED BY: Sarah Behr

(HQ-F20-ACR7)

Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts and Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for other Regions

PROPOSAL 249

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(5)

...

Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued; or

Aug. 20—Oct. 10
(General hunt only)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 14C. The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A December 2020 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 153 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 14 calves per 100 cows.

The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-025)

PROPOSAL 250

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area 1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar 31
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area 1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Sept. 30
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloading black powder rifle only; up to 50 permits may be issued	Sept 1.—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season

Unit 14(C), that portion
of the Ship Creek drainage
upstream of the Joint Base
Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)
Management Area

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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...

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
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1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20—Nov. 15	No open season
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...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). This population size has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state's human population center with little controversy.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5 AAC 92.108). The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. In 2013, the ADF&G estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. A 2020 aerial composition count of the JBER management area and the Ship Creek drainage found 242 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 25 calves per 100 cows. Compared to the 2013 survey of the same area, where a total of 225 moose were found with bull:cow and calf:cow ratios of 39:100 and 20:100, respectively, very little change has occurred. In addition, harvest numbers have remained relatively steady, indicating that

population level has likely not changed dramatically. At this population level, we have received fewer reports of human-moose conflicts and winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-026)

PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 085.045(a)(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
...		

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. The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to exceed the management objective.

During the most recent moose survey, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff counted 118 moose on Kalgin Island in February 2020. This count exceeded the population objective of 20–40 moose. In the last 10 years, an average of 122 permits were issued for this hunt; of which 87 permittees hunted, with an annual harvest of 30 moose.

The any moose registration hunt is recommended to provide liberal harvest opportunity on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the ADF&G to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will make over-harvest unlikely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-023)

PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 85.045(a)(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer bench (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompa- nied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only[,]	Oct. 15—Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompa- nied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt		Oct. 20—Nov. 20
Remainder of Unit 15(C)		
...		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose by targeted permit only[,] Oct. 15—Mar. 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorization of the Homer bench hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2020-21 hunting season.

In February 2017, a GSPE census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% CI: range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately 3 moose/mi² in the census area. Fall composition counts in core count areas during December 2019 provided a bull ratio of 40 bulls:100 cows.

The Homer bench land in Unit 15C, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contains high densities of moose when deep snow drives moose into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 24 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters to reduce moose and vehicle collisions. On average, 62 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. ADF&G will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. Targeted hunts are administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years based on snow conditions.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-024)

PROPOSAL 253

5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 18 as follows:

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

(16)

...

Unit 18, that portion that drains
into Kuskokwim Bay south of
the Carter Bay drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose by registration
permit only; to be
announced by emergency order;

Dec. 1—Mar. 31
(Season to be announced)

No open season.

...

Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose; of which only 1 may be
an antlered bull; a person may not
take a calf or a cow accompanied
by a calf; or

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

2 antlerless moose; or

Oct. 1—Nov. 30.

2 moose

Dec. 1—April 30.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose

Dec. 1—Mar. 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18 were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue. The current antlerless hunt in the Goodnews Hunt area and nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game meeting in Bethel. Both of these antlerless hunts were amended at the 2020 Board of Game meeting in Nome. The Board of Game has previously reauthorized the antlerless moose season for resident hunts in Unit 18 remainder for regulatory year (RY) 2016 through RY2021. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2022.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit 18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, ADF&G proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 24,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 35:100 to 75:100, and twinning rates from 30% to 40% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18. The population is expected to continue to grow with high recruitment and adult survival.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past four years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

The moose population in the Goodnews River drainage had grown steadily over the past 15 years following a closure in 2004. The fall hunt has had a quota of 10 when first adopted, and was recently increased to 30. The season has not been closed by Emergency Order, and the quota has not been met in the past few years. In the four years that the winter hunt has been held harvest has been low with zero to five moose harvested. The population now is over 450 moose and based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, ADF&G proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Goodnews River Drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-038)

PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
...		
Unit 19(D) that portion upstream from the Selatna River, excluding the Black River		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 moose, by registration permit only, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb 1 – Last day of Feb.	
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives.

