

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
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**SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSAL PACKET
TO THE SPRING 2001 BOARD OF GAME MEETING**

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

This proposal was incorrectly coded as 5 AAC 85.025 (caribou) in the original proposal packet. It is printed here with the correct administrative code.

PROPOSAL 51A - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Unit 17A as follows:

Unit 17A – Residents:	1 bull by registration permit	Aug. 25—Sept. 20
	1 antlered bull	Dec. 1—Dec. 31
Nonresidents:	No open season	

ISSUE: Allow for a resident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A in fall and winter that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers high density concentrations of moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The high concentration of moose – the bull:cow ratio of 105 bulls/100 cows will continue to create an imbalance in the herd and waste the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Reducing the bull numbers allows for the bull/cow ratio to be more inline with department guidelines – 30 bulls/100 cows.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – isn't working.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-067)

This proposal was incorrectly coded as 5 AAC 85.045 (moose) in the original proposal packet. It is printed here with the correct administrative code.

PROPOSAL 85A - 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BEAR and 5 AAC 92.530(5). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Create a spring and fall grizzly bear hunt in Unit 14C, Chugach State Park Management Area.

ISSUE: There are too many grizzly bears in Chugach State Park. This has been evidenced by the increasing numbers of grizzly encounters in and around Anchorage. There is a huntable population of grizzly bears in the park and hunters should be allowed to hunt them in the areas that are now already open to rifle hunting for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to see an increase in juvenile grizzlies in Anchorage. As more and more of these young ornery bears are pushed closer to people there will inevitably be confrontations that end in maulings and possibly death. There have been a lot of bears running around in close proximity to children in the past couple of years. Let's not wait until a child is hurt or carried off by a grizzly.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who would like to hunt grizzly bear in the Park. People in the Anchorage area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who would rather see free roaming bears in the streets of Anchorage than consider the safety of children. These people would actually benefit from the decrease in danger but they may not know enough about those big cute furry things to realize it. Juvenile grizzlies can be quite unpredictable at times and do not care if the person they are about to munch would like to be able to hunt them or would rather let them walk around protected in the streets of Anchorage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Let the Department of Fish and Game eliminate problem bears – Rejected because this is a waste of hunting resources and only addresses the problem after there has been an incident. (That first incident could be a fatal one)

Let ADF&G transplant the bears to remote locations -- Rejected because this is expensive and uses precious, dwindling ADF&G resources and we have plenty of bears all over the state, in some places too many. Where are we going to take them? And what do we do when they return on their own?

PROPOSED BY: Steve Kemper (HQ-01S-G-055)

This proposal was received prior to the December 8 deadline but was inadvertently left out of the BOG Spring 2001 Proposal Packet. It is printed in the Supplemental Proposal Book for public comment.

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Amend this regulation for deer in Unit 8 as follows:

Kodiak/Port Lions road system:	Aug. 1 – Oct. 31	1 buck
	Nov. 1 – Nov. 14	1 buck (primitive weapon only)
Remainder of Unit 8:	Aug. 1 – Nov. 30	3 deer (bucks only)
	Dec. 1 – Dec. 31	3 deer (only one of which may be antlerless)

ISSUE: Deer populations of Kodiak are recovering from a dramatic population decline that happened during the winter of 1998-1999. To aid in that recovery we would like to reduce the bag limit on most of Unit 8.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will take longer for the deer population to recover.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This change will improve the quality and quantity of the deer herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long run, everyone who uses the deer resource in Unit 8.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This proposal was generated from a study group of the Kodiak Advisory Committee, and it incorporates input and concerns from a variety of user groups and village representatives. Several ideas were presented, but this was considered to be the most effective and fair.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-128)

This proposal was received prior to the December 8 deadline but was inadvertently left out of the BOG Spring 2001 Proposal Packet. It is printed in the Supplemental Proposal Book for public comment.

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 85.035(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend this regulation for elk in Unit 8 as follows:

The state elk hunting season should not open on the Afognak and Ban Island portions of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge until October 5. All other areas on Afognak should continue to open on September 25. Concurrent with this proposal, we have submitted a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to delay the start of the federal subsistence hunt until September 25, and to align federal elk bag limits with the state regulations. If both of these proposals pass, a single registration permit could be valid for both hunts, and hunters that were not eligible to participate in the subsistence hunt would be informed of the later opening date on the northwest part of the island.

