

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Central/Southwest Region Meeting
(Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17)
February 13-20, 2015
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn
Wasilla, Alaska

~TENTATIVE AGENDA~

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate.

Friday, February 13, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

- Call to Order
- Introductions of Board Members and Staff
- Board Member Ethics Disclosures
- Purpose of Meeting (overview)

AGENCY REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY (upon conclusion of staff reports)

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chairman to testify, are heard.

Saturday, February 14, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued
BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

Sunday, February 15 – Thursday, February 19, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

Friday, February 20, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Concludes

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business (Upon conclusion of deliberations)

ADJOURN

Special Notes

- A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the Board of Game website.
- B. Meeting materials are available at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- C. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- D. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than January 30, 2015 to make any necessary arrangements.

Central/Southwest Region

(Region IV)

Proposal Index

(Note: Please review the sections for “Regional and Multiple Units” and “Sheep Hunting Proposals” which also affect regulations for other units).

Arctic/Western Region - Reauthorization Proposals

- 39 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18.
- 40 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D.
- 41 Placeholder proposal for reauthorized antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.
- 42 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in western portion of Unit 26A.
- 43 Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

- 44 Remove the antler restriction for the resident winter moose season in Unit 9B.
- 45 Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 9B.
- 46 Extend the brown bear season in Unit 10, Unimak Island.

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

- 47 Extend the caribou season in Unit 17 to March 31, with options for early closures.
- 48 Extend the resident caribou season in Units 9B and 17B.
- 49 Extend the winter moose season by one month for Unit 17A, restrict the taking of males to antlered bulls, and reauthorize the antlerless hunt.
- 50 Change the locations for obtaining nonresident moose registration permits for hunting in Unit 17.
- 51 Extend the season dates for the winter moose in Units 17B and 17C with options for early closures.
- 52 Adjust the nonresident closed area in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 17A and extend the season

- 53 Allow the use of bait and lures along rivers for taking brown bear in Unit 17 and change the bag limit.
- 54 Allow the sale of brown bear hides and skulls in Unit 17 by resident hunters.
- 55 Remove the bag limit and salvage requirements for harvesting beaver with a firearm during the trapping season in Unit 17, and allow the harvest with bow and arrow.
- 56 Remove the bag limit and the requirement to salvage meat for human consumption for beaver taken with a firearm during trapping season in Unit 17.
- 57 Modify the trapping season dates and bag limit for beaver in Unit 17, and prohibit the taking of beaver with firearm.

Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13

- 58 Change the wolf population trigger for intensive management in Unit 13.
- 59 Reduce the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13B.
- 60 Reauthorize the antlerless moose drawing permit hunts in Unit 13.
- 61 Change the Unit 13D moose drawing hunts (DM335-DM339) to registration hunts.
- 62 Open a nonresident caribou drawing hunt in Unit 13.
- 63 Limit the drawing permits for Nelchina caribou (DC480-483) to two permits per household.
- 64 Divide the resident fall caribou hunt (RC566) into late and early seasons.
- 65 Bring the community subsistence hunt and general season hunts into closer alignment.
- 66 Require participants in the community subsistence harvest (CSH) program to commit to participation for a period of two years or more.
- 67 Limit the areas where community subsistence harvest hunters may hunt outside of Unit 11, 12 and 13.
- 68 Change the CSH group size definition to “25 or more households”.
- 69 Include “individuals, households, or families” in the moose subsistence hunt when the harvestable surplus exceeds the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and change the hunt start date to September 1 (from August 10).
- 70 Add definitions of “Community” and “Individuals, Families, or “Other Social Groups” to 5 AAC 92.072.
- 71 Implement a system to ensure communities or groups approved to participate in the moose and caribou CSH meet the intent of the Board of Game findings for the CSH program.
- 72 Follow same basic guidelines as old Tier II system (points to each community based on past use of resource).

- 73 Require hunters to be engaged in a pattern of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou for the Tier I hunt.
- 74 Require direct approval by the Board of Game of groups applying to join the Copper Basin Community Hunt.
- 75 Implement reporting and antler destruction requirements for community subsistence hunt harvested moose in the Unit 13 area hunt.
- 76 Require that antlers taken through the CSH hunt be turned in to ADF&G
- 77 Establish a quota for each subarea in Unit 13 for the "any bull" moose hunt.
- 78 Require more rapid harvest reporting of moose taken under the "any bull" hunt in Unit 13
- 79 Direct ADF&G to open and close the "any bull" moose season on certain days in Unit 13.
- 80 Modify the community subsistence moose hunt season dates and restrict all hunters from using motorized vehicles Units 13, 11, and portions of 12, during the periods August 18-22 and August 25-28.
- 81 Restrict community subsistence harvest hunters in Units 13, 11 and portions of Unit 12 from hunting within 24 hours of using off-road vehicles.
- 82 Manage the Unit 13 community subsistence harvest caribou hunt through the set season as long as the overall harvest quota is not exceeded.
- 83 Discontinue the community subsistence harvest (CSH) program when the harvestable surplus exceeds the minimum Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and replace it with a weighted drawing permit for Alaska residents only.
- 84 Change the "any bull" hunt in Unit 13 to a drawing hunt.
- 85 Modify the community subsistence harvest permit system.
- 86 Divide the annual harvest quota for Nelchina caribou.
- 87 Remove the exclusive hunting restriction for caribou in Unit 13
- 88 Change the method of determining the Amount Necessary for Subsistence in Unit 13.
- 89 Change the eligibility criteria for all Tier II subsistence hunts in Unit 13.
- 90 Change Unit 13D goat drawing hunt (DG720) to a registration hunt.
- 91 Add all of Unit 13D to mountain goat registration hunt RG580.
- 92 Lengthen the goat permit season in Unit 13D to align with the registration hunt.
- 93 Allow the taking of brown bear over bait in Unit 11 and 13.
- 94 Open a fall season for hunting brown and black bear over bait in Unit 13D.

95 Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan, shorten the season, and add a no-hunt corridor along the roads in Unit 13B.

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B & 16

- 96 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B
- 97 Establish a resident, late-season archery hunt for moose in Units 14A and 14B.
- 98 Open a late-season archery-only hunt for moose in Unit 16.
- 99 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.
- 100 Allow brown bear to be taken over bait in Unit 14B.
- 101 Review and modify the Unit 16 predation control plan.
- 102 Establish a fall season for hunting black and brown bear over bait in Unit 16
- 103 Establish the Hatcher’s Pass Youth Management Area in Unit 14A, for small game hunting.
- 104 Open a general hunt with no closed season and no bag limit for beaver in Unit 16B.
- 105 Expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

Sheep Hunting for the Central/Southwest and Interior Regions

- 106 Change the Dall sheep hunts in Units 13D and 14A to full curl rams with limited permits.
- 107 Change the bag limit for Dall sheep in Units 13D and 14A to full curl.
- 108 Reinstate language regarding proof of guide-client contract for Dall sheep, mountain goat and moose drawing hunts.
- 109 Allow a maximum of 10% of sheep hunt participation for nonresidents in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 110 Limit sheep harvest by nonresidents to 10% of total harvest in Units 11, 13, 14, and 16.
- 111 Change the nonresident general sheep hunts to draw hunts for the Interior region, and cap the number of permits based on sheep density.
- 112 Change the nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts and limit permit distribution to 10% of the annual ten-year average for the Interior Region.
- 113 Open a bowhunting-only season for Dall sheep in the Interior Region.
- 114 Change all nonresident general season Dall sheep hunts in Unit 20 with a 75% distribution of nonresident permits.

- 115 Create a youth Dall sheep hunt in Unit 20 Remainder.
- 116 Limit nonresident sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region by having shorter seasons, drawing permits, or other methods.
- 117 Limit allocation of nonresident sheep permits to 10% for the Central/Southwest Region Units.
- 118 Begin resident sheep hunting seven days earlier than nonresidents in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16.
- 119 Establish earlier season date openings for resident sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 120 Open a nine day, resident archery season in August for Dall sheep in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 121 Modify the season dates for Dall sheep in the Interior Region.
- 122 Open resident sheep hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region.
- 123 Open resident sheep hunting seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region.
- 124 Open resident sheep seasons one week prior to nonresidents in Units 25 and 26.

Regional and Multiple Units

- 125 Open a seven day moose season for bowhunting following the general season hunts in Units 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17.
- 126 Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region.
- 127 Remove the meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 128 Remove meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 129 Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 130 Allow same-day airborne hunting of wolves and coyotes.
- 131 Lower the bag limit for goldeneye for the Central/Southwest Region.
- 132 Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Central/Southwest Region Units.

- 133 Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Central/Southwest Region Units.
- 134 Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in the Central/Southwest Region.
- 135 Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents for the Central/Southwest Region.
- 136 Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Central/Southwest Region Units
- 137 Allocate 10% sheep harvest for nonresidents in Central/Southwest Region Units

Interior Region - Reauthorization Proposals

- 138 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 20A, 20B, and 20D.
- 139 Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.

Arctic/Western Region – Reauthorization Proposals

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

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

(16)

...

Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose; of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1 - Sept. 30
---	-------------------

2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30.
------------------------	-------------------

2 moose	Dec. 1 – Mar. 15
---------	------------------

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
-----------------	--------------------

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue, effective in RY2014.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit

18. Based on the steady g trend of growth in moose populations and productivity, ADF&G proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the hunt areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 12,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 37:100 to 69:100, and twinning rates close to 50% for all areas. Population growth has been very strong in this colonizing and expanding population and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow as animals move into under-utilized habitat.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past 3 years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-344)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
Unit 22(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Sept. 1-Sept. 14	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; or	Sept. 15-Sept. 30	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 (to be announced)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow		Sept. 1-Sept. 14

tines on one side by registration permit only

...

Remainder of Unit 22(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Dec. 1—Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; only antlered moose may be taken from Jan. 1—Jan. 31	Aug. 10 - Sept. 14 Oct. 1 - Jan. 31
---	--

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only.	Sept. 1 - Sept. 14
--	--------------------

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Two areas in Unit 22 require reauthorization: Unit 22C, and the Remainder of Unit 22D.

In October 1999, the board authorized a registration hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 22C and ADF&G has managed this hunt with a quota of up to 33 permits annually. During the period from Regulatory Year (RY) 2001 through RY2012, the Unit 22C population was above its management objective of 450-525 moose and believed to be at or near winter range carrying capacity with populations of 620 and 660 moose, respectively in RY2007 and RY2011. Lowering the population through additional bull harvest was ill-advised due to low bull:cow ratios, ranging from 10-20 bulls:100 cows. Instead, issuing antlerless permits was used to yield harvests of 8-24 antlerless moose per year over the period since RY2001 to achieve population reduction and stabilization. This approach successfully reduced the population to the current estimate of 429 moose in February 2013. Although ADF&G has the latitude of issuing antlerless permits, no permits are planned to be issued in RY2014 because the population has been lowered to management guidelines. We will consider antlerless hunts when factors suggest the population is increasing above carrying capacity. Retaining the antlerless authorization gives flexibility to ADF&G in future hunt management.

In most other parts of Unit 22, low recruitment rates are believed to be causing low moose populations and declines. However, in the Remainder of Unit 22D we recommend continued authorization of antlerless moose hunting where moose populations are increasing and hunting

pressure is low. This portion of Unit 22D is relatively remote with difficult access and these factors contribute to limited hunting pressure in the area.

In the Remainder of Unit 22D, the moose population has grown 1% annually during the period 1997-2011 and the estimated number of moose has increased from 578 in 1997 to 700 in 2011. This area typically shows higher calf:cow and calf:adult ratios than other parts of Unit 22, annually ranging from 14-35ca:100ad with an average of 23ca:100ad since 1988. The reported cow harvest in this area has been low, averaging 1 cow moose per year since 2000. Village harvest survey data (collected only in 2000-2001) shows 5 cow moose were harvested from Unit 22D Remainder, which is a more realistic estimate of annual cow harvest compared to harvest ticket reports. Low harvest rates of antlerless moose support our recommendation to reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 22D.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-346)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Placeholder proposal for reauthorizing antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

At this time, analysis of March/April 2014 population surveys in Unit 23 has not been completed. If recommended, an amended proposal will be provided with department analysis and recommendations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. This proposal serves as a placeholder for antlerless hunts in Unit 23 and will be amended through the analysis and recommendations submitted by ADF&G prior to the public comment period. As described below, recent population data needs to be analyzed to determine the potential impact on antlerless moose hunts in Unit 23, and whether that opportunity should be retained.

In general, moose density has been low in large portions of Unit 23 for an extended period and this situation prompted the development and use of registration hunt RM880 for resident hunters, beginning in Regulatory Year (RY) 2004. The resident registration hunt was implemented as a way to retain antlerless opportunity through substantially shortened seasons limiting antlerless harvest to the months of November and December. The seasons and bag limits in Unit 23 have not changed since RY2004 and the reported harvest of antlerless moose has been low throughout this period.

Analysis of moose abundance surveys on the Kobuk River has not been possible due to conclusion of the surveys in April 2014. When population assessments are completed this proposal will be updated with antlerless season recommendations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-347)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in western portion of Unit 26A as follows:

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

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose season in the portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W longitude and excluding the Colville drainage must be reauthorized annually. All other portions of Unit 26A with previous antlerless seasons are not recommended for reauthorization because a population survey in April 2014 shows numbers have been reduced approximately 50% since the last count in 2011.

