

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS  
BOARD OF GAME  
March 3-13, 2000  
Fairbanks, Alaska**

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Jim Marcotte

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

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**PROPOSAL 1** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Liberalize method, season, and bag limit for taking beaver in Unit 21E.

AMENDMENTS: Language substituted to have the more liberal season and bag limit apply to residents only.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that this proposal would not significantly increase the harvest, but would allow for more opportunity for local people to take a few more beavers by shooting under a hunting license during the open water portion of the season. The board considered recovery of animals taken in the water.

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**PROPOSAL 2** **ACTION: No action**

Extend the lynx trapping season until March 15 and establishes a bag limit of 5 lynx during November in Units 12 and 20E. Between March 1-15 only snares may be used to take lynx.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 3.

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**PROPOSAL 3** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Extend the lynx trapping season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25 and imposes a November bag for lynx in Units 12, 20, and 25C.

AMENDMENT: Apply this season extension to only Units 12 and 20E.

DISCUSSION: The department noted intent of proposal was to allow trappers to be their own manager. The board has not made customary and traditional findings for lynx but the proposal does not call for a restriction in opportunity so a finding would not be required. Open season dates set by emergency order. Board noted public testimony supporting the elimination of the March season and addressing poor fur quality in late season. A five lynx bag limit was considered unnecessary. An amendment to change closing date to February 28 failed.

After initially rejecting the proposal, the board reconsidered it based on closer examination of the initial request and supported its application in only the Upper Tanana Area (Units 12 and 20E).

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**PROPOSAL 4** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a special muzzleloader firearm season for hunting Delta bison in Unit 20D.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that hunters are currently allowed to use muzzleloading rifles as a legal method during the regular season and this proposal would require a reduction in the number of permits issued for the general drawing permit hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 5** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Liberalize the season and bag limit for brown bears in 21D and 24.

AMENDMENTS: Extend the seasons for both the general hunt and the subsistence registration hunt from September 1-May 31 to September 1-June 15.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated an allowable increase in harvest existed. The board noted differences between the subsistence and general hunt requirements. The board considered whether a bear taken in these units would or would not count against the one bear every four regulatory years and concluded it would because this action was not part of an intensive management program.

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**PROPOSAL 6** **ACTION: Passed**

Extend the season for brown bear in Unit 19B by a total of 15 days, including 9 days in September and 6 days in May.

DISCUSSION: The department noted that this extended season would align with current brown bear season in Unit 19A and that the current brown bear harvest is well below the estimated sustained yield level.

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**PROPOSAL 7** **ACTION: No action**

Extend the season for brown bear in Unit 19B 9 days, making the season open on September 1, instead of the current September 10 season opening.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 6.

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**PROPOSAL 8** **ACTION: No action**

Extend the season for brown bear in Unit 19B by a total of 15 days, including 9 days in September and 6 days in May.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 6.

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**PROPOSAL 9** **ACTION: No action**

Extend the season for brown bear in Unit 19B 9 days, making the season open on September 1, instead of the current September 10 season opening.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 6.

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**PROPOSAL 10** **ACTION: Failed**

Extend the season for brown bears in Unit 20A from September 10 to September 1.

DISCUSSION: The department noted the proposed season change would likely result in exceeding the sustainable yield of the population. The board discussed maximum harvest rates of 5 or 6 percent. The board expressed caution and chose to maintain the current management strategy.

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**PROPOSAL 11** **ACTION: Failed**

Increase the bag limit for brown bears in Unit 20A and 20C from 1 bear every four regulatory years to 1 bear every two regulatory years.

DISCUSSION: The department expressed concerns about exceeding the sustainable yield of the Unit 20A brown bear population and slowing population growth to its former level. The board chose to stay within its current management objectives.

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**PROPOSAL 12** **ACTION: Failed**

Increase the bag limit and exempt the resident tag fee for brown bears in Units 20F, 21B and C from 1 bear every four regulatory years to 1 bear every regulatory year.

DISCUSSION: The department questioned whether liberalizing the bag limit would result in reducing human/bear conflicts or reducing predation on moose. The board explored keeping the bag limit and deleting the tag fee. Similar requests have been in front of the board before where there is an opportunity for increased harvest. The board considered other ways to deal with defense of life or property aspect of this proposal.

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**PROPOSAL 13** **ACTION: Failed**

Extend the season and establish antler restrictions for moose in Units 20B,C, D, and 25C.

DISCUSSION: The department noted high levels of hunting pressure and harvest in Unit 20B, low moose densities in Unit 20C, and good access in Units 20D and 25B. The board considered the intent of the proposal and noted other board actions having to restrict hunting in part was based on past management practices. The board noted that the current regulations were carefully harmonized and were set at a more area-specific level.

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**PROPOSAL 14** **ACTION: No action**

Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 21D and 24.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 5.

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**PROPOSAL 15** **ACTION: No action**

Establish a drawing permit hunt for moose in Unit 21 and 24.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 30.

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**PROPOSAL 16** **ACTION: No action**

Increase the bag limit for brown bears in Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 5.

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**PROPOSAL 17** **ACTION: Failed**

Extend the season for brown bear in Unit 25D to include June, July and August in the open season for brown bears, resulting in a 12-month season.

DISCUSSION: The board reviewed the low harvest rates and liberal current season and did not see a need for further liberalization.

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**PROPOSAL 18** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Extend the resident and nonresident season and eliminate the nonresident drawing permit requirement for brown bear in Unit 26B. The proposed regulation would open the season for all hunters on August 10 and close the season for nonresident hunters on May 31 rather than May 20.

AMENDMENTS: Maintain a September 1 opening for residents and non-residents and extend the non-resident closing date to May 31 which will match the resident closing date.

DISCUSSION: The board investigated the need for a drawing permit and reviewed harvest data showing high harvests in 1996 and 1997, years when liberal regulations were in place. The department recommended the drawing permit hunt as a conservation measure and as a better way to implement the hunt without having in-season closures.

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**PROPOSAL 19**

**ACTION: Passed**

Shorten the caribou season for the Rainy Pass Herd by 20 days in Units 16 and 19C from August 10-October 10 to August 10-September 20.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed subsistence uses and range of the Rainy Pass herd and the benefit of aligning the season with that of the Mulchatna Herd. The board noted public comments supporting a longer season. The board supported a closing date of September 20 based on the decline of the herd and because some portion of the caribou taken at this time are not used for food.

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**PROPOSAL 20**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Liberalize the bag limit and season for Ray Mountain caribou in portions of Units 20B, 20F, and 24.

AMENDMENTS: Shift the western border eastward from the originally proposed Allakaket-Tanana trail to Kodosin-Nolitna Creek.

DISCUSSION: The department noted a current harvest rate of 1 percent and supported the increased harvest opportunity.

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**PROPOSAL 21**

**ACTION: Passed**

Liberalize the bag limit and season for the White Mountains caribou herd in Units 20B, 20F, and 25C; and change the boundary delineating the White Mountain herd from the Fortymile herd.

DISCUSSION: The department noted a current harvest rate of 1 percent and supported the increased harvest opportunity.

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**PROPOSAL 22**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Liberalize the bag limit and harvest quota for Fortymile caribou in portions of Units 20B, 20D, and 25C and in Unit 20E beginning in Regulatory Year 2001-2002.

AMENDMENTS: Substituted wording incorporated recommendations from area advisory committees. Changes included increasing the annual quota, opening specific hunts in different portions of the range, allowing winter and fall hunt, limiting the cow harvest, extending the Unit 20B and 20D resident seasons to September 30, creating non-resident season in Units 20E and 25C, and changing the bag limits to one caribou for residents and maintain the registration hunt.

DISCUSSION: The board questioned reopening hunting by non-residents, but found that the advisory committees supported this because of the shared conservation burden accepted by all users over the re-building period. The board noted that the non-resident participation rate was estimated to be on the order of five percent. The board also voted to endorse the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan and commended the advisory committees for their role in developing the plan.

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**PROPOSAL 23** **ACTION: Failed**

Restrict the drawing permit hunt area for Delta Herd caribou in Unit 20A by eliminating the area west of California Creek in the Ferry Trail Management Area.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated this area does not support a discrete subpopulation of Delta Herd caribou analyzed the use level and role of these restrictions in rebuilding the herd.

