

Anchorage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 21st, 2026
Zoom Only

I. Call to Order: 6:02pm by Matt Moore

II. Roll Call

No	First Name	Last Name	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
1	Kevin	Taylor	Excused
2	Matt	Moore	Present
3	Nicole	Schmitt	Present
4	Bryce	Eckroth	Unexcused
5	Paul	Warta	Present
6	Christina	Ahlstrom	Present
7	Ernie	Weiss	Present
8	Katya	Karankevich	Unexcused
9	Kneeland	Taylor	Present
10	J R	Gates	Unexcused
11	Michelle	Bittner	Present
12	Ed (Harold)	Horton	Unexcused
13	Scott	Crowther	Present
14	Tom	Vania	Unexcused
15	Lynette	Moreno Hinz	Unexcused
16	Matthew	Stone	Present
17	Frank	Cahill	Present

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: 10

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Leila Williams, Art Nelson, Mark Nelson, Ryan Scott, Nick Docken

IV. Guests Present: None

V. Approval of Agenda- Moved and seconded

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved at last meeting

VII. Reports

a. Chair's report - None

b. ADF&G - None

c. Others - None

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

a. Board of Game Special Session Proposals 1-4

b. Other Fish and Game Business as Needed

Alaska Board of Game Special Session July 22 nd and 23 rd , 2026 Fairbanks, AK Comment Deadline July 16, 2026			
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>			
1	Reauthorize a non-intensive management predator control plan for muskox in Unit 26B, as follows		
Support	5	4	Members had questions for Dept staff, including: - Distinction about difference between IM and non-IM predator control - Why this is in special session and not during regular cycle, Dept replied that 3 of the proposals were proposed by the administration and fourth (this proposal) was added to take advantage of special meeting. - How came up with question of number of bears targeted for removal (10 bears), this is repeat of program 10 years ago. In the past didn't see a response in the muskox population so program was paused, since then population rebounded, now the population declined and are seeking to re-establish program. - Bear population: ~330 bears based on surveys conducted in early 2000s, anecdotal evidence suggests more bears are in 26B than surveys suggest. Many members voiced opposition to out of cycle proposals unless there is true urgency. One member voiced concerns that research is dated, interested in the collaring program and want to see more information to understand justification. One member opposed to hunting musk ox generally and doesn't have

Alaska Board of Game Special Session

July 22nd and 23rd, 2026 | Fairbanks, AK | Comment Deadline July 16, 2026

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
			ADFG clarified that this proposal was added to take advantage of meeting ; if doesn't pass would likely be added as ACR or next cycle. Only reason ADFG is able to offer this musk ox hunt is because of strong bull:cow ratio. 12 permits are offered 4 tier 1, 4 tier 2, rest are drawing. Usually 4-6 musk ox taken each year, population has dropped to level where Dept plans to reduce the draw next season. Up until 2023 ADFG didn't have any adult cows taken by bears (survival was high), since then 1-2 bears have "figured it out" (from collaring data). Didn't see response in musk ox population during previous program because ADFG waits for bear predation to become a problem. The last time this program was in place 7 bears were taken out. Haven't seen any other bears taking musk ox, only a few adult bears recently leading to Department concerns. One member comment in support that could see this having a conservation concern. Abstain-Appreciate that the proposal is written to have a targeted cap on the type and number of bears, goals, and measurement of the bear population to sustain a hunt and sustainable bear population. Would support if proposal gave authorization for shorter time (don't like an 8 year auhotrization done out of cycle), but likely would have voted for it if it was proposed with full public and AC review in normal cycle later this year. 5 support, 4 opposed, 1 abstain General voting note: AC members were frustrated by this meeting being called out of cycle, especially since it is outside of the AC meeting schedule.
2	Allow the use of verifiers, clarifiers, and non-electronic scopes in hunts for big game restricted to archery only, as follows		
Oppose	0	10	One member in support of verifiers and clarifiers but not scopes, concerned about going too far down the tech road and increased use of these tools could lead to more wounding loss. Another member comments don't see any reason to take this out of cycle. AC debated whether to TNA because it's out of cycle but ultimately decided to vote. General voting note: AC members were generally frustrated by this meeting being called out of cycle, especially since it is outside of the AC meeting schedule and a decision on this proposal is not urgent.

Alaska Board of Game Special Session

July 22nd and 23rd, 2026 | Fairbanks, AK | Comment Deadline July 16, 2026

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
3	Allow the use of verifiers, clarifiers, and non-electronic scopes in hunts for big game restricted to archery only, as follows		
Oppose	0	10	Same notes as Proposal 2, oppose because this is out of cycle General voting note: AC members were frustrated by this meeting being called out of cycle, especially since it is outside of the AC meeting schedule and a decision on this proposal is not urgent.
4	Close a 2-mile-wide corridor along the Ambler Road – as follows		
Oppose	2	7	Support: There is a 2 mile buffer in the MOU, support proposal because it's in the MOU. Like the idea of buffer. Oppose: ADFG didn't have the authority to agree to memorandum, closures are determined by BoG or legislature; very opposed because doesn't see how this can be justified out of cycle. Not opposed to buffers along proposed roads, just not in favor at this time. Abstain: The decision felt premature and the topic should get the full AC treatment. ADFG submitted this proposals on behalf of the administration; there are multiple alternatives, Dept chose alternative A. AIDEA will be at the meeting. 1 abstain General voting note: AC members were frustrated by this meeting being called out of cycle, especially since it is outside of the AC meeting schedule and because this proposal would directly impact many hunters and communities who should be part of the process.

XI. Select representative for board meeting: Nicole Schmitt

XII. Set next meeting date: Currently Tuesday, October 13th at 6pm at the WJH Hatchery

XIII. Other

XIV. Adjourn

XV. Adjournment: 6:56pm

Minutes Recorded By: Nicole Schmitt

Minutes Approved By: Matt Moore

Date: 7/21/2026