The western portion of Unit 26A north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique in relation to the presence of moose and the unit-wide population. The distribution in this area is very sparse due to minimal habitat in the coastal plain to attract moose. However, each year a small number of bulls and cows without calves arrive in this area as they disperse away from the major river drainages in the central and southern parts of the unit. So far, the marginal habitat in this portion of Unit 26A has not allowed moose to colonize or become established in this area. The only moose found in this area appear to have originated from distant locations as they exhibit seasonal movements. The low numbers of moose that disperse to this hunt area provide the only opportunities for harvest in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A.

Even though the Unit 26A moose population is currently low and has experienced a substantial decline since 2011, the number of dispersing cow moose that could be harvested under the proposed antlerless reauthorization is very small and will have very little impact on the size and status of the Unit 26A population. To date, after several years of hunting opportunity in this area, two antlerless moose have been harvested: one cow in 2006, and one in 2008. Due to low harvest rates, we recommend reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area.

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

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

- ...
- (4) Units... 26;
- ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23;
- ...
- (13) Unit 18;
- ...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18;
- ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23;
- ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

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

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

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding 10-year period. In Unit 22, the 13-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41-63 bears). In Unit 23, general harvests have been increasing slowly since 1961 primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although

harvests are annually quite variable due to effects of weather on hunting conditions. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3) salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A, 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by ADF&G at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G for subsistence hunts.

In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, we estimate 1-3 bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than 1 bear per year (less than 1 % of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10 % of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between 1 and 5 bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-350)

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Remove the antler restriction for the resident winter moose season in Unit 9B as follows:

During the December 15 - January 15 moose hunt, eliminate the antlered regulation. The regulation would read: "1 bull, December 15 - January 15."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It has been more difficult to harvest a bull moose in the winter season. This was changed a few years ago from one bull to one antlered bull. Change moose season in Unit 9B back to one bull moose during winter season from one antlered moose, December 15-January 15.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-198)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 9B as follows:

Change the brown bear season in Unit 9B from one bear every four years to one bear every year, with the season open every spring and fall.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 9B will continue to have an excess of brown bears and a declining moose population. Villages and moose calves are likely to suffer.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-199)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Extend the brown bear season in Unit 10, Unimak Island as follows:

Brown/grizzly bear - Unit 10, Unimak Island: May 10-31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the spring brown bear season in Unit 10 from May 25 to May 31 to coincide with Unit 9. The same circumstances exist for lengthening the season in Unit 10 as was addressed when the Unit 9 spring season was lengthened. In addition, the permit allocation on Unimak Island has been increased from seven to 12 permits for the spring season, thus creating a potential crowding of hunters due to the limited amount of optimum spring hunting locations on Unimak Island. Lengthening the season would spread hunters over a longer season, thus helping to minimize the overcrowding potential.

PROPOSED BY: Rod Schuh (EG-C14-27)

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 47- 5 AAC 85.025(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Extend the caribou season in Unit 17 to March 31, with options for early closures as follows:

Broaden the "book season dates" to have the official book closure March 31, with the permit language stating that in most seasons ADF&G will close the season on March 15. In the event of extremely low harvests, poor weather and hunting conditions and unavailability of animals (*or other circumstances to be listed*), ADF&G will be allowed to extend the season by Emergency Order (EO) to as late as March 31. Duration of the extension to be determined by ADF&G in consultation with the Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee and other stakeholders, and may be less than the remaining 31 days.

This season would be established for the Alaska resident only registration hunt RC503 for the range of the Mulchatna caribou herd. This may require an Agenda Change Request for the other units where the Mulchatna herd resides (Units 9, 18, 19).

The August 1 opening date is to remain.

Since this is a registration hunt, ADF&G should have better in-season harvest information than before, on which to base their decision.

Adoption of this regulation is expected to reduce or eliminate the constant stream of season extension petitions to the Board of Game that has occurred during the past ten years or more.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Some years the caribou season in Units 17B and portions of 17A and 17C closes too early. Nushagak area hunters want the option of having the season extended to the end of March under certain conditions. Some years poor weather and terrible travel conditions prevent hunters from using the full August 1 to March 15 season; and sometimes caribou are only available in the last few days of March. For many years now, members of Nushagak River villages have requested ADF&G to extend the caribou season by emergency order from March 15 to March 30. They have been denied every year in part because ADF&G does not have the EO authority to extend beyond the season date established by the board. March caribou harvests are a highly valued food source for Nushagak area villages. Refer to hunting regulations (2013-2014) public summary book, page 89.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-218)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Extend the resident caribou season in Units 9B and 17B as follows:

Open caribou hunting in Units 9B and 17B through March 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With caribou migrating out of the area and the bag limit at two caribou, when caribou migrate down, we need more opportunity to harvest. Quality would improve because it would increase opportunity. Residents would benefit.

PROPOSED BY: Igiugig Village Council (EG-C14-197)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the winter moose season by one month for Unit 17A, restrict the taking of males to antlered bulls, and reauthorize the antlerless hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(15)		
Unit 17(A)		
Up to 2 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25-Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)	
<u>1 antlered bull by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 –Feb. 28 a season up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order; or</u>	<u>Winter Season to be Announced by Emergency Order (Subsistence hunt only)</u>	
<u>1 antlerless moose by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 –Feb. 28 a season up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order;</u>	<u>Winter Season to be Announced by Emergency Order (Subsistence hunt only)</u>	
[UP TO 2 MOOSE BY REGISTRATION PERMIT; DURING THE PERIOD DEC. 1–JAN.31, A SEASON UP TO 31 DAYS MAY BE	DEC. 1–JAN 31 SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY (TO BE ANNOUNCED	

ANNOUNCED
BY EMERGENCY ORDER;]

....

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal recommends two changes to the present season and bag limit for the winter moose hunt in Unit 17A. The first change is to extend the winter season by one month to provide hunters with more opportunity to harvest moose. In recent years, marginal snow conditions due to warm weather patterns have prevented hunters from accessing hunt areas with snow machines which is the main form of travel during the winter in this region. Extending the season through February will help hunters by giving managers an additional month within which to open the moose season during those years where snow conditions are not adequate for travel until late winter.

The second change we recommend is revising the hunt structure for the winter moose hunt in Unit 17A. The current bag limit for this winter hunt is stated as up to two moose by registration permit. We manage this hunt with two permits, RM575 for one bull moose, and RM576 for one antlerless moose. When these hunts are running concurrently hunters will often have both permits, and can harvest either a cow or a bull legally. However, when/if the antlerless season closes (only 10-20 moose are allowed under the RM576 hunt), hunters are limited to a bull moose and may take one without antlers. We would like to see the late season bull moose hunt changed to “one antlered bull” for several reasons, 1) by allowing the harvest of antlerless bulls, hunters might accidentally take a cow moose through mis-identification which is problematic for the hunter; and increases the harvest of cow moose above our objectives, 2) identifying an antlerless bull can be difficult and may require hunters to approach groups of moose closely, which disturbs moose that are often already stressed during the winter, and 3) we have not been able to acquire bull:100 cow ratios in this area and an “any bull” hunt exposes all bulls to harvest, while an “antlered bull” season would protect a portion of the bull population from harvest, while still providing opportunity for hunters to take bulls that retain their antlers later into the season. We therefore recommend that we retain the two permit system with suggested changes to RM575 but provide the bag limit of two moose through two separate hunts, RM575 for “one antlered bull” and RM576 for “one antlerless moose”.

This proposal also reauthorizes the antlerless portion of the hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-333)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the locations for obtaining nonresident moose registration permits for hunting in Unit 17 as follows:

For the nonresident registration moose permit for Unit 17, hunters can obtain the permits in the following places, Dillingham, Iliamna, King Salmon. Hunters can pick up the permits from September 1 to September 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to change the locations that the nonresident moose hunt registration permits can be picked up. I

would like to see this changed to where they are available in Illiamna, Port Alsworth, and the Villages of Unit 17. I would like this changed because hunters are having to fly all the way to Dillingham to get the permits when a lot of the unit is closer to Illiamna than Port Alsworth.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Byrd (EG-C14-263)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 85.045 (15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the season dates for the winter moose in Units 17B and 17C with options for early closures as follows:

Change the season dates for (RM585) winter moose hunt in Unit 17.

We request the board to broaden the "official book season dates" to start December 1 and run to January 31. On the registration permit, the normal moose season would open December 1 and close December 31; however the ADF&G is authorized to extend the season closure by Emergency Order (EO) to as late as January 31 under certain "special conditions". Extension duration shall be determined by ADF&G in consultation with Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee and other stakeholders. Criteria for special conditions must be specified to include: a) unusual extreme weather preventing travel and hunting activities; b) extremely low harvest rates in spite of sufficient moose abundance; c) sufficient harvest reporting (other criteria may be needed). The decision to extend the season will require good communications among area users, the Advisory Committee and ADF&G staff. The Advisory Committee recognizes that conditions may vary widely across the area of this hunt.

This season would be established for the Alaska residents only, registration moose hunt RM585.

Adopting this regulation is expected to reduce or eliminate the constant stream of season extension petitions to the Board of Game that has occurred during the past eight to ten years.

Since this is a registration hunt, ADF&G should be able to obtain good in-season harvest information on which to base their decisions. Prompt harvest reporting may have to be required.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting regulations (2013-2014) public summary book page 90. Units 17B and 17C resident winter moose RM585. More and more often the winter moose hunt in Units 17B and 17C is plagued by weather conditions that make moose hunting impossible for several weeks. Nushagak area hunters want ADF&G to have the option of extending the season to compensate for bad weather and travel conditions and to improve harvest opportunity. Recently the board adopted an adjustable season for the winter moose hunt in Unit 17A. The Nushagak Advisory Committee would like a similar system adopted for Units 17B and 17C. Currently EO policy prevents the ADF&G from being more flexible. The winter of 2013/14 was a prime example of poor hunting conditions for an extended period of time and success rate was extremely low.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-221)

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Adjust the nonresident closed area in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 17A and extend the season as follows:

5 AAC 85.045 (15) Unit 17A: Up to two moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit August 25-September 20 only; or (Subsistence hunt only) Up to two moose by registration permit December 1-January 31; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) December 1-January 31, a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side September 5 - September [15] **20**, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued.

Nonresident hunters may not hunt moose within two miles on either side of the main-stem of the Togiak River, Togiak Lake, the Isavenik River and Upper Togiak Lake

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose populations in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge have been increasing and resident hunting seasons and bag limits are the most liberal in Alaska. There are many remote areas of the Togiak Refuge that are used very little, if at all by local residents. After a discussion with the Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee Chair, Togiak Refuge staff and ADF&G local staff in 2013, there was an agreement reached to open Unit 17A to nonresident moose hunting under a drawing permit with a closed area that included two miles on either side of the mainstem of the Togiak River and Lakes as well as the Isavenik River.

This agreement was in place when I left the meeting and I thought was passed by the board. When the drawing came out I noticed that the closed area included all tributaries of the Togiak River.

I assume this extra expansion of the closed area was done by local staff because it is not specified in codified. I would like to have it specified in the codified language so there is no further conflict on the issue.

The original agreement was made to eliminate conflicts with resident hunters that regularly use the Togiak River, Togiak Lake, and occasionally use the Isavenik and Upper Togiak Lake for moose hunting. The smaller tributaries are seldom used by Togiak residents because they are very small streams that are only passable with power boats at very high water levels.

This closed area effectively eliminates all float hunts in the area and virtually all nonresident moose hunting because most of the lakes that are large enough to land on are included in these drainages. There is very little wheel plane access in the area and what does exist is on the river within the closed area.

This is an unreasonable approach to manage the fastest growing, most dynamic moose herd in Alaska. Anywhere else in the state with this type of moose population the season would be open and long without any restrictions other than bag limit.

During the last two board cycles it was explained that even though the moose population has exploded in this area, nonresidents will be virtually excluded until moose in the area exceed their carrying capacity, which they are theoretically quickly approaching. I suspect this situation is no different. The season has been liberalized to include any-bull hunts, two moose bag limits, winter hunts, and cow hunts in past years, all methods to slow the growth of a herd.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-C14-190)

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the use of bait and lures along rivers for taking brown bear in Unit 17 and change the bag limit as follows:

I propose that the board allow us in Unit 17 to bait and use lures and to move naturally dead carcasses down river to the next available inlet or to secondary creeks getting them out of the main river. This would result in a higher percentage of hunters taking a mature boar as most of the bears that are on the system during this time of the year are mature bears. The sows along with their cubs stay out on the outer fringes of the system as they know that the big boars are hunting along the banks after coming out of hibernation. If a smaller boar gets to the carcass first one only has to wait 24 hours and a larger boar will claim it from that bear resulting in the taking of a mature bear. I propose that when the carcass has been placed in a more effective area that we post the site with a site number along with the coordinates to our local ADF&G office.