The moose population in Unit 19D East has approximately doubled since predator removals began in 2003. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is observing decreasing nutritional status as indicated by declining twinning rates. Prior to intensive management, bull-to-cow ratios along the Kuskokwim River drainage were measured at 18 bulls per 100 cows. After predator reductions and a closure of moose hunting in the Bear Control Focus Area (BCFA), ratios improved to 39 bulls per 100 cows by 2007. By 2020 ratios had declined again and the two-year average was 17 bulls per 100 cows.

To maintain a healthy and productive moose population, ADF&G research (Boertje et al. 2007) indicates that when the 2-year average twinning rate is 11–20% populations should be stabilized. Twinning rates in Unit 19D East remained high until 2015; however, the current 2-year average twinning rate is now 17%, indicating a decreasing nutritional status in this population. The current Intensive Management plan for Unit 19D East calls for stabilization of the population through harvest when the two-year average twinning rate is between 15 and 20%.

Additional harvest opportunity is available. Winter hunts distribute hunter pressure and allow access to areas inaccessible in the fall.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-030)

PROPOSAL 255

5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
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(18)

Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail
Management Area, Wood River
Controlled Use Area, and the
Yanert Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Remainder of Unit 20(A); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–last day of Feb.	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	
...		
Remainder of Unit 20(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 25– last day of Feb.	
...		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued ...	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Antlerless hunts are important for maintaining the moose population at levels that the habitat can support. Antlerless hunts also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could increase to levels beyond the ability of the habitat to support the moose population. Allowing the population to grow beyond what the habitat can support may require the population to be reduced dramatically to avoid long term habitat damage. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and the ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats) may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

Reauthorizing antlerless moose hunts will allow hunting opportunity and harvest to increase and allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to manage the moose populations at an optimum level. The additional harvest will help in meeting IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by maintaining moose densities at a level compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

The current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose, while monitoring indicators of moose and habitat condition for positive density-dependent responses. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 9,581–13,959 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2019. There is an estimated 5,040 mi² of moose habitat in Unit 20A which equates to a moose density of between 1.9 and 2.8 moose/mi². This estimate falls within the IM population objective. ADF&G does not want the population to further increase because of concerns about density effects such as twinning rates below 20% and short-yearling weights below 400 pounds. ADF&G will continue to monitor Unit 20A twinning rates and short yearling weights and may recommend fewer antlerless hunts in the future if these two thresholds are surpassed. However, at the current density of moose the intention is to harvest moose at a rate of 1% of the population which has been shown to stabilize the moose population at its current level. Antlerless harvest will be by drawing permits for a majority of Unit 20A and a registration permit outside the nonsubsistence area in northwest Unit 20A near Nenana. The harvest objective will be based on the most recent survey results. The three-year average antlerless moose harvest in Unit 20A is 80 moose.

The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,768 (3.5 moose/mi²) in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage. The objective beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 (RY04) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 moose (1.5–1.8 moose/mi²) unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. In 2016, the Board of Game adopted the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose and the 2019 population estimate is within the IM objective.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-031)

PROPOSAL 256

5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer's refuge		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27
1 antlerless moose by muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	Dec. 1–Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Dec. 1–Jan. 31
Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27
1 moose by targeted permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	No open season.
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only	Oct. 15–Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
...		
Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1– Last day of Feb. (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
...		
1 moose by drawing permit only; by crossbow, bow and arrow, or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 16–Last day of Feb. (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 200 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 5–Aug. 14 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in the remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1– Last day of Feb.	
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	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 hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may exceed population objectives causing habitat degradation and a loss of opportunity to hunt a surplus of antlerless

moose. Furthermore, subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20B in the Minto Flats Management Area may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

The reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B will allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to manage the moose population within the population objectives of 12,000 to 15,000 moose. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow ADF&G to manage this moose population at optimum levels. The additional harvest is necessary to meet intensive management harvest objectives while maintaining bull-to-cow ratios within objectives. Subsistence hunters will have reasonable opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by maintaining moose densities at levels compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

The moose population level in Unit 20B is currently within the population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose. The population declined from an estimated 20,173 moose in 2009 to 11,064 in 2015, due in large part to antlerless moose hunts designed to lower the population to those objectives. The population increased slightly to 12,478 moose in 2020. To maintain the current population level ADF&G recommends limited antlerless hunts in the Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) and the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA). ADF&G will continue to monitor the moose population and may implement additional antlerless hunts if the population continues to trend upward.

