

**Copper River/PWS Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**CDFU Building and Zoom**

I. Call to Order: [Time] by [name of chair/acting chair]

II. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Present	Excused/ Unexcused
John	Renner	X	
Dennis	Zadra	X	
Chelsea	Haisman	X	
Brad	Sapp		X
Jamie	Foode	X	
Ardy	Hanson	X	
Harrison	Cain		X
Matthew	Myszka	X	
Brett	Bradford		X
Rita	Spann		X
Kyle	King	X	
Garrett	Collins	X	
Makena	O'Toole		X
Robert	Mattson		X
Mike	Collins	X	
Shawn	Gilman		X
Dave Trae	Glaser Lonse	X	X

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: Milo Burcham, Chris Hottinger, Marc Cloward, Jake West, Andrew Sanders

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Charlotte Westing, Leila Williams (Board Support)

IV. Guests Present: Milo Burcham, Chris Hottinger, Marc Cloward  
 Jake West, Andrew Sanders

V. Approval of Agenda Chelsea & Garrett 2NP

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

VII. Reports

a. Chair's report

b. ADF&G

c. Others

- VIII. Public Comment *Milo with Black Bear concerns in PWS, suggests giving support for F&G to close season when numbers are hit.*
- IX. Old Business *ACR talk to repeal Board of Fish decision on prop (Vote 9-0) in favor. Deadline is Aug 29th*
- X. New Business
  - a. Elections for 5 seats and 2 alternates
    - i. Seats up for re-election:
      1. Brad Sapp
      2. Bret Bradford
      3. Harrison Cain
      4. Matthew Myszka
      5. Rita Spann
    - ii. Alternates up for re-election:
      1. Dave Glasen
      2. Trae Lohse
  - b. Board of Game proposals and antlerless moose reauthorization
  - c. Board of Game call for proposals for 2026 Southcentral region
    - i. Black-tailed deer proposals?
  - d. Other Fish & Game Business as Needed

Proposal 152  
 Chelsea motion to Adopt  
 Andy 2nd  
 Vote 13-0 in favor

## Alaska Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting Proposals

March 21-28, 2025 | Anchorage, AK | Comment Deadline March 7, 2025

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
85	Change the definition for migratory bird hunting guide services to include transporter services		
86	Require mandatory harvest reporting of sea ducks		
87	Restrict the use of boats for hunting waterfowl		
88	Add wood bison to the list of game species allowed to be taken for cultural purposes under a permit issues by the Department of Fish and Game		

# Alaska Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting Proposals

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189			Allow a permittee who had their Unit 20D bison permit revoked for regulatory year 2024, to have the permit transferred to regulatory year 2026 upon request, or remove the lifetime and ten-year loss of eligibility for those hunters to apply as follows
190			Modify the resident and nonresident hunt structure for sheep in unit 19C, and establish a guide concession pilot program as follows
191			Define the beginning and terminus of the Nine Mile trail in the Ladue River Controlled Use Area as follows
192			Modify the resident and nonresident hunt structure for sheep in Unit 19C as follows

XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting

XII. Set next meeting date *Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 @ 6pm*  
*Apr 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 @ 6pm*

XIII. Other

XIV. Adjourn

## **Meeting summary for PWS/Copper River AC Meeting (01/31/2025)**

### **Quick recap**

The committee discussed various wildlife management and hunting regulation topics, including the potential decline in deer numbers, the increasing trend of black bear harvest, and the management of mountain goat populations. They also discussed the potential for a large fish harvest in the Copper River and the need for a collaborative meeting with the community before the fishing season. Lastly, they discussed the appointment of new members and alternates, the reauthorization of the annual smooth season in Unit 6 C, and the upcoming meetings and deadlines for statewide finfish and shellfish proposals.

### **Next steps**

- All committee members to review statewide proposals and shrimp proposals before the February 6th meeting.
  - Kyle to send meeting minutes, officer election form, advisory committee election sign-in sheet, and new member forms to Leila.
  - Leila to update the web page with new member information and email PDFs of proposal books to committee members.
  - Trey to draft an Agenda Change Request (ACR) for returning management discretion to Jeremy before August 29th.
  - Dennis and Garrett to review the 19C sheep hunting proposals from Leila.
  - Committee members to discuss potential proposals on goats, black bears, and blacktail deer with the community before the April 1st meeting.
  - Committee to consider supporting proposals for increased Alaska resident sheep hunting opportunities at the April 1st meeting.
  - Kyle and Garrett to share secretary duties for future meetings.
  - Leila to notice the February 6th and April 1st meetings, both at 6 PM.
  - Committee members to consider attending the Board of Fish meeting for Prince William Sound shrimp in March.
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## **Summary**

### **Committee Agenda and Game Staff Reports**

In the meeting, the committee discussed the agenda and made a motion to approve it, with an addition to include an ACR under new business. They also discussed the approval of previous meeting minutes, which were still in progress. The chair, who was about to step down, gave a report on the recent Board of Fish meeting, expressing disappointment at the outcome. The committee also discussed the game staff reports and the possibility of showing charts to help understand the numbers. The conversation ended with the chair expressing a desire to continue the discussion on the game issues.