Baiting and using lure is not in any way a sure thing, in fact it is kind of a long shot in getting a bear, however it would give us another tool to use that may help. The utilization of winter moose kills is a very effective way to remove mature boars. I can only see positive things for a program like this and don't see any problems that it would cause, and it would affect no one negatively. I would also propose that we do away with the two bear regulation as it only hurts the overall health of the bear population and does nothing to treat the real problem.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear - two bear issue. For years ADF&G along with guides and hunters have been trying to figure out a way to manage the brown bear numbers along the Nushagak River and all its tributaries including the Mulchatna River. The bears that live along these rivers are more of a forest dwelling bear, catching a glimpse of them is usually the only sign you see of them. The "common" way to hunt bears is spotting them from a distance then plan a stalk after glassing miles of country. However, here on the river system the bears rely heavily on their trails that go throughout the forest system rarely coming out along the banks. This obviously poses a problem for effectively managing their numbers and removing the older more mature boars. Increasing the number of bears one can shoot along with longer hunting season's doesn't change the way that one hunts them, that problem stays the same. Increasing the number of bears a hunter can shoot results in clients and other hunters shooting smaller bears and does very little in taking the older more mature boars

that have lived on the river for at least ten years and know how to effectively kill adult moose and have honed their skills in catching moose calves during the calving season. The techniques are quite different. One effective way to remove the older boars from this area is to be able to utilize the winter kill moose carcasses that get washed down the system during the spring floods

The method and means is the same for a forest dwelling bear as a bear on Kodiak or the Peninsula that carcasses get deposited on sand bars out in the middle of the river. I have watched carcasses stay for weeks on an island with no bears finding them; eventually only the birds clean up the animal.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Mogen (EG-C14-247)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Allow the sale of brown bear hides and skulls in Unit 17 by resident hunters as follows:

Allow resident hunters to sell the hides with claws and/or skulls of legally taken brown bears harvested in Unit 17.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Refer to hunting regulations (2013- 2014) public summary book page 17. Use of game: Buying and selling of brown bear parts.

The abundant population of brown bears in Unit 17 needs reduction to reduce predation on moose and caribou and reduce bear hazards around area communities. The current two per year bag limit is generous but individuals are limited in their ability to use brown bear hides and skulls. We need economic incentives to encourage the harvest of more brown bears. It has been too difficult to get brown bears included in local predator control programs and this might be a helpful alternative.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-219)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits, and 92.095(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Remove the bag limit and modify the salvage requirements for harvesting beaver with a firearm during the trapping season in Unit 17, and allow the harvest with bow and arrow as follows:

In Unit 17 under beaver trapping regulations, allow the use of firearms or bow and arrow for beaver trapping October 10 to May 31 with no daily or seasonal limit. No requirement to salvage meat for human consumption. Meat or hide must be salvaged for use.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Trapping regulations (2013-2014), public summary book page 31, Beaver trapping. Nushagak area trappers want to be able to use firearms or bow and arrow to take beaver the whole trapping season from October 10 to May 31 with no daily or season limit. Requiring salvage of meat for human consumption when

firearms are used is too burdensome especially if firearms are allowed all season. Meat should be allowed to be used for trap bait and other nonhuman uses as well. With more and more of the season having open water, and fewer and fewer active beaver trappers, the remaining trappers should be allowed to use firearms all season.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-220)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). Trapping seasons and bag limits, and 92.095(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Remove the bag limit and the requirement to salvage meat for human consumption for beaver taken with a firearm during trapping season in Unit 17 as follows:

It is against the law to take beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare except: **In Unit 17, a firearm may be used to take beaver during the established season and with no bag limits.** [IN UNIT 17, A FIREARM MAYBE USED TO TAKE 2 BEAVER PER DAY PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the use of a firearm to take beaver throughout the trapping season. Currently we can take two beaver per day with a firearm for a small portion of the season and I would like this changed to an unlimited amount of beaver a day through the entire season. This would allow for the harvest of beaver that are digging out of their houses mid-winter due to starving and would not require us to consume them if they are taken by a firearm vs. trapping. It would also clear up a somewhat conflicting regulation where I can trap as many beaver as I want in a day but can only harvest two with a firearm and must consume the two I shoot. This seems to currently be almost unenforceable as I do not see how it can be certain that a shot beaver is eventually consumed or if it is disposed of in some other manner. This would also allow us to harvest beaver with a firearm that we see while trapping in the fall.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Fritze (EG-C14-217)

PROPOSAL 57 -5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits, and 92.095(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Modify the trapping season dates and bag limit for beaver in Unit 17, and prohibit the taking of beaver with firearm as follows:

The solution I recommend is to go back to the seasons start and bag limit as it was in past years season would open November 10 (as all other furbearers start date is in Unit 17) close March 31 with a bag limit of 40 beavers and prohibit the taking of beaver with the use of a fire arm.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to have the board address the over harvesting of beaver in unit 17C, the lower part of the Nushagak River. Due to the current regulations the beaver population on the lower part of the Nushagak have fallen to almost nothing, one is hard pressed to find a beaver house anywhere a boat can go.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Carr

(EG-C14-20)

Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 92.110. Control of predation by wolves. Change the wolf population trigger for intensive management in Unit 13 as follows:

The present wolf population Intensive Management (IM) trigger should be closer to the mid-point of the population range. The wolf population count that triggers IM shut-off should be confined to the IM area, not unit-wide. Wolves counted in Unit 13D rarely, if ever, range into the IM area.

Our committee favors a "pulse management" protocol that would control the predator population closer to the mid-point of their population range rather than at the low end of it. The population number of 135 wolves is acceptable to us as long as the count was contained within the IM boundaries. Wolf population is not a stand-alone item. Predator populations must be tied to the health of their prey species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The IM program for Unit 13. This program needs a reliable base based on the best data available. Low wolf numbers in Unit 13 are not necessarily a positive. Our advisory committee feels that a certain number of predators are necessary for the health of the ecosystem. Increasing coyote numbers and ravens abandoning traditional habitat are two of the more obvious indicators that something may be amiss. While neither of these two things may be cause for alarm in themselves they are a sign that something has changed the local balance. The current IM triggers at the extreme high end of the moose population or the very low end of the wolf population. The present wolf population in the central portion of Unit 13 is extremely low.

We feel that a few more predators are necessary to keep the health of the moose population. This IM proposal is tied to the overall population objective of the moose population, especially in Unit 13B. An indicator of moose population health is the recent drop in twinning rates to under the 20% threshold.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-202)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Reduce the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13B as follows:

Our advisory committee recommends a population objective of 4000-5000 moose (presently 5000-6300) for Unit 13B. Our harvest objective, (once in that range) would be 240-280 (presently 310-620).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 13B has a population estimate of 1.7 moose per square mile. That number is too high to support over the long term. The deep snow of 2012-13 and the badly crusted conditions of 2013-14 have strained carrying capacities of winter browse in many areas. An indication of moose population near its peak is

twinning rates below 20%. Unit 13B is there now. Our committee has been aware of this issue for several years and has suggested solutions. We are now at a critical point. We believe that current ongoing habitat studies by ADF&G will bear out our observations. The potential for a population crash is very real (as in 1970-71 and 1971-72).

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-203)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 84.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose drawing permit hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

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

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. This regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. Ten permits were issued for a western portion of Unit 13A, and four cow moose were harvested. In regulatory year 2013, ten permits will be issued for the same area with an October and March season based on new season dates adopted by the board in February 2013.

Moose in Unit 13 have generally increased at a rate of 3-5% per year in the intensive wolf management area during the past ten years. The population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500 – 4,200; the population estimate was 3,530 moose in 2009, 3,490 in 2010, and 3,890 in 2011. These numbers are based on conservative extrapolation of count area data and estimates of sightability.

The number of cows in western Unit 13A is expected to continue increasing given reduced predation. To maintain a healthy density and balance of moose in this area, a limited antlerless harvest opportunity in western Unit 13A may be necessary to slow the growth of this population as it approaches a level that will be sustainable in the long-term. Providing an antlerless hunt opportunity will maximize the annual sustained yield.

Based on this analysis, we intend to continue offering a limited antlerless hunt in portions of Unit 13A. No additional antlerless opportunities in other portions of Unit 13 are recommended at this time.

If this antlerless moose hunting opportunity is not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, Advisory Committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-337)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the Unit 13D moose drawing hunts (DM335-DM339) to registration hunts as follows:

Propose to have drawing permits DM335-DM339 reallocated to registration permits.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The participation and harvest in moose drawing hunts DM335-DM339 have been very low since these areas have been put on a drawing permit.

PROPOSED BY: Clint Mayeur (EG-C14-225)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident caribou drawing hunt in Unit 13 as follows:

The new regulation would say that in Unit 13, 100 (or whatever management number works best) caribou tags will be allowed by drawing only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With the additional tags and the strength of the Nelchina caribou herd, it would be beneficial to add nonresident caribou drawing tags for Unit 13. It is doubtful that the current system will harvest enough caribou to meet their management goal. Allowing even 100 nonresident Unit 13 caribou tags would not adversely affect the herd, but would be a huge boost to local services providers in the unit. Additional revenue from people applying for tags and additional opportunities for guides would be made. If nothing is done, nonresidents will continue to be locked out of hunting Nelchina caribou. It will improve herd quality by managing the herd to its management goals. The only

suffering will be by the 100 nonresident tags that won't go to a resident. I doubt we are seeing a 60% hunt rate by folks who draw the caribou tags anyhow.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy (EG-C14-250)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Limit the drawing permits for caribou (DC480-483) to two permits per household as follows:

Recommend drawing permits for Nelchina caribou be limited to two permits per household (DC 480-DC483).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is a limited resource with other resources available; limiting the number of permits to two per household will provide increased opportunity for hunting as there will be more permits available. Some households will continue to receive multiple permits and fewer permits will be available for other hunters desiring an opportunity to hunt. More hunters will have an opportunity to provide meat for their families.

In an effort to be fair and increase opportunity I considered one permit per household. In reviewing permits awarded it appears that some households have received as many as five permits and I believe this is excessive since the resource is so limited and there are other species available to hunt. I settled on two as a fair number per household.

PROPOSED BY: David Luke (EG083112723)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Divide the resident fall caribou hunt (RC566) into late and early seasons as follows:

Split the existing RC566 fall hunt (August 10-September 20) into early and late seasons (August 10-31 and September 1-20) and divide the harvest quota evenly between these two fall seasons. If the harvest quota is not met during either fall season, the winter season (October 21-March 31) will be open to all RC566 applicants until the quota is filled. Making hunters choose between an early or late fall season during the application period will spread the harvest out in time and space and alleviate a mad dash concentration of hunters in August at higher elevations and provide equal opportunity to those who can only hunt in September or at lower elevations.

One caribou by permit per household RC566 August 10-August 31
available only by application. October 21-March 31

or

One caribou by permit per household RC567 September 1-September 20
available only by application. October 21-March 31

or

One caribou by permit per household CC001 Aug 10-Sep 20

available only by application. October 21-March 31

or

One caribou by permit DC480-483 August 10-September 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The bulk of the Unit 13 caribou herd is at higher elevations in the early season and usually does not migrate to lower elevations until September. When the Unit 13 caribou harvest quota is low (<2,000), the fall hunts (RC566, CC001, and DC480-483) are likely to close early, favoring early season hunters and those who can access higher elevations. During recent years, hunting Unit 13 caribou during September has not been a problem because the quotas were relatively large, but now that RC566 has become a popular hunt, there is more hunting pressure in the early season, and thus more potential to close early and deny those that can only hunt in September or at lower elevations the opportunity to hunt. Considering that RC566 applicants are not allowed to hunt in other units, this bias toward early season and high elevation hunters seems unnecessary and unfair.

PROPOSED BY: George Esslinger

(EG-C14-304)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Bring the community subsistence harvest (CSH) season and general season hunts into closer alignment as follows:

Bring the community subsistence harvest season and general hunt seasons into closer alignment, provided that there is still some extended season for the community subsistence hunt as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? CSH participation in the moose hunt increased dramatically from one group (246 households) in 2009 to 45 groups (995 households) in 2013, with a slight decline to 43 groups (910 households) in 2014. This increase in participation in the CSH has caused concerns that the original intent of the CSH program is not being met. Approximately one-third of the CSH participants hunt moose each year (841 CSH hunters in 2013) and compete for the limited “any bull” quota. The increasing number of CSH hunters has resulted in conflicts within the program, as the more hunters participate, the less chance each hunter has to take one of the 100 “any bulls” in the quota. Reducing the early start for the CSH hunt would be expected to reduce the impacts that have been experienced due to increasing participation in the CSH.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is

available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of the April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 5 (one member absent)

(NOTE: The committee initially considered a version of this proposal that would have set both seasons and bag limits for the community subsistence hunt for moose to match the general hunt. During consideration by the committee, the proposal was substantially amended to eliminate the words “and bag limits”, resulting in no change to the “any bull” provision of the current CSH program regulations. It was also amended to acknowledge that the board may want to bring the CSH and general hunt seasons into closer alignment, but recommends that there continue to be some extended CSH season.)

Key Points in Discussion:

In Support

- The intent of this recommendation is to acknowledge that the Board of Game may wish to shorten the extended Copper Basin CSH season to reduce the attraction to the CSH hunt and to address equity concerns expressed by other hunters. However, if the seasons are brought into closer alignment, the majority of the Committee recommends that the board provide some extended season for the CSH, to meet the intent to provide meat for communities’ subsistence needs.
- One Committee member preferred staggered hunt starts, rather than having multiple types of hunts start on the same day.