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**PROPOSAL 24** **ACTION: Failed**

Eliminate nonresidents from the drawing permit hunt for Delta Herd caribou in Unit 20A.

DISCUSSION: The department presented information on the low permit award rate and the low success rate by non-residents. The Department of Law indicated that Permanent Fund receipt is not a legal measure of state citizenship. The board considered low caribou population levels in the Delta Herd.

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**PROPOSAL 25** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Restrict the moose season, modify antler restrictions, and Re-authorize the antlerless hunt in Unit 20A.

AMENDMENTS: The board substituted wording to shorten the fall season from September 1-September 25 to September 1-September 20; to change the resident and nonresident antler restriction in the Ferry Trail Management Area from 3 to 4 brow tines; to establish nonresident antler restrictions of 50-inch/four brow tines; and to eliminate the November 1-November 30 muzzle loader drawing permit hunt.

DISCUSSION: The department described low productivity in the bull segment of the population. The board inquired about antlerless moose reauthorization and the conditions for issuance of up to 300 cow permits. The board also discussed limitations

set by habitat. Department of Law pointed out possible affects on reasonable opportunity and that a reduction of take could be significant in light of the board's intensive management guidelines. Moving the Ferry Trail Management Area boundary to the pre-1998 location was considered but was addressed in Proposal 61.

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**PROPOSAL 26** **ACTION: No action**

Correct an administrative error in the codified Fish and Game Laws and Regulations concerning the nonresident bag limit and season for moose in the Unit 20E Ladue River Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on Proposal 26 based on action taken on Proposal 62.

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**PROPOSAL 27** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Shift the subsistence registration moose hunt in the Koyukuk CUA in Units 21D and 24 to an earlier opening date.

AMENDMENTS: Shift the existing subsistence registration moose hunt in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (Units 21D & 24) from September 1-September 25 to August 27-September 20.

DISCUSSION: This proposal received extensive analysis by the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Workgroup. The department recommended including all of the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area in area where the permit hunt conditions apply. The board considered a change in terms of destruction of trophy value of the antlers may make the subsistence permit hunt less desirable for those potentially displaced from the general hunt because of implementing a drawing permit. The board considered providing local opportunity with regard to other user groups in the face of options under federal management.

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**PROPOSAL 28** **WITHDRAWN**

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**PROPOSAL 29** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Extend the season and change the bag limit for moose in Unit 25D West.

AMENDMENTS: Combine the three seasons (53 days) of the existing Tier II hunt into one continuous season of August 25-February 28 (171 days).

DISCUSSION: The department indicated even a limited harvest of cows is problematic and that the harvestable surplus is 60 bulls, which is a 4 percent exploitation rate. The board supported the alignment with the federal season dates and inclusion of the "up to" language. Inclusion of a cow harvest and identification of antlerless bulls were discussed. The board established the harvestable surplus is 60 bulls in Unit 25D west.

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**PROPOSAL 30**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Establish drawing hunts in the place of the current general registration permit hunt and expand the area of the drawing hunts and subsistence registration permit hunt to include all of the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. Eliminate the antler restriction in the general drawing hunts.

AMENDMENTS: There were several amendments made to this proposal, and the final action included also incorporated action taken on Proposals 63, 72, 27, and 64. Proposals specifically addressing this proposal included keeping the 50-inch/four brow tine antler restriction for non-resident hunters and limiting the permit hunt area to down stream of Huslia and limiting successful permit applicants from eligibility the following year.

DISCUSSION: The board considered reducing the antler restriction for non-residents hunters, and expressed support for a more complete destruction of trophy value in the subsistence hunt. The board clarified that destruction of trophy value means "cut crossways through one palm." Antlers can not be transported from the field unless cut. The board also looked at reasonable opportunity, and found that it was still provided for and that subsistence harvests are not expected to change significantly. The board explored the need for a check station in Huslia and its role in preventing wanton waste in light of recent Fish and Wildlife Protection staffing. Hunting opportunity on federally managed lands and the role of access to private land were considered. The board also looked at making successful permittees ineligible for a permit in the following year. The board heard from the Department of Law that limiting permit eligibility based on success in the previous one year was permissible but longer time periods were questionable because of creating disincentives for entering hunting. Limiting a vessel to one type of permit was recommended against because of the effect of excluding someone based on who they associate with. The board noted Native corporation lands provide a very good opportunity for harvesting in high moose density areas near Huslia. The board looked at the possible action upriver of Huslia and possible expansion of hunting pressure this northern area.

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**PROPOSAL 31**

**ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing cow moose hunt within Berners Bay drainages in Unit 1C.

DISCUSSION: The department reported that the Berners Bay moose herd occupies an isolated habitat area, with little movement into or out of the population and that moose densities are near the carrying capacity. The board concurred with the management goals.

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**PROPOSAL 32**

**ACTION: Passed**



Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose hunt in the portion of Unit 5A known as Nunatak Bench, a small area located at the confluence of Nunatak and Russell Fjords north of Yakutat.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated an extremely low harvest level which is well within the sustained yield level. The board noted the difficulty of access to the hunt area.

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**PROPOSAL 33** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.

DISCUSSION: Supported by the department and the local fish and game advisory committees.

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**PROPOSAL 34** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.

DISCUSSION: Supported by the department and the local fish and game advisory committees. Impact of logging and access provided by logging roads considered. Five permits were issued last year and the department expected none to be issued this year.

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**PROPOSAL 35** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.

DISCUSSION: The board heard that a concurrent federal permit hunt is pending approval, that much of the hunting takes place on state managed land, and that the combined number of permits issued would be coordinated by the department.

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**PROPOSAL 36** **ACTION: Passed**

DISCUSSION: The department indicated permits would not be issued this year due to low productivity in recent years. A majority of local fish and game advisory committees supported this proposal.

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**PROPOSAL 37** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 9C.

DISCUSSION: The board supported continuation of this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 38** **ACTION: Passed**

Divide the moose season in Unit 12 into a 5-day August season and a 10-day September season beginning in Regulatory Year 2001-2002.

DISCUSSION: The impact on hunting in adjacent area was considered. Unit 20D hunting largely protected by bag limit and topography. The board noted the federal season extends to September 15.

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**PROPOSAL 39** **ACTION: Deferred to statewide meeting**

Restrict the moose bag limit in Units 12 and 20E to one bull not including male calves.

DISCUSSION: Number of animals taken few, so not a significant biological problem. Application on as statewide basis discussed for consistency. The board weighed adding regulations without benefit and the role of individual hunter ethics. The board noted support from the local advisory committees. Protection questioned of the enforcement of a bag limit defining a bull moose in the first year of life. The board chose to defer the proposal to the next statewide meeting and broaden its scope to apply statewide.

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**PROPOSAL 40** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season in Unit 14A.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that the current population is below the population objective, that vehicle and railroad kill is exceptionally high, and that issuance of permits for next fall is not certain at this time. The board considered the petitions showing opposition to this hunt and the department response of dividing the hunt into six specific hunt areas to address some of the public concerns.

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**PROPOSAL 41** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season within the Fort Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: The department issues a number of different permits for specific areas and for specific methods. The board noted advisory committee support for this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 42** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season within Elmendorf Air Force Base in Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated 15 archery permits were issued last year. The board noted advisory committee support for this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 43** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season within the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: The department reviewed recent harvest levels. The board reviewed access to hunt area and noted advisory committee support for this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 44** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season within the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: The department reviewed recent harvest levels, planning efforts, and steps taken to address public concerns over safety. The board heard information about the "Living With Wildlife" program and the department's efforts to involve the public in a planning process. The board noted advisory committee support for this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 45** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season within the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area in Unit 15A.

DISCUSSION: The department reviewed management objectives and recent harvest levels. The board noted advisory committee support for this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 46** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

DISCUSSION: The department reviewed recent harvest levels, information on winter habitat conditions, and recent alignment antlerless and general hunt season dates. The board noted support for this hunt from a majority of advisory committees in the Unit 15C.