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)—The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to regulate population growth in the FMA and reduce potential moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

The number of moose–vehicle collisions in the FMA is high and pose significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and reduce moose–vehicle collisions, ADF&G incrementally increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose in the FMA during RY99–RY10. Moose–vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems have remained lower since, presumably, in part due to consistent antlerless moose harvests.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA)—The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses and to regulate the moose population in the MFMA.

The MFMA moose density was high in 2010 (4.4 moose/mi²). To reduce the moose population, the harvest of antlerless moose during RY12 and RY13 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2015, 2017, and 2019 estimates showed more appropriate densities of 1.6, 1.7, and 2.0 moose/mi², respectively. Because the population level has been stable and within the population objectives, the antlerless harvest has been reduced to approximately 1% of the total population to maintain the current population level.

Targeted Hunt—The purpose of the targeted hunt is to allow the public to harvest moose that are causing nuisance or public safety issues. These permits are used sparingly but allow the public to harvest the moose instead of ADF&G just dispatching them.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-032)

PROPOSAL 257

5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(D), that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River, except the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range <u>Controlled Use Area</u> [YOUTH HUNT MANAGEMENT AREA]		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion in the Delta Junction Management Area; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 10–Nov. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 10–Nov. 25 (General hunt only)	
...		
Unit 20(D), that portion within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area		
...		

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or 1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf;

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Delta Junction Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory years by drawing permit only, a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory years by drawing permit only, a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The objectives of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts are to 1) stabilize

population growth of this high-density moose population; 2) address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition, and reduced reproductive success; 3) make progress toward meeting the Unit 20D intensive management (IM) harvest objective of 500–700 moose; and 4) provide youth and disabled veteran hunting opportunity. These objectives are being met.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could quickly increase to levels beyond the ability of the habitat to support the moose population. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and the ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. Additionally, the population may need to be reduced dramatically when new data are available and analyzed.

Antlerless moose hunts are offered in southwest Unit 20D, which has the highest moose density in the unit. This area has great potential for population growth due to an abundance of high-quality moose habitat created from extensive land clearing for agricultural use and multiple wildfires over the past 30 years. Total moose harvest in all of Unit 20D averaged 270 moose (an average of 252 bulls and 18 antlerless moose) during regulatory years 2018 and 2019.

Antlerless hunting opportunity is limited at present because this small opportunity helps to maintain the moose population within the ability of habitat to support the population. The largest antlerless harvest (n=113) that occurred recently in Unit 20D was in 2009 when antlerless hunts were newly authorized. The southwest Unit 20D population estimate (approximately 4,000–4,500 moose, with a sightability correction factor applied) and bull harvest in southwestern Unit 20D (226–282) have been stable since 2011. The 2019 population estimate for southwest Unit 20D was 3,647 moose (corrected for sightability) with a density of 2.8 moose per square mile, 31 calves:100 cows and 28 bulls:100 cows.

Continued antlerless harvest will likely be needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will help make progress toward the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose without reducing bull-to-cow ratios below the management objectives. The population trend and harvest rate suggest the low, consistent antlerless harvest provided by the drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (including ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents, and predation), is an appropriate rate of antlerless moose mortality that contributes to stability in the southwest Unit 20D moose population.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will continue to evaluate antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth. Future antlerless moose hunts will be implemented as needed based on evaluation of three indices of density-dependent moose nutritional conditions in relation to changes in moose density: biomass removal of current annual growth on winter browse, proportion of females with twin calves, and late-winter calf weights.

Additional drawing or registration permits will be issued only if more harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-033)

PROPOSAL 258

5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during March in a portion of Unit 21D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19)		
...		
Unit 21(D), that portion south of the South bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 moose, by registration permit only, up to 15 days during March; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	(Season to be announced)	
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives. This harvest opportunity of antlerless moose recently emerged because the moose population in the Kaiyuh Flats is increasing rapidly, especially the number of cows in the population. This reauthorization will likely improve or maintain hunting opportunity. If this antlerless moose hunt is not reauthorized, opportunity to utilize a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and our ability to meet Intensive Management (IM) harvest objectives could be reduced. In addition, rather than allow the population to go through dramatic rates of expansion and contraction, we believe it is necessary to slow the rate of increase.