In Opposition

- Setting the CSH hunt start date to match the general hunt season start would make access to the resource more equitable and would also reduce the attraction of participants to the CSH.
- Prefer CSH season start to match general hunt season (September 1) to avoid potential for meat waste during warmer weather.
- One member expressed concern that the early start and ability to harvest “any bull” seems to have caused reduction in bulls in Unit 13, per his observations during the season. (In response, the department indicated that if the bull:cow ratio was at risk due to the “any bull” hunt, it would bring a proposal to the board to change it.)

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-274)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Require participants in the community subsistence harvest (CSH) program to commit to participation for a period of two years or more as follows:

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

...

(c) (1) (F) in the community harvest hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), participants in the community harvest permit must commit to participation for a period of two years or more.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? CSH participation in the moose hunt increased dramatically from one group (246 households) in 2009 to 45 groups (995 households) in 2013, with a slight decline to 43 groups (910 households) in 2014. This increase in participation in the CSH has caused concerns that the original intent of the CSH program is not being met. Approximately one-third of the CSH participants hunt moose each year (841 CSH hunters in 2013) and compete for the limited “any bull” quota. The increasing number of CSH hunters has resulted in conflicts within the program, as the more hunters participate, the less chance each hunter has to take one of the 100 “any bulls” in the quota.

Requiring participants to commit to the terms of the CSH for two or more years, including the regulatory requirement under 5 AAC 92.072(2)(A) that they “may not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or for fewer animals during the same regulatory year”, may reduce the participation of hunters who may typically hunt along a road system and could readily hunt in other units. This could have the effect of reducing the impacts that have been experienced due to increasing participation in the CSH.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 4 (two members absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Support the requirement for a longer-term commitment, since establishing and maintaining a long-term pattern of subsistence use is key element of the Board of Game findings relevant to this CSH.
- Noted that if the board were interested in requiring a longer-term commitment to the CSH, implementation details would need to be crafted. For example, exceptions may be needed for specific situations that prevent participation (such as health problems or a change in the head of household) and appeal procedures would be needed.
- Suggested that if a community or group, or an individual within the group, decided to not fulfill the multi-year commitment, that party could not come back into the CSH during that time period, but could participate in the Tier I hunt.

In Opposition

- Concerns that this requirement would be very difficult to implement. For example, if a community or group decided after one year that it no longer wanted to participate in the CSH, how would they be held to the two-year commitment? What if just some individuals in a group were unwilling or unable to fulfill the two-year commitment? What would be the penalty and the mechanism for applying it?
- Concern that if animal populations decline and opportunity for a successful harvest is restricted or reduced in the CSH area, CSH participants could face a season or more without access to moose or caribou.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-275)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Limit the areas where community subsistence harvest (CSH) hunters may hunt outside of Unit 11, 12 and 13 as follows:

Any member of a Unit 11, 12, or 13 moose and/or caribou community subsistence hunt group shall only hunt for caribou and moose in the aforesaid unit(s) for a period of two years, and shall not be eligible to hunt these species in other parts of the state during the two year period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? These units include some of the most accessible hunting areas of the state. All of the trail systems have seen an increase in traffic because of regulatory provisions such as requiring Tier I caribou hunters to only hunt moose in Unit 13. In addition the popularity of the community subsistence harvest hunts has also increased. This is designed to reduce increasing demand for the CSH permits.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the

Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 4 (two members absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Changing the requirement to “25 or more households” would make it more likely that CSH groups represent the subsistence use pattern identified in the board’s findings. This change would increase the size of CSH groups, but may reduce the total number of groups and participants and lessen the impacts that have been associated with increasing participation.

In Opposition

- Do not support efforts to reduce participation by individuals, families and social groups that meet the board’s findings (2011-184-BOG) for participation in the Copper Basin CSH. Concerned that the change to 25 or more households would discourage or hinder their participation in the CSH. Also concerned that others in a household are prevented from hunting elsewhere

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-277)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Include “individuals, households, or families” (recognized as a subsistence use pattern in the 2011 Board of Game Findings) in the moose subsistence hunt when the harvestable surplus exceeds the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and change the hunt start date to September 1 (from August 10) as follows.

5 AAC 85.045(a)(11): 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

One bull per harvest report by community harvest

[AUG 10] **Sept. 1**
Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)

Permit [ONLY], **individual, household, or family:** however, no more than 100 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken in Unit 13

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Findings of the Alaska Board of Game, 2011-184-BOG; Game Management Unit 13, Caribou and Moose Uses, identify two specific patterns of subsistence uses of moose.

(www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/findings/11-184-bog.pdf.)

“One pattern of communities of indigenous Athna Athabaskan inhabitants of the Copper River basin and another subsistence use pattern developed as individuals, families, and other social groups, both within and outside the local area, adapted to changing economic, demographic, and cultural conditions related to harvesting moose in Unit 13”.

As long as the harvestable surplus of moose is above the maximum number necessary to meet subsistence uses the subsistence hunt is regulated under AS16.05.258(b)(1-2). There is no legal authority to differentiate among subsistence users at this harvest level. The board must legally accommodate all subsistence use patterns.

Legally the board may only differentiate between subsistence use patterns when the harvestable surplus falls below the minimum amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS), AS 16.05.258(b)(4). Should the board choose to give a priority to the community based subsistence use pattern in GMU13 for moose they are legally allowed to do so only when the harvest falls below the number necessary to meet the minimum ANS.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Failed**
 Yea – 5 **Nay – 6** **(one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- This change would include all of the subsistence users referenced in the 2006 and 2011 Board Findings that describe parties eligible to participate in the CSH. Noted, however, that the Committee unanimously recommended adoption of proposal I-E, which also addresses this purpose.

- Some Committee members support changing the start date for the CSH to September 1, to match the general hunt.

In Opposition

- Some Committee members oppose changing the start date for the CSH to September 1, noting the merits of having an extended season for this hunt. (See also Proposal [65]).
- The rationale for this proposal indicates that the Board of Game can only differentiate among uses when the ANS is not being met. One Committee member stated that they did not support the proposal because they believe that the board does have authority to recognize specific uses, even when the harvestable surplus is above the ANS.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-279)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Provide definitions for “community” and “individuals, families, or “other social groups” as follows:

Add definitions of the terms “community” and “individuals, families or other social groups” to the community subsistence harvest (CSH) regulations, both of which are recognized subsistence use patterns in Board of Game Findings #2006-170-BOG and #2011-184-BOG.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide definitions in regulation that would ensure participants meet the intent of the Board of Game Findings relevant to the community subsistence hunts for caribou and moose in the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Passed**
 Yea – 10 Nay– 0 (two members absent)

(NOTE: The committee initially considered a version of this proposal that recommended only adding a definition of “community,” referenced in the 2006 Board of Game Findings. They reached unanimous agreement to recommend adding definitions as well of “individuals, families, and other social groups” as referenced in the 2011 board findings. Noted that ADF&G would provide options for definitions for the board’s consideration, but that it would be the board’s decision which definition(s) would be added to regulation.

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Unanimous support for providing these definitions for terms used in the Board of Game Findings to define the two patterns of subsistence use.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-278)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Implement a system to ensure communities or groups approved to participate in the moose and caribou community subsistence harvest (CSH) program meet the intent of the Board of Game findings for the program as follows:

Implement a reporting and point system for helping communities and groups make efforts to observe the Alaska Board of Game’s (board’s) customary and traditional use pattern found for the community subsistence hunts for caribou and moose in the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area, as follows:

92.072 (c)(1)(D) make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board and included by the department as a permit condition, if any, is observed by subscribers including meat sharing...

(E) In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the department may require written reports from administrators of and participants in Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area community harvest permit hunts which describe efforts by households to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game population(s) to be hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit.

(i) The department will evaluate each report submitted under (E), and will measure compliance of the communities or groups formed under 5 AAC 92.072(c) with the customary and traditional use pattern of the game population(s), as follows:

(1) Element 1, participation in a long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the game population, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: the number of years of taking and use of the game population;

and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and use of areas other than the community subsistence hunt area for harvest activities; and

(2) Element 2, participation in the pattern of taking or use of the game population that follows a seasonal use pattern of harvest effort in the hunt area, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicator: the months and/or seasons in which noncommercial harvest activities occur in the hunt area; and

(3) Element 3, participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the hunt area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: costs associated with harvests; and methods used to reduce costs and improve efficiency of harvest; and number of species harvested during hunting activities; and

(4) Element 4, participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources that occurs in the hunt area due to close ties to the area, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and variety of harvesting activities that take place in the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities; and

(5) Element 5, use of means of processing and preserving wild resources from the hunt area that have been traditionally been used by past generations, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: complete listing of the parts of the harvested game that are used; and preservation methods of that game; and types of foods and other products produced from that harvest; and

(6) Element 6, participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the hunt area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the hunt area from generation to generation, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and evidence of instruction and training; and

(7) Element 7, participation in a pattern of taking of wild resources from the hunt area in which the harvest is shared throughout the community, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: amount of harvest of the game population that is shared; and evidence of a communal sharing event; and support of those in need through sharing of the harvest of the game population; and

(8) Element 8, participation in a pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance on a wide variety of wild resources from the hunt area, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: the

variety of resource harvest activities engaged in within the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities.

(ii) failure to report under this subsection, or under 5 AAC 92.072(f), will result in denial to a household of a Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area community subsistence harvest permit.

[E](F) beginning July 1, 2014, in the community harvest hunt area...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The goal of the annual report evaluation process - as outlined in this proposal, the draft questionnaires, and in the draft scoring system (presented at the March 7, 2014 committee meeting) - is to provide feedback to communities and groups regarding their efforts to observe the customary and traditional use (C&T) pattern described in board finding 2006-170-BOG.

Efforts to observe the pattern are required by 5 AAC 92.072 and by the board. As background, during the December 2013 meeting of the board's Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Committee, ADF&G was asked to investigate methods to better assess if households with a Copper Basin community subsistence hunt permit were observing (or were making attempts to observe) the C&T pattern described in 2006-170-BOG. In response, the department developed a draft questionnaire and scoring system that hunt administrators and participating households would be required to submit after the caribou and moose hunting seasons. The committee discussed the questionnaire and scoring system during its meetings on March 7, 2014, and April 18, 2014, and requested the concept in a draft proposal for consideration to forward to the board.

The draft proposal outlines how each element in the board findings could be measured by a set of indicators that are in turn closely linked to those findings.

A group's score would be based on combined responses from participating households and the group administrator. A group's score on each element would eventually be specified in regulation as based on a percentage of the total points available, rather than a fixed number. Using a percentage for each element allows for refinement of the set of questions for that element. It also provides a way to compare patterns among households and among groups. Furthermore, using a percentage for each element would allow the board to decide which element it would like to have the most weight. The board may choose to weigh responses on one element more than responses on another, for example.

It is recommended that this evaluation process be in place a minimum of three years before the board considers using the scores in a regulatory context. For example, after three years' of data are collected, the Board might wish to consider establishing in regulation 1) a minimum score for a conditional approval of efforts to observe this pattern, and 2) a minimum score necessary to demonstrate full observation of the C&T pattern.

Also after three years, the board could consider adopting in regulation a process for a person or group to appeal a score assigned by the department to a report submitted under (E) that resulted in denial of an application for a community subsistence hunt permit.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 5 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- ADF&G Division of Subsistence indicated that they plan to transfer current capacity (staff, resources) toward implementing the proposed system, as they already invest substantial time in reviewing reports currently required of CSH participants. This proposal would provide a more quantified way to review reports and, in some ways, would simplify the review and analysis.
- Supporters indicated this is the “single most important change” the committee could recommend to address the impacts of increased CSH participation.
- Noted that it is similar in intent to proposal submitted to the committee by Paxson Advisory Committee (see Proposal I-H), but the majority of the committee prefers the criteria and system in this proposal.
- The proposed system would make the determination of who may be adhering to the pattern in the CSH less subjective.

In Opposition

- Concerned that the process would be burdensome on hunt administrators, group members, and ADF&G.
- Believes that this type of regulatory process is more appropriate and warranted in a Tier II situation. Since the Copper Basin caribou and moose hunts are in a “Tier I-plus” status, do not support this requirement.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-280)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Follow the same basic guidelines as the old Tier II system (points to each community based on past use of resource) as follows:

The community hunt protocol should follow along the same basic guidelines as the old Tier II system. Points should be given to each community as a whole depending on its past use of the resource. There should be a point total baseline. Above the baseline, the community may participate in the hunt. Below the baseline, the community would not qualify for participation. Points should be awarded to each community based on an average number of points for each individual member of the community. Communities should be composed of a minimum of 20 members (this to allow for hunters in the smaller area communities to participate without needing members from outside of their immediate area).

The criteria/questions suggested below is a starting point and should be open to discussion. The proposal is that communities that average 22 points or better should be eligible to participate in the community subsistence harvest (CSH) hunt.