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**PROPOSAL 47** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.

DISCUSSION: The department presented population objectives and harvest levels. The board considered complaints from seasonal residents of Kalgin Island regarding hunter activity. The board noted advisory committee support for this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 48** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a permit hunt for mature bull caribou (Denali Herd) Unit 20C.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated the herd is near historic low levels and productivity of the herd has been extremely low since the mid 1990s. The board considered the opportunity for viewing these caribou, particularly within Denali National Park, and the limited state managed land within the herd's range.

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**PROPOSAL 49** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 19A.

DISCUSSION: The board noted low moose densities in the area. They considered the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee recommendation to close the portion of the Unit 19A downstream from Stony River. The board found that the actual number of moose taken in the February hunt was too low to be a conservation concern and chose to retain the antlerless hunt throughout Unit 19A.

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**PROPOSAL 50** **ACTION: Failed**

Shorten the moose season in Unit 19B from September 1-September 25 to September 1-September 20.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated there is no biological reason to reduce the moose season in Unit 19B by 5 days. The board considered that the problem identified is not widespread.

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**PROPOSAL 51** **ACTION: Failed**

Lengthen the moose season in Unit 19A by 5 days from September 1-September 20 to September 1-September 25.

DISCUSSION: The board noted the lack of public support for this proposal.

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**PROPOSAL 52** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a nonresident drawing permit hunt for moose in Unit 19A and 19B.

DISCUSSION: The department noted an increase in the number of non-resident hunters and congestion at the limited air access points. The board considered the impact of non-guided "drop off" hunts as a factor in the increase and the legal basis to require an orientation course for unguided non-resident hunters. The board considered, but did not adopt limiting hunting by non-residents by drawing permits.

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**PROPOSAL 53** **ACTION: Amended, Deferred to Fall 2000**

Shorten the nonresident moose season in Units 19 and 21E to September 1 –10 and additionally, any bull moose taken by residents after September 10 would need to have it's trophy value destroyed by an unstated method.

AMENDMENTS: Units 21E, 19C, and 19D were deleted from proposal. A motion to defer to the fall 2000 Board of Game meeting also passed.

DISCUSSION: The department noted that non-resident moose seasons in Units and 21E currently provide for harvests within sustainable levels. The board concluded that this proposal would unduly restrict hunting opportunity of resident hunters and that it covers too large an area. The board considered deferring the proposal to the fall 2000 board meeting for additional crafting of Units 19A and 19B modifications. The department cautioned against optimism for resolving user group conflicts within that time frame.

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**PROPOSAL 54**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Shorten the moose seasons in Unit 19D by eliminating the August season, cutting the September season back to September 1-15, and eliminating the December season.

AMENDMENTS: That portion upstream from and including the Selatna River Drainage except that portion of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area south and east of the Kuskokwim and North Fork, a resident open season of September 1-20, December 1-15; that portion of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area south and east of the Kuskokwim and North Fork, a resident open season of August 20-September 20, December 1-15; and the remainder of Unit 19D, a resident open season of September 1-20.

DISCUSSION: The department presented data describing low moose densities in Unit 19D and harvest rates exceeding 12 percent for portions of the unit and the need for a 50 percent reduction in harvest. The board evaluated the effect of reduced harvest or cessation of harvest on rebounding from a low density equilibrium. Board members commented that it is a hard sell for local residents willing to share in the conservation effort while predation remains unchecked.

The amended language was adopted to effect a reduction in harvest while still allowing reasonable opportunity, to align with Unit 19A, to retain the December season as a "safety valve", and to retain the August 20 opening to address the Nikolai request. The department estimated that the amended proposal would reduce the harvest by 20 percent and that it allows a harvest level that is not sustainable. Deletion of the August season and late December hunt was also considered but not adopted. The board addressed whether the harvestable surplus in Unit 19D provided for an amount necessary for subsistence opportunity and concluded it did because hunters can harvest within Unit 19 outside of Unit 19D.

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**PROPOSAL 55**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Re-authorize the antlerless moose hunt in portions of Unit 20B (Minto Flats Management Area and Fairbanks Management Area), and increase the maximum number of permits.

AMENDMENTS: Retain the seasons and bag limits for the Minto Flats Management Area and increase the number of permits from "up to 25" to "up to 100" and include November 21-November 27 in the permit hunt for the Fairbanks Management Area.

DISCUSSION: The department requested an increase in the number of permits due to the high number of road-killed moose and nuisance calls. The board examined the balance between providing viewing opportunity and minimizing moose-vehicle collisions. The board found no reason for not having the permit hunt for the Fairbanks Management Area include the November season. The board noted advisory committee support for the antlerless hunts.

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**PROPOSAL 56** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish an archery only season and expand the Fairbanks Management Area in Unit 20B.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that there is nothing preventing archery hunting in the general hunt and that there is expanded opportunity by the enlargement of the Fairbanks Management Area. The board considered this proposal affecting too an vast area.

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**PROPOSAL 57** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish an archery season for moose in the remainder of Unit 20B.

DISCUSSION: The board noted a possible higher harvest rate due to the later season and considered opportunity was provided for in the regular season.

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**PROPOSAL 58** **ACTION: No action**

Establish a late fall drawing/registration permit hunt for moose in Unit 20A.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 25.

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**PROPOSAL 59** **ACTION: No action**

Establish more conservative antler restrictions for bull moose within the Ferry Trail Management Area in Unit 20A by changing from spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side to spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 25.

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**PROPOSAL 60** **ACTION: No action**

Establish a spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side restriction for bull moose in Unit 20A, except in the Ferry Trail Management Area.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 25.

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**PROPOSAL 61** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Establish more conservative antler restrictions for moose in the Ferry Trail Management Area in Unit 20A by protecting spike-fork antler bulls from harvest and change the brow tine requirement from 3 or more brow tines on at least one side to 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

AMENDMENTS: Substitute language was adopted that would change the boundary of the Ferry Trail Management Area in Unit 20A back to that prior to a 1998 boundary change. Changes in the moose seasons and bag limits were not included in this proposal because they were addressed by action taken on Proposal 25.

DISCUSSION: The board considered heavy off road vehicle traffic and the history of the management area boundary and board action taken two years ago. The board noted local advisory committee support, especially in light of their previous effort to move the boundary to the west.

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**PROPOSAL 62** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Establish a Unit 20E moose registration permit hunt, and divide the moose season into a 5 day August season and a 10 day September season in a portion of Unit 20E beginning in Regulatory Year 2001-2002.

AMENDMENTS: The board adopted amended wording that would create a Unit 20E caribou/moose registration permit in a portion of the unit, change the moose season in a portion of Unit 20E to August 24-August 28 and September 8-September 17, and eliminate the August 15-28 spike/fork bull season.

An amendment to drop the split season in that portion draining into the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from the North Fork of the Fortymile River failed.

DISCUSSION: This permit would not take place until after July 2001, giving time for better hunter contact and only one year prior to the next board cycle. Board concerns about untended impacts on remote area guides near the Middle Fork and were addressed in the amended proposal. The board considered permit availability and the open availability for exchanging permits for the other species. Reasonable opportunity

for subsistence needs were addressed and it was determined by the board that increased caribou availability off set the reduction in moose hunting opportunity.

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**PROPOSAL 63** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Re-authorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 21D.

AMENDMENTS: Maintain the existing Feb. 1-Feb. 10 antlerless subsistence season; but eliminate the existing Sept. 5-Sept. 25 antlerless general season in the Koyukuk CUA, the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 antlerless subsistence season in the Koyukuk CUA, and the Sept. 21-Sept. 25 antlerless season in the remainder of 21D. It was further amended to insert the words "mainstem of the" Yukon River.

DISCUSSION: The department recommended a more conservative cow moose harvest due to the declining recruitment indicators observed in Trend Count Areas for Unit 21D. An option from the Koyukuk Hunters Working Group, recommending elimination of only the Sept. 5-Sept. 25 antlerless general season was considered but not adopted.

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**PROPOSAL 64** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Shift dates of winter hunt for moose in 21D.

AMENDMENTS: Substitute wording putting the proposal in regulatory form was accepted and further amended by substituting the word "may" for "will be."