### **Deer, Moose, and Mountain Goat Management**

Charlotte discussed the current state of deer and moose populations, noting a potential decline in deer numbers due to the early and persistent snow in 2022. She also mentioned the possibility of deer transplantation to Soldovia, which could cost around \$2 million. Charlotte also shared her concerns about the accuracy of moose horn checks in the Northern Sound, which could impact the population. She also discussed the challenges of managing mountain goat populations, particularly in areas with high non-resident hunting pressure. Charlotte mentioned a cooperative study with the Forest Service to monitor the impact of heli-skiing on mountain goats. She expects proposals related to these issues to be put forward in the coming months.

### **Black Bear Harvest and Population Concerns**

Charlotte discussed the increasing trend of black bear harvest in Prince William Sound, which has been rising year after year. She expressed concern about the sustainability of this trend, particularly the high proportion of female bears being harvested, which could lead to a decline in the population. Charlotte also mentioned the potential for a proposal to change the registration hunt system, as she felt that the current system was not effective in managing the bear population. Additionally, she discussed the brown bear population on Montague Island, noting that the quota had never been reached and expressing uncertainty about the island's current bear population due to past environmental changes.

### **Wildlife Management and Hunting Regulations**

The meeting discussed various topics related to wildlife management and hunting regulations. The speaker proposed eliminating the registration permit, which was met with

some support. There was also a discussion about the management of black bear populations, with concerns raised about the high harvest rates and the lack of population estimates. The speaker also mentioned ongoing conversations about a potential bear transplant project, but expressed concerns about the lack of a clear plan and budget. The conversation ended with a reminder about the upcoming proposal deadlines for the Board of Game and the Board of Fish.

### **Copper River Fish Harvest and Management**

The committee discussed the potential for a large fish prediction in the Copper River, which could have negative effects on the river's ecosystem. They considered drafting an Advisory Committee Report (ACR) to propose management changes to mitigate these effects. The committee agreed to draft the ACR before August 29th, with the understanding that they would need to provide new information to support their proposal. They also discussed the importance of community involvement in the process and the need for a collaborative meeting with the community before the fishing season. The committee decided to move forward with drafting the ACR, with the understanding that they would need to have a meeting with a quorum to vote on it.

### **New Members and Officers Appointed**

The committee discussed the appointment of new members and alternates. Brad Sapp was appointed as an alternate, and the committee members were Chris Hottinger, Marc Cloward, Brett Bradford, Dave Glasen, Trae Lohse, Jacob West, and Milo Burcham. The committee also discussed the election of officers, with Trae Lohse nominated as chair and Kyle as secretary. The committee agreed to share the secretary role between Kyle and another member. The committee also discussed the possibility of sending representatives to a statewide board meeting in March to discuss the Prince William Sound shrimp.

### **Antlerless Moose Hunt and Appointments**

The meeting involved discussions about the reauthorization of the annual smooth season in Unit 6 C, specifically the antlerless moose hunt. The proposal was approved unanimously, with the understanding that it would be an annual process. The meeting also involved discussions about the appointment of Brad Sapp as an alternate. The committee also discussed the importance of community engagement and the potential for game proposals. A meeting was scheduled for after the deal in March to discuss game proposals further.

## **Statewide Finfish and Shellfish Proposals**

In the meeting, the team discussed the upcoming meetings and deadlines for statewide finfish and shellfish proposals. They agreed to hold a meeting on February 6th at 6 PM to discuss the proposals, with a follow-up meeting on April 1st at 6 PM. The team also discussed the need for more opportunities for Alaska residents in sheep hunting, and the possibility of supporting proposals related to this issue. Additionally, they discussed the need for a new scanning process for sending documents, with Leila offering to receive mailed documents. The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Kyle King & AI

Minutes Approved By: Trae Lohse

Date: 01-30-2025

Item	Description	Number	Support	Number	Support
151	Resolution regarding...				
152	Resolution regarding...				
153	Resolution regarding...				
154	Resolution regarding...				
155	Resolution regarding...				
156	Resolution regarding...				
157	Resolution regarding...				
158	Resolution regarding...				
159	Resolution regarding...				
160	Resolution regarding...				

Apr: 1st 505m  
Feb: 2nd 505m  
Apr: 1st 505m  
Feb: 2nd 505m