Criteria / Questions are as follows:

1. How many years have you used the resource (game population) that you are applying for?
 - 1-5 years = 1 point
 - 5-10 years = 2 points
 - 10-15 years = 3 points
 - 15-20 years = 4 points
 - > 20 years = 5 points
2. How many days during each year do you spend hunting/fishing/gathering within the (general) hunt area?
 - 1-10 days = 1 point
 - 10-20 days = 2 points
 - 20-30 days = 3 points
 - 30-40 days = 4 points
 - > 40 days = 5 points
3. How far do you have to travel to reach the hunt area?
 - > 300 miles = 1 point
 - 200-300 miles = 2 points
 - 150-200 miles = 3 points
 - 75-150 miles = 4 points
 - < 75 miles = 5 points
4. In which community do purchase most of your fuel? (Note: May have missed a few communities on these lists and propose using the old Tier II community point list).
 - Paxson, Glennallen, Cantwell, Gakona, Gulkana, Chistochina, Copper Center, Mendeltna, Chickaloon, Lake Louise., Kenny Lake Dot Lake, Tanacross, Mentasta = 5 points
 - Delta Junction, Palmer, Valdez, Denali Park, Healy, Talkeetna, Tok , Chicken = 4 points
 - Fairbanks/North Pole, Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Nenana, Ester, = 3 points
 - Kenai/Soldotna, Homer, Seward, Eagle, Wiseman, Circle City, Central= 2 points

All other communities off of the highway system = 1 point

5. In which community do you purchase most of your food?
Glennallen, Copper Center, Tok, Delta Junction, Cantwell = 5 points
Valdez, Seward, Homer, Talkeetna, Healy, Nenana = 4 points
Kenai/Soldotna, Wasilla/Palmer, Fairbanks/N. Pole, Anchorage = 3 points
Communities off of the highway system = 2 points

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? On March 26 our [Paxson] Advisory Committee (AC) met and discussed the community hunt. Like most others, our members felt that the community hunt, as structured, does not serve the purpose for which it was created. Our [Paxson AC] committee feels that the present subsistence seasons, both federal and state, do meet the needs of our area communities and that a separate community hunt is unnecessary.

That said, we [Paxson AC] are aware that once a program is implemented, it is very difficult to remove it, as there are many special interest groups who feel that a specific program may benefit them in particular. Our stance as an advisory committee is that competition among user groups for a limited amount of game or fish is detrimental to the basic premise of having a healthy, balanced eco-system that serves all user groups; both consumptive and non-consumptive.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Failed**
 Yea – 1 **Nay – 10** **(one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- No specific points were articulated by the committee in support of this proposal.

In Opposition

- Some committee members preferred the criteria and system in proposal [71].

- Other committee members do not support either proposal [71 or 72], stating that this type of evaluation should not be required in a Tier I-plus situation

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-281)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 92.071. Tier I subsistence permits. Require hunters to be engaged in a pattern of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou for the Tier I hunt as follows:

The Board of Game needs to take the next step in defining the pattern of subsistence use for the Tier I household caribou hunt in Unit 13. It needs to institute an administrative process similar to that being considered for the Tier I community hunt. Like the yearly application for the community hunt, the household Tier I application should specify the pattern of subsistence use a household is expected to conform to in order to participate in the Tier I hunt. A signature should be required to verify the intent of those in the household to engage in this pattern. Additionally, the Tier I permits already include a reporting requirement for harvest. A short set of questions should be added verifying that the household engaged in the pattern of use defined in the application with a signature attesting to the truth of the answers given.

The Tier I household permit hunt conditions, or required pattern of customary and traditional (C&T) subsistence use, should be developed by the Division of Subsistence and approved by the Board. The post-season permit report, in addition to harvest information, could include some of the same elements that the Division has developed to verify participation in the pattern of use for the community hunt, although the number of questions and their depth would likely be less given the differences between the household and community patterns of subsistence uses.

Important elements that should be included as hunt conditions and reporting requirements include use of a wide diversity of resources from the area; a pattern of use that spans several seasons; close ties and familiarity with the area including the existence or development of a long-term pattern of use; some degree of sharing outside the household; and the incorporation of handing down knowledge through the generations.

A scoring system should be developed that results in the disqualification of an applicant after some for failing to comply with the hunt conditions or for failing to report. For example, if an applicant household hunted and failed to meet the minimum score for the year, or failed to report, the persons in that household would be foreclosed from applying for the next year. If an applicant household failed to meet the minimum score for after applying and receiving a permit twice, thus demonstrating a pattern of non-compliance, the household members would be foreclosed from applying for a Tier I permit for three years. A household that applies for a permit and fails to hunt for two consecutive years would be foreclosed from applying for a permit the next year barring some medical or other justification. Those disqualified from applying for the household Tier I permit would also be barred from applying for the community hunt. Applicants made a conscious choice of the pattern of use to apply for, the household or community Tier I hunt. Those that failed to comply with the condition for the pattern of use selected should not be permitted to game the system by jumping between Tier I hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board currently requires that those issued Tier I caribou permits in Unit 13 are restricted to hunting moose in Unit 13. The reason the board adopted this hunt condition was twofold: 1) to reflect the C&T pattern of subsistence uses that includes the taking a wide diversity of resources for the area used for subsistence hunting; and 2) to limit the number of persons applying for the Tier I hunt to those genuinely willing to engage in this pattern of use. This hunt condition has not achieved its purpose.

The number of Tier I caribou hunters remains very high, far above the 600-1000 ANS set by the board for the Nelchina caribou herd. Data from the past several years since the board adopted the ANS and the above described hunt condition demonstrates that there continues to be a high number of Tier I applications and a large participation and harvest in the Tier I hunt. This data seriously undermines the basis, and thus legality for the ANS determination. Given the data over the last several years, a strong case exists for arguing that the ANS remains the total available Nelchina harvest, or close to it, thus putting the hunt back into the Tier II regime.

At the same time that the hunt condition restricting moose hunting in Unit 13 has failed to significantly reduce the number of Tier II participants, it has caused hardships to those who genuinely depend on the Unit 13 moose and caribou populations for subsistence uses. It is flooding the area with moose and caribou hunters. Many of those with many years of moose and caribou hunting in this area are not meeting their subsistence needs because of the large number of hunters all concentrated in the same time and area. The caribou hunt has closed early over the last several years. Many of those who are undoubtedly engaged in a subsistence pattern of use are not being afforded a reasonable opportunity or meeting their subsistence needs for moose or caribou.

Defining subsistence uses and instituting an application and scoring system as proposed would benefit all Alaskans who wish to hunt the Nelchina caribou herd. Over a relatively short period of time those who participate in the subsistence hunt will be genuinely engaged in subsistence uses. This will reduce the number of applicants and participants because many who now apply for the Tier I hunt are not engaged in a pattern of use that is subsistence. The 600-1000 ANS would likely be supported by the data generated by the proposed permit reporting and scoring system. This means that many more general hunt permits could be issued that do not have such conditions. If more general hunt opportunity were available, many hunters would choose to participate in a general hunt.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is

available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 5 Nay – 4 Abstain – 1 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

The Committee tabled this proposal until the end of the meeting, as it relates to the individual Tier I caribou hunt, rather than the CSH. As a result, there was limited time for discussion. The following points were made in brief discussion:

- Should not impose an eligibility test / criteria on individual hunters when the caribou hunt is above a Tier I level.
- There may be merit to rescinding the requirement that participants in the Tier I caribou hunt must only hunt moose in Unit 13. However, the committee felt there was not sufficient time for them to consider the ramifications of this change, or of other effects of the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-282)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Require direct approval by the Board of Game of groups applying to join the Copper Basin community subsistence hunt as follows:

A group application should be developed by the Division of Subsistence for any group that seeks to join the Copper Basin community subsistence hunt. The Division should review the applications with comments as to completeness and content. The board could review and approve or reject these applications yearly at its work session with each group coordinator given a limited opportunity for public comment.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuse of the intent and hunt conditions for the community subsistence hunt by groups of people who are not genuinely engaged in the pattern of community subsistence use identified by the board for the Copper Basin community subsistence hunt.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation

and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 7 Nay – 4 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support:

- Would ensure that all groups demonstrate to the board that they meet the CSH requirements.
- It is appropriate for board to assume this role, as it ultimately is an allocation decision (affects who qualifies for participation in the CSH).
- One committee member stated support for this idea, but was also satisfied with the solution of providing a definition of “community” (see Proposal [70]).

In Opposition:

- Concern that this would place an undue burden on the board and whether they would have time to review all applicants.
- Concern this places board in an “administrative” rather than policy and allocation role. Board should delegate this type of responsibility to the Division of Subsistence (such as in Proposal [71]) and then require an annual report on any problems, etc.
- Concern that the board would not have the time to critically review applications and it would be a “rubber stamp” exercise, taking time without much merit.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-283)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Implement reporting and antler destruction requirements for community subsistence harvested moose in the Unit 13 area hunt as follows:

Require that community subsistence harvest (CSH) hunters bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glenallen ADF&G offices as soon as they come out of the field; require antler destruction for any community subsistence hunt harvested moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal may address the impacts of increased CSH participation by reducing the interest in participation in the CSH and the impacts of the increase in participation in this hunt, and would tie the harvest more directly to subsistence use by requiring antler destruction.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 5 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support:

- May help reduce impacts from high participation in the CSH hunt, by reducing interest in participating in this hunt.

In Opposition:

- The Glennallen and Cantwell ADF&G offices would not be convenient locations for all CSH participants to report.
- Concern about burden on ADF&G staff to receive all hunters and confirm salvage/antler destruction, and to store meat for sharing or arrange for its distribution.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-284)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Require antlers taken through the community subsistence harvest (CSH) hunt be turned in to ADF&G as follows.

Require that antlers taken through the CSH hunt be turned in to ADF&G, to allow them to get additional information about the harvest and to sell the antlers at auction with revenues used to help cover the added costs of CSH hunt management as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal may address the impacts of increased community subsistence harvest (CSH) participation by reducing the interest in participation in the CSH and the impacts of the increase in participation in this hunt. It would also provide revenue to ADF&G to help cover the cost of administering the hunt.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

**Committee vote: NO ACTION was taken on this proposal
(Vote for No Action = Yea – 11, Nay – 0, one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

- It would not be legal to dedicate the funds received by ADF&G through auction to administration of the CSH. Given this, the committee favored no action on this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-285)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a quota for each subarea in Unit 13 for the "any bull" moose hunt as follows:

Establish a firm "any bull" quota per subarea in Unit 13

(NOTE: This would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this change under existing regulations for Unit 13, but ADF&F recommends that it be presented to the board for their information and to invite direction.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 13, the high harvest of "any bulls" in high use subareas (e.g. Unit 13A) during the first day or few days of the community subsistence harvest opening on August 10 has caused ADF&G to close the "any bull" hunt in all of Unit 13 by emergency order very early in the season, significantly reducing the opportunity for hunters to take "any bull" in other subareas. Establishing a quota for each subarea (either by the board or ADF&G) would reduce the potential for overharvest in heavily used areas, keep the harvest within the allocation specified in regulation (5AAC 85.045(11)(B)), and maintain the opportunity to harvest "any bull" in all subareas. This would spread opportunity and reduce social conflicts.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Passed**
 Yea – 8 **Nay – 2** **(two members absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Recommend ADF&G look at past harvest patterns and allocate the subarea quotas proportionally.
- Establishing an “any bull” quota per subarea would spread opportunity throughout the area, avoiding having the quota taken rapidly and predominantly in accessible subunits, such as Unit 13A.
- Recognize that harvest may exceed the 100 “any bulls” in some years and the department would then reduce the total below 100 in subsequent years to achieve a longer-term balance. (ADF&G noted that this should be addressed in the board’s findings on this topic.)

In Opposition

- This type of micromanagement would make it more difficult for ADF&G to manage the “any bull” harvest in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-266)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Require more rapid harvest reporting of moose taken under the “any bull” hunt in Unit 13 as follows:

Provide more rapid harvest reporting and more responsive in-season management during the “any bull” harvest in Unit 13.

(NOTE: This would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this under 5 AAC 92.052 (discretionary permit conditions

and procedures), but ADF&G recommends that it be presented to the board for their information and to invite direction.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 13, the high harvest of “any bulls” in high use subareas (e.g. Unit 13A) during the first day or few days of the community subsistence harvest opening on August 10 has caused ADF&G to close the “any bull” hunt for all of Unit 13 by emergency order very early in the season, significantly reducing the opportunity for hunters to take “any bull” in other subareas. Requiring harvest reporting sooner (e.g., within 12 or 24 hours of killing a moose) by phone or internet would give the department more current information about the “any bull” harvest so it can be managed to meet biological objectives while providing opportunity throughout Unit 13 to the extent possible.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Passed**
 Yea – 10 **Nay – 0** **(two members absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Beneficial to have information as soon as possible about “any bull” harvest to assist ADF&G in meeting biological objectives while providing harvest opportunity throughout Unit 13.
- Ask ADF&G to consider and implement feasible requirements for more rapid harvest reporting and in-season management notifications.

Considerations

- Recognize that there are limitations on cell phone coverage in some areas of Unit 13.
- Recognize that hunters whose practice is to remain in the field for longer periods may have difficulty responding within a 12- or 24-hour post-harvest report timeframe.
- Will likely require some additional department staff time on heavy use weekends, although this has been required in the past as well.

The committee discussed potential use of checkpoints in the field, but ADF&G did not recommend this, indicating that staffing costs would be too high.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-267)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Direct ADF&G to open and close the “any bull” moose season on certain days in Unit 13 as follows.