DISCUSSION: The board noted that they are often asked to adjust the season dates around weather conditions and favored the department having the flexibility. USF&WS planed to work in concert with ADF&G to have the state and federal seasons coincide.

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**PROPOSAL 65** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 21E.

AMEMDMENT: To specify the closed area as within one half mile of the mainstem of the Yukon or Innoko River.

DISCUSSION: The department said that moose densities are very high along the Yukon River and Innoko River and considerably lower off the river corridor. The board discussed the confusion over how the restriction applied along the river and sloughs.

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**PROPOSAL 66** **ACTION: No action**

In Unit 21E, remove the current February moose season prohibition on hunting within one-half mile of either side of the Yukon and Innoko rivers, and shorten the February moose season in Unit 21E from February 1-10 to February 1-5.



DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 65.

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**PROPOSAL 67** **ACTION: Failed**

Shorten the fall moose season in Unit 21E from September 1-25 to September 5-15.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that there is not a conservation concern.

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**PROPOSAL 68** **ACTION: No action**

Eliminate the February 1-10 moose season in Unit 21E.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 65.

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**PROPOSAL 69** **ACTION: No action**

Expand and shift the fall subsistence registration hunt for moose in portions of Units 21D and 24.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 27.

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**PROPOSAL 70** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 22D, and in the whole of Unit 22E.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that the small harvest of antlerless moose is not adversely affecting moose populations. The board noted advisory committee support.

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**PROPOSAL 71** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated few cow moose are taken annually during the antlerless moose season. The board noted a majority of local advisory committees supporting this hunt.

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**PROPOSAL 72** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Re-authorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 24.

AMENDMENTS: Eliminate the September 5-25 antlerless moose general registration hunt in the Koyukuk CUA, the September 1-25 antlerless moose subsistence registration hunt in the Koyukuk CUA, the September 21-25 antlerless general hunt in the Koyukuk CUA, and the September 21-25 antlerless moose general hunt in central Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The department supported an antlerless moose harvest during the winter season only because of declining recruitment. Department estimate was 25 cows taken annually in the hunt. An recommendations from the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group to eliminate only the September 5-25 antlerless general season in the Koyukuk CUA was considered but not adopted.

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**PROPOSAL 73** **ACTION: No action**

Expand the season and change the bag limit and number of Tier II permits issued for the moose Tier II hunt in Unit 25D West.

DISCUSSION: See Proposal 29 as amended. The department supported changes in seasons and permit issuance, and addressed them in Proposal 29. However, the department did not recommend including cow moose in the harvest goal for the Tier II hunt in Unit 25D West.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 29.

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**PROPOSAL 74** **ACTION: No Action**

Ensure that 5 percent of the Tok Management Area Dall sheep drawing permits would go to guided nonresidents.

DISCUSSION: The board noted a request by the proposer to withdraw the proposal

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**PROPOSAL 75** **ACTION: Passed**

Modify various hunt conditions of the Tok Management Area Dall sheep drawing permit hunt, and give the department authority to issue less than 120 drawing permits.

DISCUSSION: The department noted high hunter demand with 2,500 applicants and results from a recent hunter survey. The board considered the need for making changes in permit numbers as a way to meeting public expectations for the hunt experience and supported giving the department the discretion to offer fewer permits.

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**PROPOSAL 76** **ACTION: Failed**

Prohibit harvest of female sheep in registration permit hunts in Units 24, 25, 26B and 26C.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that changing the bag limit from three sheep to two rams is not necessary for conservation purposes and would result in a reduction in subsistence opportunity. The board recognized the local hunting preference for taking rams and use of a widespread harvest area in choosing to keep the current management regime.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 77** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish an exclusive 10-day sheep hunting season for purchasers of a "governor's permit" by adding an opening date of August 1.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated a special pre-general season hunt for two auction permit holders would not significantly interfere with other sheep hunters and could potentially raise substantial dollar amounts for the Fish and Game Fund. The intent was to enact it statewide or in all special permit hunt areas. Department of Law noted the requirement that permittees hunt within applicable law but that the board could specify an earlier season "by permit only." The board looked at the potential benefit of funds derived for these permits, and reviewed the location of previous sheep taken under the "governor's permit." Board members expressed opposition to offering a special privilege in the face of ample hunting opportunity in the state and restrictions being placed on Alaskan hunters for conservation measures.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 78** **ACTION: Failed**

Temporarily close sheep hunting in southeastern portion of Unit 20A for 5 years and reopen as permit hunt.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated the harvest of full-curl rams is not causing the decline in sheep numbers and that management objectives include providing the greatest annual sustainable opportunity to hunt and the greatest sustainable annual harvest. The board examined the effect of different curl restrictions on the population. The board observed that the large cohort of sub-full curl rams would not be available for harvest if this proposal were adopted.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 79** **ACTION: Failed**

Expand season and bag limit for wolves in Unit 21D.

DISCUSSION: The department noted that the harvest of wolves is primarily for the value of the fur and questioned whether non-prime hides would be salvaged. The board found that the existing season already liberal and that the proposed season length was excessive.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 80**

**ACTION: Amended, Deferred to Fall 2000**

Establish an area closed to hunting and trapping of wolves in portions of Units 13 and 20.

Amendments: The board adopted an amendment to reduce the buffer area to that outlined in Proposal 81 but not to include Yanert Drainage and areas south.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that although this is an allocation issue between wildlife viewers and trappers, the department recommend implementation of this proposal as an initial step in a process to provide for the wide array of wildlife values held by Alaskans. It considered this action would result in a long-term benefit to trappers because of fostering a public climate recognizing different wildlife values. The board examined the history, location, and dynamics of the Savage, Jenny Creek, Headquarters, Sanctuary, and East Fork (Toklat) packs, and packs adjacent to the proposed buffer area. Members looked at the strength of data supporting the benefit of a buffer to the population of the pack and to individual habituated wolves.

The board amended the extent of the buffer after reviewing data on wolf pack distribution. Adopting the proposal with an expiration date of November 5, 2000 was considered. The board elected to defer the amended proposal in order to allow more time for public discussion and for a committee to review and make recommendations to the board regarding this proposal as well as other wolf management issues in the state.

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**PROPOSAL 81** **ACTION: No action**

Establish an area closed to hunting and trapping of wolves in portions of 13 and 20.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 80.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 82** **ACTION: Passed**

Align seasons and bag limits for ptarmigan in Unit 26.

DISCUSSION: The state legal prohibition on use of firearms in the Dalton Highway Corridor was discussed as was federal preemption of state statute on federal land.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 83** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a regulation that requires the use of only properly licensed hunting, guiding, and transportation services.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated issue is currently before the Legislature in the form of a bill. Board of Game considered writing a letter of support for House Bill Number 348 but voted not to. Discussion points centered on placing the compliance burden of hunters as opposed to on those illegally guiding.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 84** **ACTION: Failed**

Eliminate brown bear tag fees statewide for Alaska residents and impose fees on nonresident brown bear hunters through registration hunts.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law indicated that the board does not have the authority to change fees.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 85** **ACTION: No action**

Re-authorize the current brown bear tag fee exemption for a portion of Unit 20D.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 89.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 86** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the brown bear tag fee exemption in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, and the Chignik Brown Bear Management Area.

DISCUSSION: The board reviewed harvest information and found the harvest level well within sustained yield level.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 87** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the existing brown bear tag fee exemption in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: The department reviewed bear harvest levels in recent years. The board referenced discussion in recent meetings regarding Unit 13 wildlife populations.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 88** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize resident tag fee exemption for brown bears in Unit 19D.

DISCUSSION: Harvest found to be within sustainable levels.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 89** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize the current brown bear tag fee exemption for a portion of Unit 20D.

DISCUSSION: The board looked at total bear mortality including bears taken in defense of life or property and at information showing that much of the bear harvest is incidental to other fall hunting activity. Harvest found to be within sustained yield levels.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 90** **ACTION: Passed**

Re-authorize resident tag fee exemption for brown bears in Unit 25D.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated recent harvest at a low level and well below sustained yield level. The board considered additional harvest opportunity under federal regulations.