ISSUE: Federal subsistence regulations currently open the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge portion of northwest Afognak Island to elk hunting on September 1, three weeks earlier than the state seasons on the island. Although federal laws require a subsistence priority for elk on the refuge, starting the season early and during the rut jeopardizes the herd. It would be better to reduce the state season in the refuge area and align the opening dates for all of the elk seasons on Afognak. Disparate seasons and bag limits also necessitate separate state and federal registration permits for elk hunters. Aligning regulations would allow for a single permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current federal subsistence season opens three weeks earlier than elk seasons on other areas of Unit 8 and thereby encourages hunters to target the Waterfall Lake herd, increasing the possibility of hunters crowding, overharvest and wounding loss. This early opening also allows hunting during the rut when elk are more vulnerable and when temperatures are higher.

The Waterfall Lake herd includes about 100 elk, about half of which typically stay within refuge boundaries during the fall. During the early part of September, these elk usually occupy alpine or subalpine areas and are easily accessible by floatplane. Newly established roads along the periphery of the refuge also enhance hunter access. Each year there are about 500-600 elk hunters afield on Afognak, about half of which are residents of Unit 8. In 1998, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) closed the state hunt on the Waterfall herd by Emergency Order, six weeks before the scheduled end of the season due to high harvest. During the 2000 season ADF&G set the allowable harvest for the area at 8 elk (15 percent of the 50 elk

occupying the area). By aligning the opening dates s state and federal elk seasons, hunters will be less likely to target the Waterfall herd.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Meat quality will be enhanced by delaying the start of the federal subsistence hunt because of cooler temperatures in later September and because of delaying harvest until after the rut is finished.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most elk hunters will benefit from the simpler hunting regulations and the improved meat quality. The general public will benefit from the knowledge that the state and federal regulatory boards can work together to address subsistence needs while conserving the resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Since the creation of the federal subsistence elk seasons, no elk have been harvested under those regulations. This proposal and the companion proposal that is being submitted to the federal subsistence board, would liberalize the bag limits and the areas that could be hunted by subsistence users, aligning them with current state bag limits and areas, and would simplify hunt registration and reporting requirements. It would also continue to give subsistence users an advantage over other hunters by allowing them a 10 day advanced opening on Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge lands on Afognak and Ban Islands. Although hunters desiring to hunt during the rut could potentially suffer from passage of these proposals, to date no one has taken advantage of that opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Proposals to only the state or federal regulatory boards would have been a simpler solution, but would have been less effective and would not have had as great a benefit as a joint proposal. The danger in this tactic is if only one of the regulatory boards passes a proposal, thereby negating the mutual benefits to the different user groups.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-139)

This proposal was inadvertently left out of the original proposal packet. It is printed here for public comment.

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.

Shorten the nonresident moose hunting seasons in Units 13A, 13B, and 13E, and modify the antler restrictions for all of Game Management Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits:	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Units 13A, 13B, and 13E: 1 bull by Tier II permit only	Aug. 15—Aug. 31	
1 bull with [SPIKE-FORK] or 50-inch antlers or antlers with [3] 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	Sept. 1—Sept. 20[15]	Sept. 1—Sept. 10[15]

Units 13C and 13D:

1 bull by Tier II permit only

Aug. 15—Aug. 31

1 bull with [SPIKE-FORK] or 50-inch
antlers or antlers with [3] 4 or more
brow tines on at least one side

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

ISSUE: Shorten the nonresident moose season in Units 13A, 13B, and 13E, and modify antler restrictions for all of Game Management Unit 13 as follows:

Declining bull:cow ratios in Units 13A, 13B, and 13E have fallen well below the minimum objective of 25:100 and 18:100 depending on trend area and section surveyed, with a mean average of 17:100. Under the current harvest strategy of a 3 brow tine requirement, virtually all bulls between the ages of 3-5 years are eligible for harvest. A significant number of two-year bulls attain three brow tines in this region. The harvesting of these young age-class bulls has compromised the productivity of the moose herd and further reduced bull:cow ratios. By modifying the antler requirement to four brow tines and eliminating the spike-fork equation, a large portion of the young and middle-age bull population is protected from harvest. Over the long run, this will increase productivity and the ratio of bulls to cows and this in turn will increase the number of bulls for harvest. Greater hunter satisfaction will result over the long-term with an increase in available bulls for harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter success rates will continue to decline and the overall quality of the hunting experience will continue to deteriorate. The biological health of the Unit 13 moose population may be compromised as bull:cow ratios plummet to low levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters over the short-term with an increase in season length and over the long-term with an increase in bulls available for harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters in a portion of Unit 13.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No antler restrictions for resident hunters but reducing the harvest by shortening the season length.

PROPOSED BY: Robert P. Hardy

(SC-01S-G-054)

1 bull by Tier II permit only

Aug. 15—Aug. 31

1 bull with [SPIKE-FORK] or 50-inch antlers or antlers with [3] 4 or more brow tines on at least one side

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Sept. 1—Sept. 20

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