Recommend ADF&G use its existing management discretion, in all subunits throughout the community subsistence harvest (CSH) area, to open and close the CSH on certain days (including weekend days) if necessary for conservation and/or to not exceed the “any bull” quota as follows:

Note that this would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this under 5 AAC 92.052 (discretionary permit conditions and procedures), but ADF&G recommends that it be presented to the board for their information and to invite direction.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 13, the high harvest of “any bulls” in high use subareas (e.g. Unit 13A) during the first day or few days of the CSH opening on August 10 has caused ADF&G to close the “any bull” hunt for all of Unit 13 by emergency order very early in the season, significantly reducing the opportunity for hunters to take “any bull” in other subareas. Because the “any bull” harvest quotas are relatively small compared to the number of CSH hunters, harvest quotas can be reached quickly in heavily hunted areas. Communication and reporting delays can result in harvests that greatly exceeded the quota before an Emergency Order can be issued. Judicious use of in-season closures would give ADF&G the chance to catch up with harvest monitoring and reassess progress toward the “any bull” and overall harvest quotas in-season, ensuring appropriate management to the targets while maximizing participation throughout the units.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

playing field to harvest an animal. This proposal includes a provision to allow the transport of harvested game, personnel and gear in the middle of this prescribed season by motor vehicles.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 1 Nay – 7 Abstain – 3 (one member absent)

(NOTE: During consideration by the board’s committee, this proposal was amended from an earlier version to eliminate the words “except an aircraft or a boat”.)

Key Points in Discussion

The committee member who submitted this proposal noted that he brought forward this proposal to start conversation about reducing hunting pressure during the early moose season and that he did not have an opinion on it.

In Support

- Recommend that the board consider limitations on motorized vehicle use during the CSH early season to help reduce hunting pressure on the early season “any bull” hunt and to reduce impacts to the land (e.g., proliferation of motorized trails).

In Opposition

- The use of motorized vehicles to access and transport game is customary and meets the intent of the board’s findings for the CSH. This would be an unnecessary restriction on customary use.
- Concern that this would be very difficult to enforce

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-272)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Restrict community subsistence harvest hunters in Units 13, 11, and portions of Unit 12 from hunting within 24 hours of using off-road vehicles as follows:

From August 18 to August 31, participants in the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose and caribou may not hunt for one day following the use of an off-road motorized vehicle. For the purpose of this regulation, a motorized use day ends at midnight of the day than an off-road motorized vehicle was used. If animal is harvested after the prohibition on a motorized use has passed, an off-road motorized vehicle can be used to transport the meat of a harvested animal. (Note, this is similar to the restriction in the Cordova bull moose hunt.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent is to reduce hunting pressure on the early season hunt and level the playing. It allows hunters to access the backcountry, yet provide for fair chase and reduce the rate of harvest, which will lengthen the season. This is similar to the way hunting using an aircraft for access is regulated

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Failed**
 Yea – 0 **Nay – 9** **Abstain – 2 (one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

The committee member who submitted this proposal noted that he brought forward this proposal to start conversation about reducing hunting pressure during the early moose season and that he did not have an opinion on the proposal.

In Opposition

- The use of motorized vehicles to access and transport game is customary and meets the intent of the board’s findings for the CSH. This would be an unnecessary restriction on customary use.
- Concern that this would difficult to enforce.
- Noted that the Cordova bull moose hunt (referenced in the description of the proposal) occurs in a much smaller geographic area and is accessed by airboats. While the restriction on

motorized use may be a useful tool in the Cordova hunt, its utility is not transferable to the Copper Basin CSH hunt.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-273)

PROPOSAL 82 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Manage the Unit 13 community subsistence harvest caribou hunt through the set season as long as the overall harvest quota is not exceeded.

Manage the Unit 13 community subsistence harvest (CSH) program for caribou to continue the community hunt through the season established in regulation (August 10 – September 20, and October 21 – March 31), as long as the CSH allocation of 300 caribou and the overall harvest quota are not exceeded.

(NOTE: This would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this change under existing regulations for Unit 13, but ADF&G recommends that it be presented to the board for their information and to invite direction.)

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

In Unit 13, regulations provide that “up to 300 caribou may be taken” in the CSH hunt (August 10 – September 20, and October 21 – March 31). However, in the past, ADF&G has closed the CSH caribou hunt in Unit 13, or not reopened the hunt for the fall/winter season, when the *overall* reported state harvest combined with the anticipated federal harvest for the Nelchina herd has approached the *overall* harvest quota, even though 300 caribou were not harvested in the CSH hunt. Managing the 300 caribou CSH allocation as a quota that should be met in Unit 13 (provided there is no conservation concern) would increase opportunity for caribou harvest through the CSH program, including likely extending the hunt into the fall/winter season.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 10 Nay – 0 (two members absent)

(During consideration by the board’s committee, this proposal was amended to add, “and the overall harvest quota are” not exceeded, to avoid any conservation concern.)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Committee members unanimously supported this change in management of the CSH caribou hunt.
- Added language to ensure that the hunt would be managed to ensure the overall harvest quota is not exceeded, to avoid any potential conservation concern.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations EG-C14-355

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Discontinue the community subsistence harvest (CSH) program when the harvestable surplus exceeds the minimum Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and replace it with a weighted drawing permit for Alaska residents only.

Unit 13

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENTS HUNTERS:

1 moose by weighted drawing permit only; Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 (General hunt only)
up to 100 permits for bulls and up to 25 permits
for antlerless moose may be issued; or

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50 inch antlers Sept 1 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)
or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or

One bull by registration permit only. Dec. 1 - Dec. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENTS HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more Sept. 1 – Sept. 20 (General hunt only)
brow tines on one side by drawing permit only;
up to 250 permits maybe issue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the harvestable surplus is greater than the maximum ANS, the board has the least legal obligation to provide a

priority for subsistence uses. With harvestable surplus above the ANS (maximum), AS 16.05.258(b)(1)(A), ADF&G may issue subsistence registration permits and apply discretionary conditions to the hunt consistent with the customary and traditional (C&T) use pattern, and issue general drawing permits to harvest game.

AS 16.05.255(d) allows a preference for resident moose hunters without the hunt being determined to be for subsistence use only. In the past the Alaska courts have determined that drawing hunts did not provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use, so just call it a weighted drawing hunt for residents only.

A weighted drawing permit system means that those drawn in previous years for the same drawing permit hunt are not drawn again until all other applicants who keep applying for the specific drawing hunt have been drawn. New drawing applicants rise up in preference by accumulating years of consistent applying.

When determining if a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses is being met under harvestable surplus conditions found consistent with AS16.05.258(b)(1) the board may integrate opportunities offered under both state and federal regulation, 5 AAC 99.025(b), to meet subsistence uses. Federal registration permit (FM1301) - 1 antlered bull moose may be harvested on 4.1 million acres of federal lands in Unit 13, August 1 – September 20.

The board is not legally obligated to create a community-based subsistence harvest program in the Copper River basin for moose as long as the harvestable surplus is above the maximum ANS, it's just that the board chose to do so.

I would recommend that the board's committee on the Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations oppose continuing the CSH program for moose and adopt these regulations, as long as the harvestable surplus is above the maximum ANS for moose in Unit13.

Additional Information: This proposal was considered by the Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (committee) which held three meetings prior to the proposal deadline. The 12 member committee was established by the Board of Game and included board members, advisory committee members, and members of the public. At their last meeting, the committee reviewed 19 proposals that were drafted at the request of the committee or were submitted by committee members. All of the proposals considered by the committee have been submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region Board of Game meeting scheduled for February 2015. The committee recommendation and discussion on this proposal is summarized below. Committee action on all 19 proposals is available in the meeting summary that can be accessed on the committee meeting website located at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Results of April 18, 2014 Committee Meeting

Committee vote: **Failed**
 Yea – 4 **Nay – 7** **(one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support:

- This proposal provides a more equitable opportunity for all Alaskans to have the opportunity to participate in the moose hunt in this area.
- A weighted drawing hunt can also provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users.
- Need to consider that subsistence needs are also addressed by subsistence hunt opportunities provided on federal lands.

In Opposition:

- Support the intent of the community subsistence hunt and do not want it eliminated.
- This proposal would not provide the “any bull” hunt that is important to meet subsistence needs of communities.
- Drawing hunts do not provide certainty of participation or stability in hunting over the long-term, which are important elements of the communities’ subsistence hunt.
- The committee has helped identify a number of options to improve the CSH for the board’s consideration. Recommend that the board apply some of these tools to fine-tune the CSH and let those work for several years, rather than eliminating the CSH and replacing it with a weighted drawing hunt.

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (EG-C14-286)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the “any bull” hunt in Unit 13 to a drawing hunt as follows:

The new regulation would read:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull or antlerless moose by weighted drawing permit.

Define "weighted" as: Once you are drawn you go to the bottom of the applicant list for the drawing hunt and cycle back to the top over years of continued applying.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unequal opportunity for Alaskans to reap the rewards of active predator/prey management on state public domain. The statutory authority creating the community subsistence harvest, AS 16.05.330(c) in Unit 13 does not trump the state subsistence law, AS 16.05.258, when hunt regulations can distinguish among subsistence users, AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B).

The "any bull" component of the moose population in Unit 13 is the most sought after. When the harvestable surplus of moose in Unit 13 is greater than the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) the harvest is allocated in accordance with its statutory authority, AS 16.05.258(b)(3). The board may differentiate between patterns of subsistence users only when the harvestable

surplus of moose in Unit 13 falls below the ANS, AS 16.05.258(b)(4). That is not the case now for moose in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C14-258)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the community subsistence harvest permit system as follows:

Eliminate the community subsistence harvest permit (CHP) as a separate permit from individual hunting permits.

After individual Tier I or Tier II permits are awarded to an individual, then the individual hunter permits have the option of pooling individual permits into CHP, with the same regulatory conditions of the individual permits for season lengths, bag limits, horn restrictions, application sign up dates, reporting success requirements and proxy hunters. Customs and traditions imposed after pooling individual permits must be approved by ADF&G. The designated harvest quota of 300 Nelchina caribou for CHP is eliminated and the total annual harvest quota applies equally to all individuals and CHP.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the CHP as a separate permit from individual hunting permits. Go back to awarding individual hunter permits with the option of pooling individual permits into CHP. Do not give any priority preference to CHP that individual hunters do not also enjoy, including time to file applications, length of seasons, relaxed horn restrictions, time to report success, local hunter preference or location of residency, and eliminate eligibility requirements to exercise Ahtna racial customs and traditions for all CHPs. Granting a racial preference based on customs and traditions, and location of residency, violates the Public Trust Doctrine to provide state game resources equally to all the residents of Alaska (see *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989) [rural preference unconstitutional] and *Owsichek v. State*, 763 P.2d 488 (Alaska 1988) [Public Trust Doctrine upheld]).

Whether a Tier I level (sport/general) hunt, or a Tier II level subsistence hunt, pooling of individual permits into CHPs will allow all residents to continue their customs and traditions, without denying permits to those that have different customs and traditions, and without granting an unconstitutional racial rural preference for “community” (CHP) eligibility criteria to get a hunting permit (see *McDowell*; *Manning-I*). Only the individual eligibility criteria (not community) should control awarding an individual permit and subsequent pooling of individual permits into CHPs.

This will prevent ADF&G’s and the board’s blatant unconstitutional actions of designating and requiring particular racial customs and traditions in order to get a CHP hunting permit (a violation of Alaska Constitution Article 1 Section 1 equal rights, Article VIII Section 3 “common use” equal subsistence rights for all Alaskans, per *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989) and *State ADFG v. Manning*, 161 P.3d 1215 (2007) (“*Manning-I*”) [denial of

equal protections]. This will also avoid continued equal rights litigation against ADF&G and the board for violations of statutory and constitutional equal protection mandates.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (EG-C14-231)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Divide the annual harvest quota for Nelchina caribou as follows:

Unit 13: Nelchina caribou herd annual hunt (whether Tier I or Tier II level hunt), divide the annual harvest quota for all hunts (Tier I, household, drawing, community harvest/subsistence permits or Tier II), into thirds with one-third limited to August 10-September 20, one third annual harvest quota to October 20-December 31, and one-third for January 1-March 31.

When the one-third quota is achieved, the Nelchina hunt will be closed until the start of the next one-third quota season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the Nelchina caribou herd annual hunt, divide the annual harvest quota for all hunts (Tier I household, drawing, community harvest/subsistence permits, or Tier II) into thirds with one-third limited to August 10-September 20, one third annual harvest quota to October 20-December 31, and one-third to January 1-March 31. When the one-third quota is achieved, the Nelchina hunt will be closed until the start of the next one-third quota season.

This will allow a full length hunting season, allow customs and traditions for winter hunts acquiring winter meat harvest, and will spread out the hunters over the season to avoid a mad rush on opening day and an early season harvest quota closure. It will also improve public safety concerns of too many hunters forced in the field for the first few days of hunting, and all in the early season before closed by emergency order that eliminates winter hunting. One-third harvest quotas, divided over the full hunting season, will assure, improve, and protect sustained yield management of the Nelchina caribou herd, and prevent over harvest, while providing for customs and traditions for both summer and winter hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (EG-C14-230)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 92.050(I). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures Remove the exclusive hunting restriction for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the requirement that Unit 13 Nelchina caribou hunters cannot hunt moose elsewhere in the state, only in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the requirement for all applicants who apply for a Unit 13 Nelchina caribou permit, to hunt moose only in Unit 13.