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**PROPOSAL 91** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Add an additional department discretionary authority for permit procedures.

AMENDMENTS: The board adopted an amendment limiting the discretionary authority to Unit 20E.

DISCUSSION: The board noted action taken on Proposal 62 which also addressed this authority. Passage of Proposal 91 was consistent with action taken on Proposal 62.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 92** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Allow the use of motorized vehicles to pursue and take wolves in Units 19, 21, 24, and 25D.

AMENDMENTS: Substitute wording was adopted changing wording in the methods of taking game and wolf control implementation plan. The Unit 13 wolf control implementation area was added and the Fortymile caribou area was excluded.

DISCUSSION: The department noted that the effectiveness of this change would vary considerably between different game management units given natural conditions, but that it could be an intensive management tool. The board noted that the public asked that additional units be included. Board members expressed caution on use in all areas but considered its use for intensive management purposes. The Department of Law indicated that regulatory wording could address specific units or address areas with intensive management plans without needing to revisit section 5 AAC 92.110 each time. The board reviewed draft regulatory language and extended this provision to include the Unit 13 wolf control area clarified that it does not apply to the Fortymile Caribou area. The board expressed caution over potential abuses of this method and requested the department to monitor activities.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 93** **ACTION: Passed**

Allow harvest of black bears at bait stations during fall in Units 21D and 24.

DISCUSSION: The board considered the possible use in season by moose hunters wishing to hunt black bear over moose kill sites.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 94** **ACTION: No action**

Require permanent ID on some snares in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action based on the action taken on Proposal 95.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 95** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Require permanent ID on some snares in Units 12, 20E.

AMENDMENTS: The board substituted language applying the requirement in only Unit 12 and 20E, allowing trappers to choose between marking each snare or marking snare sites, and directing use of either a driver's license number or a state-issued ID number. An additional amendment passed specifying that the regulation would apply only within one-quarter mile of a public maintained road, and would sunset in two years.

DISCUSSION: The board considered action in these specific units as a trial for addressing the trapping gear identification issue that has previously been in front of the board on a statewide basis. "Long line" trappers were not considered to be a problem by the proposer. The Department of Public safety said they would not check snares in season but would only use the ID after the season closes to identify snares left set in the field. Department of Law cautioned the confidentiality of state ID card numbers and the confidentiality of state driver's license numbers are authorized under different statutes. The board noted the low rate of ungulate incidental catch. Board members weighed placing an increased burden on the trapper against providing an enforcement tool in this specific area. The board noted additional costs incurred by the public as well as potential benefit of public image of trapping in general.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 96** **ACTION: Failed**

Eliminate aircraft restrictions for beaver trapping in the Minto Flats Management Area (Unit 20B).

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that beaver populations are high, trapping effort is low given pelt prices, and the biological impacts are negligible. The board examined the pattern of trapline use on Minto Flats and discussed regulations requiring trappers to trap more that one mile form their aircraft.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 97** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a positive finding for intensive management of moose in Unit 25C.

DISCUSSION: The board heard data on low moose densities in Unit 25C, a current herd size estimate of about 2,400, a 1998 harvest of 83 moose, and that the habitat was generally high elevation covered with dense spruce with low to moderate improvement potential. The board explored potential for habitat improvement through an aggressive fire policy. The board recognized that the moose population is important locally but that the use level did not fit the 100 moose minimum criteria in the intensive management regulation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 98**

**ACTION: Deferred to Fall 2000**

Establish intensive management population and harvest objectives for moose and caribou in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

DISCUSSION: Aspects of this proposal were discussed during board deliberations on Proposal 99.

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**PROPOSAL 99**

**ACTION: Deferred to Fall 2000**

Establish intensive management population & harvest objectives for caribou in the Central Arctic, Delta, Fortymile, Macomb, and Porcupine herds; and for moose in Units 12, 19A, 19B, 19D-East, 19D-remainder, 20A, 20B, 20C-outside Denali, 20D, 20E-Fortymile/Ladue River Drainages, 21D, 21E, 24, 25C (proposed), and 25D.

DISCUSSION: The board chose to defer action on this proposal to the Fall 2000 meeting to allow more time for reviewing a consistent approach to these findings. The board made interim findings for the Delta, Tok, McGrath, and Galena areas. See Appendix.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 100**

**ACTION: Failed**

Allow aerial wolf control by residents in Unit 19.

DISCUSSION: The Board approved the wolf control implementation plan in 1995, and has recently reaffirmed their support for wolf control in Unit 19D at their January 2000 meeting. The effect of additional action was questioned. Aerial shooting by the public can be authorized through the permit process. The board considered that they already acted to give the department direction.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 101**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Activate existing wolf control implementation plan for unit 19D-East.

AMENDMENTS: Amend the existing wolf control implementation plan for Unit 19D by opening the wolf trapping season October 1, by increasing the wolf hunting bag limit from five total to ten per day, and by requiring either the salvage of black bear meat or the salvage of black bear hides but not both.



DISCUSSION: Proposal 101 was dealt with by the board through action taken at the January 2000 meeting. The board considered the effect of adding one month to trapping season and the increased wolf bag limit. The board did not estimate that the liberalization of the black bear salvage requirements would result in an increased harvest. The board clarified that either the hide, or the edible meat is required for be salvaged for human use.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 102** **ACTION: Failed**

Include Unit 25D in the list of Game Management Units in which the bag limit of 1 bear per year does not count against the bag limit of 1 bear per 4 regulatory years.

DISCUSSION: The board recalled their policy of having the harvest not count against the one bear every four regulatory years was reserved for only situations for under intensive management.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 103** **ACTION: Failed**

Restrict eligibility for accepting transfer of game meat in Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law indicated specific intent was not clear, but that restricting a person's right to share meat with who they chose to would run into serious constitutional problems. The board thought that increased public education about the transfer of possession requirements would go a long way in addressing the problem.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 104** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a management area in that portion of Unit 20E drained by the Fortymile River.

DISCUSSION: The board considered that the action taken on Proposals 22 and 62 would meet a similar intent of reducing excessive harvest as identified in this proposal. The board appreciated the idea but felt action was not necessary at this time.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 105** **ACTION: Failed**

Allow the use of muzzleloading firearms to hunt within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area south of Atigun Pass, and require a department-approved certification for all muzzleloading hunters.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law indicated that the board cannot approve the use of muzzleloading firearms to hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor because Alaska Statute 16.05.789 prohibits hunting with firearms within five miles on either side of the highway between the Yukon river and the Arctic Ocean.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 106** **ACTION: No action**

Establish access corridors through the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (Units 20, 24, 25, 26).

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law indicated that the board cannot approve access for hunting through the Dalton Highway Corridor because of Alaska Statute 19.40.210 which says "off-road vehicles are prohibited on land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway" and that the statute would have to be changed before the proposed regulation change could be put into effect.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 107** **ACTION: No action**

Expand the boundaries of the Fairbanks Management Area (Unit 20B).

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 108.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 108** **ACTION: Passed**

Expand the boundaries of the Fairbanks Management Area (Unit 20B).

DISCUSSION: The department indicated some borders of the Fairbanks Management Area are confusing and difficult to identify in the field and enforce and that as areas become more populated the likelihood of accidents associated with rifle hunting increases. The board noted that there was no public testimony opposing this proposal.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 109** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a controlled use area around Chandalar Lake in Unit 25A.

DISCUSSION: The board considered this a local problem with hunter congestion. The Department of Law noted the board does not have authority to provide for local preference, ever under Tier II. The board also considered the health of the moose population in the general area.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 110** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a controlled use area in 19C in the vicinity of Farewell Airport.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that existing management objectives are being met at this time, but that hunting pressure and harvests tend to be concentrated in a relatively small geographic area. The board discussed illegal communication to moose locations and discussed the changes in hunting patterns in the Farewell area. Board members noted conflicts are taking place within the same kinds of uses and that moose harvests are sustainable.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 111** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a mandatory check station at Huslia for hunters in Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The board did not adopt this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 120.

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**PROPOSAL 112** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a controlled use area in the vicinity of Northway Village in Unit 12.