The IM harvest objective for Unit 21D is 450–1,000 moose. The 10-year average estimated harvest during 2010–2019 was 408 moose, which includes the reported and estimated unreported harvest. The annual estimated harvest has not met the harvest objective since 2003 when the estimated harvest was 489 moose. Additional harvest from this hunt will help make progress toward achieving the IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose.

Analysis of three Trend Count Areas, Squirrel Creek, Pilot Mountain, and Kaiyuh Slough, within the Kaiyuh Flats in this hunt area showed a significant increase in moose abundance among all age classes, and adult moose abundance increased 57% above the 16-year average by 2017. Geospatial Population Estimate data also showed a statistically significant increase from 1,897 ($\pm 11\%$) moose in 2011 to 4,116 ($\pm 10\%$) moose in 2017. Moose twinning data for the hunt area also showed high and stable twinning rates since 2004.

The portion of Unit 21D affected by this reauthorization is approximately 21% (2,559 mi²) of Unit 21D (12,093.6 mi²). Moose abundance in this area was estimated at 4,000–4,500 moose, which is approximately 39–44% of the total moose estimated in Unit 21D. At 10,305 moose ($\pm 1,546$) in 2017, the mid-point for the total Unit 21D moose population estimate was above the IM population objective for all of Unit 21D (12,093.6 mi²) of 9,000–10,000 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-034)

PROPOSAL 259

5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E as follows:

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

(19)

...

Unit 21(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose, by registration permit
 only, a person may not take a cow
 accompanied by a calf

...

Feb 15 – Mar 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives.

This moose population is beginning to show signs of nutritional stress. The most current survey in 2019 indicated there are 9,777 moose in Unit 21E, which is within the range of the Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 9,000–11,000 moose. There is currently a harvestable surplus of 390 moose; however, approximately 200 moose are harvested each year and there are additional moose available to harvest. Bull-to-cow ratios are high, with 42 bulls per 100 cows in 2018. The Intensive Management (IM) harvest objective for Unit 21E is 550–1,100 moose.

Within the Unit 21E moose survey area (4,094 mi²), the overall moose density increased from 1.0 moose/mi² in 2000 to 2.1 moose/mi² in 2019. During most of these years of growth, twinning rates remained high; however, twinning rates began declining in 2015. The two-year average twinning rate in the Holy Cross area is 19%, while north of Anvik and Shageluk (where moose density is lower) the twinning rate is 32%. The current intensive management plan calls for stabilizing the population through harvest when the two-year average twinning rate is 15–20%. Browse utilization is high in the Holy Cross area where the population density is highest and where winter mortality in deep snow years is a concern.

Additional harvest opportunity is available. Winter hunts distribute hunter pressure and allow access to areas inaccessible in the fall.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-035)

PROPOSAL 260

5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
...		
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage.		
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	July 1—Sept. 14	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose season in the portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W longitude and excluding the Colville drainage must be reauthorized annually.

The moose population in the western portion of Unit 26A north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique compared to the unit-wide population, and the distribution is very sparse because there is very little moose habitat in the coastal plain. However, each year a small number of bulls and cows migrate into the area from the major river drainages in the central and southern parts of the unit. So far, the marginal habitat in this portion of Unit 26A has not allowed moose to establish a population, but these moose provide the only opportunity to harvest a moose in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A.

Unit 26A moose population estimates have historically fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose between 2011 and 2014. More recently, 145 moose and 218 moose in 2015 and 2018, respectively were observed during surveys. The overall trend appears to be slow growth after a decline that started in 2007. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate but is approximately ten moose. Harvest reports indicate five antlerless moose have been harvested since 2005, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population. Due to the low harvest rate the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters to opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this remote portion of Unit 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F21-039)

PROPOSAL 261

5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska as follows:

- (a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

- (4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Reauthorizing the exemption allows residents who have not purchased the \$25 brown bear tag to take bears opportunistically. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take brown bears opportunistically.