This will allow the 10,000 to 15,000 Nelchina caribou hunters to hunt moose anywhere in the state, and not force 10,000 to 15,000 hunters upon the Unit 13 moose hunts. This will avoid an overabundance of moose hunters and harvest in Unit 13, will provide more harvestable moose for local Unit 13 hunters, will improve and protect sustained yield management, and will comply with statutory and constitutional equal protections of the law.

Denying Nelchina caribou hunters the right to hunt moose anywhere else in the state except Unit 13 is arbitrary and capricious, unreasonable, and violates the equal protection guarantees of Article VIII Section 3 "common use" rights.

There is no legal nexus between hunting Unit 13 Nelchina caribou and denying moose hunting elsewhere in the state, and there is no management objective other than discouraging residents from applying for a Nelchina caribou permit and exercising their constitutionally protected "common use" rights. This denies Nelchina caribou hunters equal protections of the law. See *State v. Manning*, 161 P.3d 1215 (Alaska Supreme Court 2007) [*Manning-I*, violations of equal protections], and *Manning v. State ADFG, et al*, Alaska Supreme Court, case no. S-15121 (*Manning-IV, pending*)

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (EG-C14-232)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 99.010. Boards of fisheries and game subsistence procedures.

Change the method of determining the Amount Necessary for Subsistence in Unit 13 as follows:

Calculate the number of subsistence users for determining Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) with data based on individual verifiable data from each resident hunter applicant including: (1) years hunted, received, and eaten fish and wildlife for human food for each big game species; (2) the total amount of subsistence resources acquired over each year for up to the last sixty years, including big game, small game, waterfowl, freshwater fish, saltwater fish, and trapping resources harvested; and (3) the number of family members and friends that shared your annual subsistence harvest over the last year three years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the method of determining "Amount Necessary for Subsistence" (ANS) for all hunts, to use only individual past dependency on subsistence resources; eliminate consideration of criteria of location of residency, racial customs and traditions, community socioeconomics, and individual income. Repeal the Board of Game "ANS experiment" that pre-classifies residents without individual criteria data by eliminating thousands as "not real subsistence users," without any questions or data from the individual concerning subsistence use. (See Judge Bauman's decision in *Manning v. State ADFG, Ahtna*, 3KN-09-178CI July 2010).

Who will benefit? The individual subsistence user with the most reliance on subsistence will benefit, no matter what their race or location of residency. All individual Alaskans who rely on subsistence will have equal protection and priority qualification over those that do not depend on subsistence resources as a mainstay of livelihood from their subsistence harvest abilities, all without consideration of and regardless of their location of residency in the state, their racial

customs & traditions, their proximity of domicile to the subsistence resource, their community socio-economics (costs of gas & groceries, income levels), their community level of a primary cash-economy, or the individual's monetary income. Protections afforded by Alaska subsistence law AS 16.05.258(b)(4) for those who rely on long-time subsistence dependency for human food sustenance as well as customs and traditions, will be upheld and allowed to continue for future generations of all Alaskans.

This will help unify all the people of the State of Alaska, will stop the growing racial-rural-urban divide of subsistence use, will uphold the Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 "common use" equal rights for all defined as subsistence as highest priority, then sport, then commercial use of fish & wildlife resources. Also will comply with judicial (*McDowell*), statutory (Alaska subsistence law AS 16.05.258), the Public Trust Doctrine, and constitutional mandates (Article VIII Section 3 "common use" equal rights).

Unifying all the Alaska people by equal subsistence rights under the Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 "common use," upholding the statutes Alaska subsistence law AS 16.05.258(b), and in conjunction with judicial case precedents, will strengthen Alaska's sovereign statehood rights to manage its fish & wildlife resources for the benefit of all the people of the state of Alaska, and will strengthen and protect our statehood sovereign rights against continued federal demands to take over management of state resources for a select racial rural few. This will also counter recent claims from racial groups that allege the ADF&G and the Board of Game have **failed to protect subsistence** and who now demand they as a private party have "exclusive management authority" over the entire migration route of the Nelchina caribou, and over all state, private, public, and federal fish, wildlife, and water resources that encompass their traditional hunting territory (see proposed "Alaska Natives [Ahtna] Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014," proposed by Ahtna and introduced by Congressman Don Young to U.S. Congress, March 2014.).

Who will be disappointed? Racial groups that oppose equal subsistence use for all Alaskans, and those who seek an unconstitutional racial rural preference and priorities based on dubious claims of necessary racial priority preference as essential to protect their racial customs & traditions, and those that continue to seek federal management to replace sovereign statehood management of state fish & wildlife resources (See, e.g., *Katie John II*).

The ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management already require hunter reports for harvest success, thus the existing data can be easily used to verify past subsistence user harvests.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (EG-C14-228)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 99.070. Tier II subsistence hunting permit points system Change the eligibility criteria for all Tier II subsistence hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

Where Tier II level subsistence hunting permits are required, for all big game species, Tier II eligibility be based on individual verifiable data from each resident hunter applicant for each big

game species applied for including: (1) years hunted, received, and eaten the big game species for human food; (2) the total amount of subsistence resources acquired over each year for up to the last sixty years, including big game, small game, waterfowl, freshwater fish, saltwater fish, and trapping resources harvested; and (3) the number of family members and friends that shared your annual subsistence harvest over the last year three years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the eligibility criteria for all Tier II level subsistence hunts, to use only individual past dependency on subsistence resources, eliminate consideration of eligibility criteria on location of residency, racial customs and traditions, community socio-economics, and individual income.

Repeal the Board of Game "ANS experiment" that pre-classifies residents without individual subsistence harvest criteria data, that eliminates thousands as "not real subsistence users" just to reduce ANS and get out of Tier-II level subsistence hunt. Pre-classification of who is or is not a "real subsistence user" based on racial customs and traditions, without any questions or data from the individual concerning subsistence use, violates statutory and constitutional equal protections. (See Judge Bauman's decision in *Manning v. State ADFG, Ahtna*, 3KN-09-178CI July 2010).

Eliminate the present unconstitutional "rural preference" eligibility criteria of community costs of fuel, community cost of groceries, and number of days spent hunting and fishing in the area of the hunt applied for, and use the total amount of hunting and fishing from anywhere in the state. This will eliminate the unconstitutional "rural preference" priority.

Who will benefit? All individual subsistence users with the most reliance on subsistence will benefit, no matter what their racial customs and traditions, location of residency, community socio-economics, or individual income. All individual Alaskans who rely on subsistence will have equal protection and priority qualification over those that do not depend on subsistence resources as a mainstay of livelihood from their subsistence harvest abilities, and all without consideration of and regardless of their location of residency in the state, their racial customs & traditions, their proximity of domicile to the subsistence resource, their community socio-economics (costs of gas & groceries, income levels), their community level as a primary cash-economy, or the individual's monetary income. Protections afforded by Alaska subsistence law AS 16.05.258(b)(4) [Tier-II level hunt] for those individuals who rely on long-time subsistence dependency for human food sustenance as well as customs and traditions, will be upheld and allowed to continue for future generations of all Alaskans.

This will help unify all the people of the State of Alaska, will stop the growing racial-rural-urban divide of subsistence use rights, will uphold the Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 "common use" equal rights for all - defined as subsistence as highest priority - then sport - then commercial use of fish & wildlife resources. And will comply with judicial holdings (*McDowell v. State*), statutory requirements (Alaska Subsistence Law AS 16.05.258(b)(4) [Tier-II level hunt]), the Public Trust Doctrine, and constitutional mandates (Article VIII Section 3 "common use" equal rights)..

Unifying all the Alaska people by equal Tier-II level subsistence based on individual subsistence dependency, upholding equal rights under the Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 “common use,” upholding the statutes Alaska subsistence law AS 16.05.258(b), and in conjunction with judicial case precedents, will strengthen Alaska’s sovereign statehood rights to manage its fish & wildlife resources for the benefit of all the people of the state of Alaska, and will strengthen and protect our statehood sovereign rights against continued federal demands to take over management of state subsistence resources for the benefit of a select racial rural few. This will also counter recent claims from racial groups that allege the ADF&G and Board of Game have failed to protect subsistence and who now unlawfully demand they as a private party have “exclusive management authority” over the entire migration route of the Nelchina caribou, and over all state, private, public, and federal lands for fish, wildlife, and water resources that encompass their alleged traditional hunting territory (see proposed “Alaska Natives [Ahtna] Co-Management Demonstration Act of 2014,” proposed by Ahtna and introduced by Congressman Don Young to U.S. Congress, March 2014.).

Who will be disappointed? Racial and rural groups that oppose equal "common use" subsistence rights for all Alaskans; those who seek an unconstitutional racial and/or rural preference priority for subsistence use of limited state subsistence resources, and those that continue to seek federal management to replace sovereign statehood management of state fish & wildlife resources (See, e.g., *Katie John II*).

The ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management already require hunter reports for harvest success for fish and wildlife, big game and small game, thus the existing data can be easily used to verify individual past subsistence user harvests.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (EG-C14-229)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the Unit 13D goat drawing hunt (DG720) to registration hunt as follows:

Propose to have goat drawing hunt DG720 made into registration hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There has been very low participation and success in goat drawing hunt DG720 within Unit 13D, due to very limited and remote access.

PROPOSED BY: Clint Mayeur (EG-C14-226)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Add all of Unit 13D to mountain goat registration hunt RG580 as follows:

Unit 11
September 1-November 30; September 1-November 30 (General hunt only)
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

(6) Unit 13(D)

[THAT PORTION SOUTH OF THE TIEKEL RIVER AND EAST OF A LINE BEGINNING AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE TIEKEL AND TSINA RIVERS 1 GOAT BY REGISTRATION]

September 1-November 30; September 1-November 30 (General hunt only)

1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

[OF NANNIES WITH KIDS IS PROHIBITED

REMAINDER OF UNIT 13(D) AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20 (GENERAL HUNT ONLY) 1 GOAT BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY, UP TO 50 PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED; THE TAKING OF NANNIES WITH KIDS IS PROHIBITED]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 13D has traditionally been managed under draw tag (DG719) although there is a healthy population. This area is very difficult to access and mostly tough fly-in country. The current drawing was necessary when sheep hunting was allowed under a general hunt. Now sheep hunting is on a drawing permit system and the goat drawing is no longer necessary.

At the 2007 spring board meeting proposal 95 was passed to add an area in southeastern Unit 13D to the RG580 goat hunt. The new area added in 2007 has proven to be mildly popular and has produced one-three goats annually.

Goat hunting has been managed successfully on a registration permit system in neighboring parts of Unit 14C for years. Unit 14C is much closer to population centers and has easier access than Unit 13D. With growing goat populations in Unit 8 with a two goat limit, and stable populations in most other areas, goat hunting opportunities are at an all-time high in other areas of Alaska. This means the demand for goats in these tough areas is lower.

Other solutions considered? Status quo; the worst option, the resource will continue to be untapped. Consider a quota with a five-day reporting period, an emergency closure could be made if the quota is met. Consider breaking the area into several registration units.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-C14-189)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Lengthen the goat permit season in Unit 13D to align with the registration hunt as follows:

The season dates for the DG720 goat hunt could be changed to August 10–November 30 or August 10–October 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the DG720 mountain goat season in Unit 13D to coincide with the Unit 13D mountain goat registration hunt RG580. Portions of the hunt area between DG720 and RG580 are separated by small drainages, and the RG580 hunt remains open until November 30 while the DG720 hunt

closes September 20. With only 35 DG720 permits awarded for all of Unit 13D what would be the harm in having a little longer season? Most of the other drawing goat hunts in the state stay open between mid-October through December. The DG720 hunt area is very large and in the last three years of data since this hunt area was established by combining DG718 and DG719 these are the statistics: In 2011 there were 14 hunters that hunted (25 permits awarded) that harvested eight male goats for 57% success, and in 2012 there were 15 hunters that hunted (35 permits awarded) that harvested two male goats, and one female goat for 20% success, and in 2013 there were 22 hunters that hunted (35 permits awarded) that harvested nine male goats and one female goat for 45% success rate. I have considered keeping the season the same, but what harm would come from a longer season? For the last two years they have awarded ten more permits than in previous years so overall population should be stable if more permits are being awarded. If nothing is done and the season dates remain the same it is just giving hunters less opportunity to hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Anderson (EG-C14-32)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow brown bears to be taken over bait in all of Units 11 and 13 as follows:

5 AAC 92.044 (a) In addition to any condition that ADF&G may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

- (1) a person may establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, **11**, 12, 13[(D)], 15, 16, 20(C), 20(E), and 21(D), only if that person obtains a permit under this section;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are two issues: 1) There has been an administrative interpretation by ADF&G that has eliminated Unit 13 as an area that a guide may apply for as an extra guide use area. This will drastically reduce the take of brown bears in Unit 13. ADF&G staff in Glennallen have closely studied this high harvest rate and deemed it to be sustainable. Allowing the use of bait will replace some of the take eliminated by this interpretation.