DISCUSSION: The board learned that there is a heated user conflict regarding airboats in this area and a divided public on what to do about the issue. The Department of Law clarified that the board's authority is limited to regulations affecting the taking of game. The board heard that there were not conservation concerns at this time.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 113** **ACTION: Deferred to Fall 2000**

Establish a Controlled Use Area around Kaiyuh Flats in Unit 21D.

DISCUSSION: The department indicated a high local hunter success rate, potential hunter displacement given nearby drawing hunts, and an absence of information indicating hunting is impacting the moose population. The board learned from the advisory committee that the Kaiyuh Flats is a primary hunting area for Kaltag and Nulato and that a main intent was to head off problems in the future. The board found that the level of problem or amount of detailed information did not warrant implementation of a controlled use area at this time.

Under reconsideration the board assessed the impact from transporters and the limited refuge control due to large amounts of private land and state waters in the refuge unit and chose to defer the proposal to the Fall 2000 meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 114** **ACTION: Failed**

Eliminate the Nenana Controlled Use Area (Units 20A and 20C).

DISCUSSION: The board discussed the confusion over the proposer's intent and limits of scope for this Interior Region meeting.

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**PROPOSAL 115** **ACTION: Failed**

Reduce the size of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area (Unit 19D).

DISCUSSION: The department indicated that this is an allocation issue. Action taken on Proposal 54 reducing moose hunting addressed the intent of this proposal. The board chose to keep the controlled use area boundary unchanged.

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**PROPOSAL 116** **ACTION: Failed**

Require boat registration for moose hunters in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that while this could aid enforcement, it would be a burden on some hunters.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 117** **ACTION: Failed**

Include Dakli River Drainage in Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: The board heard information about the low hunting effort in the Dakli River area and they considered actions taken on Proposal 30 as steps to address some of the concerns identified in this proposal.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 118** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a horsepower restriction on boats used in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: The board considered potential overcrowding problems in the Koyukuk River Controlled Use Area were better addressed through other proposals such as Proposal 30. The Department of Law noted that sealing an engine would constitute a taking and would not be permissible by law.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 119** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish exclusive areas within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to provide separation between subsistence hunters and other hunters in Unit 21D and 24.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law pointed out that the board can not prevent subsistence hunting in any area where customary and traditional findings have been made and that the proposer's intent of further segregation of hunting area is not allowed for in law. The board considered actions taken on Proposal 30 as steps to address some of the concerns identified in this proposal.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 120** **ACTION: Deferred to March 2002**

Establish a mandatory check station at Huslia for moose hunters in Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The board chose to first evaluate the effects of actions taken on other Koyukuk River moose proposals, in particular Proposal 30.

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**PROPOSAL 121** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a mandatory check station at Dulbi Slough for moose hunters in Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 120.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 122** **ACTION: No action**

Establish a check station near Huslia for moose hunters in Unit 24.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action on this proposal based on the action taken on Proposal 120.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 123** **ACTION: Failed**

Eliminate the Nenana Controlled Use Area (Units 20A and 20C).

DISCUSSION: Department of Law noted a court appeal on this controlled use area is still pending. The board reviewed modifications made by the board in 1998 and considered those adjustments were practical but that elimination of the controlled use area was not necessary at this time.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 124** **ACTION: Failed**

Establish a half-mile corridor closed to trapping along a section of the George Parks Highway in Unit 20C.

DISCUSSION: Fish and Wildlife Protection indicated that there would be a large number of unintentional violations and the board recommended the department pursue an education approach.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 125** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Establish conditions for community-based subsistence moose harvest permits. (See companion proposals 126 and 127).

AMENDMENTS: Minor changes were made clarifying reporting requirements and a reference to the customary and traditional criteria in 5 AAC 99.010(b) was added.

DISCUSSION: The board heard that Proposals 125, 126, and 127 are related parts of implementing a group permit under a community subsistence harvest permit. Use of the term "community", as opposed to "group", was considered. The Department of Law reminded the board that a high level of sharing should be considered as part of a

community-based subsistence pattern. The board looked at the kinds of information to be used when considering community harvest hunt area listed in the proposal under Section (b). Concerns about potential harvest exceeding sustained yield levels were alleviated by the department's closure authority. Comparisons were made with previous board actions which addressed Lime Village moose hunting. The board considered this an opportunity to be responsive to subsistence needs and increase reporting compliance.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 126** **ACTION: Passed**

Establish the Chalkyitsik Community Harvest Area in portions of Units 25B and 25D. (See companion proposals 126 and 127).

DISCUSSION: The board considered the rationale for setting the boundary and the need for a different permit or harvest ticket to hunt outside the community harvest area.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 127** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Establish a community harvest bag limit for moose in part of Units 25B and 25D. (See companion proposals 126 and 127).

AMENDMENTS: Clarification of the different bag limits were added.

DISCUSSION: The board chose to list the Chalkyitsik Community Harvest Area as an area identified in the hunt area portion of the regulations for greater clarity. They also chose general wording that the bag limit applies in an established community harvest area.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 128** **ACTION: Passed as amended**

Codify amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C and adjacent areas).

AMENDMENT: Substitute language included changes adopted in Proposal 129 and 131.

DISCUSSION: The board approved this list so that board findings on amounts necessary for subsistence uses would be listed in regulation for use by the board, the department, and the public. This regulation would be updated as new findings are made by the board.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROPOSAL 129** **ACTION: Amount 50-70 moose**

Change the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses Units 25D West.

DISCUSSION: The Board of Game previously made a positive customary and traditional determination for moose in Unit 25D and set the "amount reasonably necessary to meet subsistence needs" as 25-50 moose (25D West) and 150-250 moose (25D Remainder). The department estimated a harvest of rate of .24 moose per person for local communities and an additional 5 moose for other Alaska residents taken for subsistence. The board heard that the total harvest of moose is currently estimated at about 60 moose annually, including up to 20 cow moose. The board found that the amount 50-70 moose necessary to meet subsistence needs.

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**PROPOSAL 130**

**ACTION: No action**

Request the Board to amend its findings of the amounts reasonably necessary for moose in GMU 21D and GMU 24, to correct an administrative "error" in the record of the Board's past finding.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on proposal 131.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 131**

**ACTION: Passed with findings**

Request the board to amend its findings of the amounts reasonably necessary for moose in GMU 21D and GMU 24, using "improved" harvest data which were not available in 1992 when the board made its finding.

DISCUSSION: The department noted the 1992 board determination for amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence at 450-550 moose for GMU 21 and 150-250 moose for GMU 24. Department of Law recommended the board update their finding for harvestable surplus and amount necessary.

For Unit 21, the board found that there is a harvestable surplus of 1,337-1,498 moose. This was based on *harvestable surplus of*: 350-500 (Unit 21A), 150 (Unit 21B), 65 (Unit 21C), 583 (Unit 21D), 350-450 (Unit 21E). They also found the amount necessary for subsistence at 600-800 moose, based on discussions that 77 percent of resident hunters are hunting for subsistence uses.

For Unit 24, the board found that there is a harvestable surplus at 450 moose. This was based on a 5 percent harvest rate. They also found the amount necessary for subsistence at 170-270 moose.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 132**

**ACTION: Passed as amended**

Establish a longer nonresident season for the registration permit caribou hunt in Unit 9D.

AMENDMENTS: The board changed the end of the nonresident season to September 30 and made the nonresident season a general (non-permit) hunt. The board also changed the end of the resident season to September 25.

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been accepted as an agenda change request. The department indicated the possibility of a federal season. The board had set a harvest limit of 50 bulls at their March 1999 meeting. The board considered meat quality and difficulties in issuing permits for this hunt.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 3D** **ACTION: Failed**

Change the brown bear season for both resident and nonresident hunters in Unit 18 from September 10-October 10 and May 10-May 25 to one of two suggested seasons: a) September 1-May 31 or do not change the fall season [September 10-October 10.], but change the spring season to May 1-May 25.