Region III (Interior and Northeast Alaska) brown bear populations are healthy, and harvest is monitored through the brown bear sealing requirement. Reauthorizing all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III maintains simpler regulations, high resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization includes tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates that brown bear harvest accounts for less than 6% of the bear population. Harvest is composed primarily of males and is sustainable. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear populations are managed by adjusting seasons and bag limits. The resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have little effect on harvest rates in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F21-036)

PROPOSAL 262

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units... 26;

...

(8) Unit 22;

(9) Unit 23;

...

(13) Unit 18;

...

(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:

...

(4) Unit 18;

...

(7) Unit 22;

(8) Unit 23;

...

(10) Unit 26(A).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 8 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 18 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 13 years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for 8 years. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest; 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters; and 3) harvest by a wide range of users.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 18-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41–63 bears). In Unit 23, harvest has been increasing slowly since 1961. The increase is primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although annual harvests vary due to weather and hunting conditions.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3)

salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A, 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G for subsistence hunts.

In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, we estimate zero to three bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one bear per year (less than 1% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between zero and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F21-040)

Proposals Outside the Board of Game's Authority

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to open hunting seasons for taking sea otters because they are managed under the federal Marine Mammals Protection Act.

PROPOSAL 263

Under the "Fur Animals" Section of the Hunting Regulations Booklet, write....

Sea Otter - Hide of Sea Otter must be salvaged and sealed. Special area restrictions may apply.

All Units.....perhaps a 3-6 week season or two shorter seasons..ideally during crabbing season where there is more traffic in traditional crab grounds and hides are in prime condition. Possible Limit for certain areas. Possibly 4 per day to avoid people abusing this resource.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sea otters are a problem.

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

My name is Jackson Carney and I am a middle school student in Wrangell, AK. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and trapping. I also enjoy running, wrestling, baseball, and basketball. Today, I am writing to you because Sea Otters are having a major impact on Alaska's crabbing industry.

In addition to Alaskan Natives harvesting Sea Otters year round, I support a short hunting season on Sea Otter for all Alaskan residents. This hunting season would allow the crab population to rebound causing more crab to be caught by fisherman, and would also be a way to create an income by selling the fur.

Not more than two weeks ago, my dad, a friend, and I, went to a crabbing spot that had recently saved that friend from having a terrible crabbing season. When we got to the crabbing spot, there was a Sea Otter hovering over one of his pots. The crab return was very poor that day, only getting three crabs in a pot that had been set for about two weeks.

I would very much appreciate it if you would at least try to get this season passed. All of Alaska's crabbing industry depends on it.

-Jackson Carney, 6th grade- Wrangell, Alaska

PROPOSED BY: Jackson Carney

(EG-F21-031)

Note: Federal regulations prohibit shooting wounded waterfowl from motorized boats under power, and therefore the Board of Game does not have authority to allow it.

PROPOSAL 264

5 AAC 92.100(2) i. however, a person may shoot while underway to dispatch crippled waterfowl from a boat that still has forward progress from a motor.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations for shooting from a moving vessel prohibit hunters from dispatching and retrieving critically wounded but still mobile waterfowl. Duck hunters routinely experience birds which have been mortally wounded still be able to dive away from boaters seeking to retrieve it. The current legislation on the matter is as follows:

5 AAC 92.100. Unlawful methods of hunting waterfowl, snipe, and cranes

(a) The following methods and means of taking waterfowl, waterfowl, snipe, and cranes are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(2) from a motor-driven boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and the boat's progress from the motor's power has ceased;

(3) from any mechanical vehicle; however, a power or sailboat may be used as a means of retrieving a dead or injured bird;

The language as currently written prevents hunters from firing a killing shot to dispatch wounded waterfowl in the most effective manner possible, from a watercraft that has a motor. All too often, waterfowl will dive away from a boat which is gliding to a stop in order to comply with the current state law.

Additionally, I reached out to the Alaska State Troopers during the 2020 hunting season seeking clarity on the issue, and received the following response: "If the waterfowl is already wounded and you're just trying to kill it, you may shoot it while underway" (14 December 2020).

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Liedman

(HQ-F21-017)