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been deferred from the January 2000 Board of Game meeting. The board discussed the role of the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area working group and the recommendations from the local fish and game advisory committee. The board examined allocation between the general hunt and the subsistence hunt through the WABBMA registration permit.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 75D** **ACTION: Passed**

Draft Unit 13 Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been deferred from the January 2000 Board of Game meeting. The department recommended that the proposal be deferred again. The board examined the effects of a deep snow pack in the western portion of Unit 13. The board also examined a number of different models for projecting moose population levels in under different levels of wolf and bear population in Unit 13A. The Department of Law clarified that the department can not authorize public land-and-shoot permits. Board members pointed out the legal obligations of the board under the intensive management law. Members also observed that some of the public comments received on this plan indicated possible misconceptions confusing a reduction with the elimination of wolf populations. Board members also noted their January action of deferring to this meeting was in part to receive more public input and expressed surprise at how little opposition they received.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 81D** **ACTION: Failed**

Allow hunters to take two brown bears a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been deferred from the January 2000 Board of Game meeting. The board heard that few hunters would be interested in taking more than one bear per year. The board considered an amendment to allow a second bear to be taken by registration permit from May 15 to June 15, but concluded it would have little appeal and not result in the best use of the resource.

\*\*\*\*\*



**PROPOSAL 108D**

**ACTION: Deferred to Fall 2000**

Furbearer Customary and Traditional Finding, statewide.

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been deferred from the January 2000 Board of Game meeting. Board committee member Roczicka reported on earlier committee discussions and recommended that the proposal be deferred for additional discussion because of several questions surrounding its implementation. Board member Walter Sampson was added to the committee, which is to report to the board in November 2000.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 118D**

**ACTION: Failed**

Establish a brown bear predator control program in Unit 13. The methods to be used are not specified.

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been deferred from the January 2000 Board of Game meeting. The department noted that brown bear predator control would not be biologically effective or acceptable to the public. The board observed that they do not have guidelines for establishing a bear predation control implementation plan.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 119D**

**ACTION: Failed**

Create a registration hunt in Unit 13 which would (1) require in-unit sealing, (2) legalize the sale of brown bear parts, (3) define a brown bear cub as bear in its first year of life, and (4) allow the baiting of brown bears.

DISCUSSION: This proposal had been deferred from the January 2000 Board of Game meeting. The department identified a number of management and enforcement problems, including in-unit sealing requirements, and expressed caution about allowing sale of brown bear parts. The Department of Public Safety added concerns that the baiting brown bears, which are inherently more aggressive, could create public safety and nuisance problems for cabin owners and others in the area.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THIS IS A SUMMARY OF CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME DURING THE PAST YEAR. THIS IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL THE DETAILED CHANGES. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THE ALASKA HUNTING REGULATIONS CAREFULLY FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION.**

*Keep in mind that these regulations do not become effective until July 1, so do not affect hunting or trapping seasons that are currently open or that open prior to July 1, 2000. (such as bear baiting)*

**BROWN BEAR**

**Unit 19B**, extended the season to end May 31 instead of May 25.

**Units 21D and 24**, extended the season ending date from May 31 to June 15, and changed the bag limit to one bear every year, instead of one every 4 years.

**Unit 26B**, added 12 days to the non resident brown bear drawing hunt, closing the season May 31, instead of May 20.

**Unit 22**, eliminated the resident brown bear tag fee.

**Unit 23**, changed the bag limit for the general season resident hunt to one bear per year, which counts against the 1 bear every 4 year bag limit in other areas, and may not be transported from the unit, except to Barrow, Fairbanks, Galena, or Nome, until it has been sealed. The number of drawing permits for non-residents was increased to 48.

**Unit 26A**, changed the bag limit for the general season resident hunt to one bear per year, which counts against the 1 bear every 4 year bag limit in other areas.

**Units 22B and 22C**, increased the number of nonresident brown bear drawing permits to 27 permits and in the remainder of **Unit 22** to 8 permits.

**CARIBOU**

Portion of **Units 20B, 20F, and 25C**, liberalized the season and bag limits changing the fall general season from bulls only to any caribou and lengthening the winter registration hunt by changing the opening date from Feb. 1 to Nov. 1-Mar. 31.

**Unit 20F**, north of the Yukon, several short seasons for residents were combined into a long winter season, Aug. 10-Mar. 31, and the bag limit for both residents and nonresidents changed from bull only to any caribou.

Portion of **Unit 24**, the resident season was lengthened to Aug. 10-Mar. 31 and the bag limit for both residents and nonresidents changed from bull only to any caribou.

**Unit 9D**, lengthened the season by 5 days, and changed the nonresident registration hunt to a general season.

**Units 16 and 19C**, shortened the season to end Sept. 20 instead of Oct. 10.

## CARIBOU (continued)

**Unit 22D**, established a caribou season in the Kuzitrin drainage upstream of the Kuzitrin River bridge and east of the Taylor Highway (Nome-Kougarok Road) for all hunters July 1-June 30, with a bulls only bag limit May16-June30.

**Units 22 and 23**, allow use of a snowmachine to position caribou to select individual caribou for harvest, provided the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine.

## MOOSE

**Unit 20A**, shortened the season by 5 days, ending Sept. 20 instead of Sept. 25. Also, in the Ferry Trail Management Area and the Yanert Controlled Use Area changed resident bag limit requirement from 3 to 4 brow tines, and nonresident bag limit to 50 inch or 4 brow tines.

**Unit 21D and 24**, within the Koyukuk Controlled Use area, established new drawing permit hunts, shifted the registration hunts to an earlier starting date, Aug. 27-Sept. 20, and shortened the fall antlerless seasons.

**Unit 19D West**, shortened the moose season from Sept. 1-Sept. 25 to end Sept. 20, and also shortened the Dec. season by 16 days to end Dec. 15 instead of Dec. 31.

**Unit 19D East**, changed the season from Sept. 1-Sept. 25 to Aug. 20-Sept. 20. In the remainder of **Unit 19D**, shortened the moose season from Sept. 1-Sept. 25 to end Sept. 20, and eliminated the nonresident season.

**Unit 20B**, Fairbanks Management Area, added a winter season, Nov. 21-Nov. 27 to the drawing permit archery hunt, and increased the number of permits.

**Unit 22B**, eliminated the antlerless season and reduced the resident season by 2 months, changing the Aug. 1-Jan. 31 dates to a split season of Aug. 1-Sept. 30 and Nov. 1 -Dec. 31.

Portion of **Unit 22B**, nonresident moose season was reduced from the Aug. 1-Jan. 31 dates to Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Nonresident moose season in the remainder of **Unit 22B** was reduced by changing the Aug. 1-Jan. 31 dates to Sept. 1-Sept. 30

**Units 22C**, created an antlerless registration hunt for residents Sept. 15-Sept. 30

**Unit 22D**, shortened nonresident season from Aug. 1-Jan. 31 to Sept. 1-Sept. 30.

**Unit 25D**, the Tier II permit hunt seasons were combined into one long season, Aug. 25-Feb. 28.

Portions of **Unit 25B and 25D**, established a new community harvest area and season.

Redefined a moose hunt area in a portion of **Unit 18**, to clarify the boundaries.

## MUSKOX

**Unit 23**, portion north and west of the Noatak River, created a new Tier II muskox hunt for bulls Aug. 1-Mar. 15

**Unit 26B**, the Tier II musk ox season west of the Dalton Highway, was extended by changing the opening date from Sept. 15 to Aug. 1

## WOLF

**Unit 19D**, increased bag limit from 5 per season to 10 per day.

## SMALL GAME

**Units 23 and 26** extended the season for ptarmigan from Aug. 10-Apr. 30 to Aug. 10- June 15 and increased the bag limit from 20 per day, 40 in possession to 50 per day, 100 in possession

A hunting season for beaver was established with no closed season and no bag limit in **Units 18 and 23**. In **Unit 21E**, the season is Nov. 1-June 10 with no bag limit.

## TRAPPING

**Units 18 and 23**, beaver season was extended to no closed season and no bag limit. Beaver sealing requirements were removed in **Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A**, and restrictions on use of firearms was removed in **Units 18 and 21E** to allow shooting of beavers under a trapping license throughout the open season.

**Units 12 and 20E** established a 5 lynx bag limit for the November season and extended the end of the season from Feb. 28 to Mar. 15.

**Units 19D**, extended the wolf season opening date to Oct. 1 instead of Nov. 1.

**Units 12 and 20E**, require trappers using a snare within ¼ mile of the road to either mark the snare with a tag containing the trapper's name and address or permanent ID, or post a sign with the information within 50 yards of the snare.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Expanded the Fairbanks Management Area

Expanded the Wood River Controlled Use Area by defining the western boundary as the Totatlanika River instead of the Tatlanika River.

Redefined the boundaries of the Kalskag Controlled Use Area to include Tucker's Slough.

Allow a snow machine to be used to take wolves in some areas where wolf control implementation plans have been approved The new regulation applies only to a limited area in Unit 19D East near McGrath, part of the Tanana Flats and foothills in Unit 20A, part of Unit 20D near Delta Junction, and part of the Nelchina Basin in Unit 13. The regulation does not apply to the Fortymile Non-lethal predation control area.

## HUNTER EDUCATION

Beginning August 1, 2002 hunters born after Jan. 1, 1986 that are required to have a hunting license and want to hunt in GMU's 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20 will be required to have successfully completed a certified hunter education course.

People younger than 16 who are not required to have a hunting license and have not successfully completed a certified hunter education course will be allowed to hunt in those areas under "the direct immediate supervision" of another person (16 or older) who has successfully completed the hunter education course.

A muzzleloader hunter was required to have successfully completed a department-approved hunter education course for muzzleloading weapons to hunt in a Unit 14C muzzleloader only hunt. That requirement has now been expanded statewide, so muzzleloader hunters in muzzleloader-only hunts must be certified.

Hunters wishing to apply for a drawing hunt that is restricted to bowhunters only must have successfully completed a department approved bowhunter education course prior to submitting a permit application. Previously the certification was required before hunting. Since the elk hunt in Unit 3 is a combined hunt composed of an archery hunt and a rifle season, this regulation will not apply to that hunt.

**Since these regulations do not become effective until July 1, this change will not be in effect this permit season, but will be implemented in 2001.**

## ARCHERY

Requirements for legal archery equipment and definitions of archery equipment were changed substantially

### **Legal equipment for big game in archery only hunts:**

- Bow with not less than:
  - 40 pounds peak draw weight when hunting black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep, and caribou;
  - 50 pounds peak draw weight when hunting mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox and bison;
- Arrow is tipped with a broadhead and is a minimum of 20 inches in overall length and is a minimum of 300 grains in total weight;
- Broadhead is:
  - A fixed, replaceable or mechanical/retractable blade type broadhead for the taking of black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep and caribou;
  - A fixed or replaceable blade type broadhead for the taking of mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox and bison; and
  - (iii) Not barbed

### **Added to the list of illegal equipment in archery only hunts for big game:**

- Any type of electronic device, or light attached to the bow, arrow, or broadhead, with the exception of a non-illuminating camera;
- Scopes or other devices attached to the bow or arrow for optical enhancement;

### **Added to the list of illegal equipment in archery-only hunts for any game:**

- Any bow designed to shoot more than one arrow at a time
- A crossbow

#### **New bow hunting definitions:**

- **"Bow"** means long bow, recurve bow, or compound bow, that is a device for launching an arrow which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs. The device must be hand-held and hand-drawn by a single and direct pulling action of the bowstring by the shooter with the shooter's fingers or a hand-held or wrist-attached release aid.
  - The energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from hydraulic, pneumatic, explosive or mechanical devices, but may be derived from the mechanical advantage provided by wheels or cams so long as the available energy is stored in the bent limbs of the bow.
  - No portion of the bow's riser (handle) or an attachment to the bow's riser may contact, support or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bowstring when strung and at rest.
- **"Bow"** does **not** include a crossbow or any device which has a gun-type stock or incorporates any mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power;
- **"Broadhead"** means an arrowhead with two or more sharp cutting edges having a minimum cutting diameter of not less than seven-eighths inch;
- **"Barbed"** means an arrowhead with any fixed portion of the rear edge of the arrowhead forming an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft when measured from the nock end of the arrow;
- **"Bow peak draw weight"** means the peak poundage at which the bow is drawn through or held at full draw by the shooter at the shooter's draw length;
- **"Mechanical or retractable broadhead"** means a broadhead with cutting edges that are retracted during flight and open upon impact to a minimum cutting diameter of not less than seven-eighths inch and does not lock open after impact to create fixed barbs;

## METHODS AND MEANS

Lawful methods and means to take game were clarified.

### Now explicitly prohibited are:

- Any substance that temporarily incapacitates wildlife, laser sights, cellular or satellite telephones, and expanding gas arrows.

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### Considered legal are:

- The use of **rangefinders** for all hunting and the **use of scent lures for ungulates** (moose, deer, caribou, elk, sheep and goats) **and black bears** is considered legal.
- The use of **artificial light** for taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 in Units 7 and 9-26 was added as a **legal** method.

## BEAR BAITING

**Since these regulations do not become effective until July 1, these changes will not be in effect this baiting season, but will be implemented in 2001.**

- The use of scent lures is allowed for baiting black bears.
- A person may not use bait within one-quarter mile of the Alaska Railroad
- No person may intentionally obstruct or hinder a bait station registrant's feasibility of taking game by using the station without the registrant's written permission. This was passed in an attempt to stop unauthorized use of a bait station.
- A new fall black bear baiting season was established in **Units 21D and 24** within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, from Sept. 1-Sept. 25.

## EVIDENCE OF SEX AND IDENTITY

Two separate sections of regulation, (5AAC 92.150(a) and (c) and 5 AAC 92.220(e) and (f)) dealt with salvage and transport of horns and edible meat with two seemingly different requirements. A strict interpretation of one seemed to indicate that a person must carry all of the meat and the horns in one load, or carry the horns on each of multiple trips. The other section of regulation made it clear that if all the meat and antlers/horns can be transported in one trip, fine. If multiple trips are required, the antlers/horns cannot come out until the last load of meat comes out.

**The intent of the regulation has now been clarified.**

### New language:

- Horns of a mountain sheep must be salvaged and may not be transported from the kill site until all edible meat salvaged in accordance with 5AAC 92.220(d) has been transported to the departure point from the field; however, horns may be transported simultaneously with final load of edible meat salvaged.

## New Language, Evidence of Sex and Identity (continued)

- If a big game bag limit includes an antler size or configuration restriction, antlers or horns may not be transported from the kill site until all edible meat salvaged in accordance with 5AAC 92.220(d) has been transported to the departure point from the field; however, antlers or horns may be transported simultaneously with final load of edible meat salvaged.

### NEW DEFINITIONS

- The definition of bait was modified to exclude scent lures, making it legal to use scent lures for hunting and trapping.
  - **"Bait"** means any material, excluding scent lures, that is placed to attract an animal by its sense of smell or taste;
  - **"Bait"** does **not** include those parts of legally taken animals that are not required to be salvaged as edible meat if the parts are not moved from the kill site;
- The definition of **brow tine** was once again modified, because the existing definition of "brow tine" is not adequate to protect some mid-size antlered bulls and prosecution of illegally taken bulls was difficult under the existing definition.
  - **"Brow tine"** means a tine emerging from the first branch or brow palm on the main beam of a moose antler and projecting forward. The brow palm is separated from the main palm by a wide bay. A tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine;
- **Beaver** was redefined as a fur animal to allow it to be taken with a hunting license, **but there must be a hunting season established first.**
- The definition of **salvage** was modified in an attempt to prevent waste and clarify that meat should be cared for to preserve edibility until removed from the field.
  - **"Salvage"** means to transport the edible meat, skull, or hide, as required by statute or regulation, of a game animal or wild fowl to the location where the edible meat will be consumed by humans or processed for human consumption so as to save or prevent the edible meat from waste, and the skull or hide will be put to human use;
- **"Antler"** means the annually cast and regenerated bony growth originating from the pedicle portion of the skull in members of the deer family;
- **"Antlerless"** means the absence of the annually cast and regenerated bony growth (antlers) originating from the pedicle portion of the skull in members of the deer family;