2) Unit 11 is quite remote and gets very little pressure from brown bear hunters. Well over 90% of the unit is federal lands that will likely be off limits to baiting under this regulation. This will give a small opportunity, mostly on native lands along the Copper River to take brown bears that are otherwise very difficult to hunt due to dense forest. Most of the area surrounding Unit 11 is already open to brown bear baiting (Units 12 and 13D).

Brown bear take will decline in Unit 13. Nothing will happen in Unit 11, it will be the status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-C14-188)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear, and 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall season for hunting brown and black bear over bait in Unit 13D as follows:

Brown and black bear may be taken over bait in Unit 13D from August 25 to October 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see a fall season for hunting brown and black bear over bait in Unit 13D. There is an overabundance of both brown and black bears in this area, and they have been known to take up to 70% of moose calves in other areas (No study has been done in this area). This area is heavily timbered with difficult access and this would be a good tool to get an increase in the harvest of brown and black bears.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-213)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan, shorten the season, and add a no-hunt corridor along the roads in Unit 13B as follows:

Unit 13B: five ptarmigan per day, 10 in possession [10 per day, 20 in possession] August 20-March 31; except that from January 1-March 31 there will be a five mile (2.5 miles either side of the road) no-hunting corridor along both the Denali and Richardson Highways.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ptarmigan season in Unit 13B. The present season does not address nor adequately protect the ptarmigan populations in our subunit, especially along the roadside. Ptarmigan densities off of the Denali and Richardson highways are healthy, while those along the road are not. The August 10 opening date does not protect juvenile birds. The early closure (November 30) does not allow for late season hunting which is more likely to target populations farther from the road system. The present bag limit (ten per day, 20 in possession) is too liberal if we couple it with extended season dates. Our regulation is more complicated than most bird regulations, but we are addressing harvest in one of the most heavily hunted areas of the state. If we are to continue to offer hunting opportunities for as many hunters as possible without negatively impacting our bird populations, then the hunting public must, by necessity, become more educated.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-201)

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B, & 16

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 84.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Unit 14(A) 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1000 antlerless moose permits may be issued	Aug. 20-Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1-Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 200 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 14(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. There are two types of antlerless moose hunts in the Mat-Su Valley, a drawing permit hunt used to regulate growth of the moose population in Unit 14A and targeted hunts used to mitigate public safety concerns in Units 14A and 14B.

Moose surveys conducted in November 2013 resulted in an estimate of 8,500 moose in Unit 14A with a bull ratio of 21 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 45 calves:100 cows. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000 – 6,500 moose and is an increase from the results of the 2011 survey that produced an estimate of 8,000 moose.

Based on current projections, the Unit 14A moose population is expected to grow and continue to exceed population objectives. If the density of moose is allowed to increase, we anticipate an increase in the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population's growth and recommended as a way to provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Mat-Su Valley.

The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B are an effective tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collision and nuisance management issues. Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 266 moose per year were killed in the Mat-Su Valley area during the last few years of average snowfall and substantially more were killed during higher snowfall years. ADF&G also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-338)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a resident, late-season archery hunt for moose in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

For Units 14A and 14B, one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only, residents with a regular harvest ticket.

Season date would start five days after the firearm season closed and will last ten days. Example: if the firearm season closes September 25, October 1-10 for a late season archery moose hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A "late" season archery moose hunt in Unit 14 for residents only. This late season hunt would begin five days after the firearm season closes, and would be for bulls only with the same antler requirements as firearm season, and would last for ten days.

This late season archery-only moose hunt would benefit resident bowhunters, who will need to complete an International Bowhunter Education Program course, including demonstrating shooting proficiency to utilize their skills outside the firearms season.

A late season hunt benefits these resident hunters because the weather conditions are cooler and drier, which is conducive to better meat care and less potential for spoilage. There will be less foliage which will allow for greater shot accuracy and will also aid in the locating and recovery of downed animals.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Warner

(EG-C14-302)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a late-season archery-only hunt for moose in Unit 16 as follows:

For both Units 16A and 16B, one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brown tines as at least one side, by bow and arrow only, residents and nonresidents with a regular harvest ticket.

Season date would start five days after the firearm season closed and will last ten days. Using the example from the 2013 moose season for Unit 16, the dates would be October 1-10 for a late season archery moose hunt. In 2013, the moose season was from August 20-September 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A late season archery only moose hunt in Unit 16 for both residents and nonresidents. The late season archery only moose hunt would occur five days after the firearm season closed and would be for bulls with the same requirements as the firearm season, and would last for ten days.

A late season archery-only moose season would benefit bowhunters, who by July 2016 will need to have completed an International Bowhunter Education Program and have their certification in their possession to hunt big game in Alaska with a bow and arrow, demonstrate their ethics and utilize their skills outside of the firearm season. Additionally, the moose population in Unit 16 has rebounded significantly since the inception of the predator control permit program for black bear.

A late season archery-only moose hunt would benefit both moose, and bowhunters, because the weather would be cooler and drier and there would be fewer insects, and therefore less potential for meat spoilage. There would be less vegetation (foliage) and less ground cover which would aid in the recovery of downed game. Bowhunters need to be much closer to the game than hunters using a firearm, and the reduced foliage has the potential to allow for greater accuracy using bow and arrow.

PROPOSED BY: James Weise

(EG-C14-300)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 84.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B as follows:

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

(14)

...

Unit 16(B), Kalgin Island
1 moose per regulatory year,
by registration permit only

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The population objective for this predator-free, 23-mi² island is 20-40 moose, a density of 1-1.75 moose/mi². During a December 2012 survey, ADF&G staff counted 104 moose, approximately 4.5 moose/mi².

Because of concerns of over-population and deteriorating habitat conditions, a drawing permit hunt for cows was initiated in 1995. In an attempt to reduce the population quickly, the board established a registration hunt for any moose for the fall 1999 season. The population of moose on Kalgin Island is high at this time and remains above the objective of 20-40.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-342)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Allow brown bear to be taken over bait in Unit 14B as follows:

I recommend allowing grizzlies to be taken over bait one every regulatory year. All salvage requirements as black bear are now for this unit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to address the number of grizzly bears in Unit 14B. I think the numbers are very high and it would benefit moose population if we lowered the numbers

PROPOSED BY: Austin Bulawa (EG-C14-191)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5AAC 92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives and 92.122. Intensive Management Plan VI. Review and modify the Unit 16 predation control plan as follows:

5AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
------------	---------	----------------------	-------------------

...

Moose

...

GMU 16(B) (mainland)	Positive	6,500 – 7,000	310 – 600
-------------------------	----------	---------------	-----------

...

5 AAC 92.122. Intensive Management Plan VI. (a) is entirely deleted and replaced by the following..

...

(a) Plan established. The intensive management plan for the Unit 16 Predation Control Area is established in this section.

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

(1) This is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in 2004 for wolf control and was modified by the board to authorize black bear control in 2007 and brown bear control in 2011; it is currently designed to increase moose numbers and harvest by reducing predation on moose and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 16.

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

(A) Moose IM objectives established by the board for Unit 16(B) are 6,500 – 7,500 moose with a sustainable annual harvest of 310 – 600 moose; This population is composed of subpopulations that reside within in the unit; however, a subpopulation from the flanks of Mount Yenlo and in the upper Lake Creek drainage mixes in winter with moose from Unit 16(A) in the Kahiltna River drainage, and a subpopulation from the flanks of Mount Susitna and the

drainages of Alexander Creek and lower Yentna River winters with moose from Units 14(A), 14(B), and 16(A) in the lower Yentna and Susitna Rivers;

(B) the wolf control objective is to reduce the population to between 22 and 45 wolves in mainland portion of Unit 16(B);

(C) the black bear control objective is to reduce the population to 600 black bears in the mainland portion of Unit 16(B);

(D) the brown bear control objective is to reduce the population to a minimum of 250 brown bears in the mainland portion of Unit 16(B);

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

(A) the population objectives for moose in mainland Unit 16(B) are not being met, largely due to high predator numbers and the inability of the moose population to recover given the high predation rates;

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

(C) a reduction in wolf and bear predation in the mainland portion of Unit 16(B) and portions of Unit 16(A) can reasonably be expected to make progress towards achieving the Unit 16(B) intensive management objectives for moose;

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

(E) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns;

(4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles;

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

(C) hunting of black and brown bears by the public in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting regulations set out elsewhere in this title;

(D) the commissioner may issue public bear control permits to reduce the black bear and brown bear populations within the Unit 16 Predation Control Area by the following methods and means:

(i) legal animal is any black bear, including sows and cubs, and any brown bear, except sows with cubs of the year, and cubs of the year;

(ii) no bag limit;

(iii) same-day-airborne taking of black bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the airplane;

(iv) same-day-airborne taking of bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the use of any type of aircraft, such as fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter, to access bear baiting stations from April 15 through October 15, except that helicopters may not be used from August 5 through September 25;

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

(vi) same-day-airborne taking of bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the use of any type of aircraft, such as fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter, from April 15 through October 15, except that a helicopter may not be used from August 5 through September 25; a helicopter may be used only to transport resident permittees, gear, and harvested bears and parts of bears directly to and from a foot-snaring camp; up to 10 helicopter permits may be issued to helicopter pilots; helicopter permits may be issued at the discretion of the department and a permittee must attend a department-approved orientation course;

(vii) taking of bears by foot snaring by permit only from April 15 through October 15; permittees must be accompanied by another person, age 16 or older, when conducting foot snaring activities in the field; foot snaring permits will be issued at the discretion of the department based on previous trapping experience, ability to help train other participants, and length of time available for participation in a snaring program; a selected foot snaring permittee must successfully complete a department-approved training program, must be a resident 16 years of age or older, and report all animals taken by the permittee to the department within 48 hours of taking;

(viii) foot snares may only be placed on the ground directly under the bucket snare, or in buckets, and must be checked by the permittee at least once each day;

(ix) all brown bears that are cubs of the year or a sow accompanied by cubs of the year incidentally snared must be immediately reported to the department; if

practicable, an incidentally snared brown bear will be released by department staff; hides and skulls of incidentally snared brown bears are the property of the state and must be salvaged and delivered to the department;

(5) Time frame is as follows:

(A) through July 1, 2021, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves, black bears and brown bears in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area;

(B) annually, the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of moose, wolf, and bear populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(6) The commissioner will review, modify or suspend program activities as follows:

(A) when the mid-point of intensive management objectives for the moose population are achieved;

(B) when wolf population surveys or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers below the midpoint of the intensive management objective of 22 – 45 wolves specified in this subsection;

(C) when black bear population inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing black bear numbers below the management objective of 600 black bears specified in this subsection;

(D) when brown bear population inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing brown bear numbers below the management objective of 250 brown bears specified in this subsection;

(E) if after 3 years if the harvest of predators is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves, black bears or brown bears; the program may be temporarily suspended for one or more of the predator species;

(F) predator control activities may be terminated:

(i) if after 3 years, fall calf-to-cow ratios show no appreciable increase;

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

(iii) when the moose population and harvest objectives within the Unit 16(B) predator control area have been met .

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To comply with protocol for intensive management plans, ADF&G is introducing new regulatory language for the intensive management plan for the Unit 16B predator control area and will present an operational plan to guide the implementation of the program during the February 2015 Board of Game meeting. These documents incorporate guidance the board gave to ADF&G after the board reviewed the intensive management plan for the Unit 16B predator control area during the February 2013 Board of Game meeting. This proposal also allows the board to modify the programs objectives and give further guidance to ADF&G if warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-343)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear, and 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Establish a fall season for hunting black and brown bear over bait in Unit 16 as follows:

Brown and black bear may be taken over bait by residents and nonresidents in all of Unit 16 except for Denali State Park, August 25- October 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see a fall season for hunting brown and black bear over bait in all of Unit 16, except for Denali State Park. There is an overabundance of both brown and black bears in this area that are taking up to 70% of moose calves. This area is heavily timbered with difficult access and this would be a good way to get an increase in the harvest of brown and black bears.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-215)

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Establish the Hatcher's Pass Youth Management Area in Unit 14A, for small game hunting as follows:

Hatcher's Pass Youth Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 14A within the upper Little Susitna River drainage upstream of mile 13.6 on Hatcher Pass Road (Gold Mint Trail parking area) and ¼ mile away from the road including Archangel and Fishhook creeks, and upper Little Susitna River drainages. Also, portions of the upper Willow Creek drainage upstream of the confluence of Willow and Craigie creeks, including Grubstake Gulch and Homestake creeks, Summit Lake, and Bullion and Skyscraper mountains. There is no discharge of firearms allowed within ¼ mile of the road.

(B) from August 10 to August 25, the area is closed to small game hunting except that small game may be taken by youth hunters 16 years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter education course if the

youth has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course. Youth hunters and accompanying adults must wear hunter orange vests while in the field.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Valley has grown over the past 10-15 years so has the number of families and adults hoping to introduce young hunters to small game (grouse, ptarmigan, and hare) hunting. However, the dramatic increase in human density there has increased hunting pressure placed on local small game populations, specifically grouse and ptarmigan. As a result, overall abundance of grouse and ptarmigan populations has declined within the road accessible portions of the Mat-Su Valley. Youth hunters and those that are accompanying them continue to face increased competition for this declining resource. A youth hunting location in the heavily populated Mat-Su Valley would provide youth hunters and those that accompany them an easily accessible opportunity to hunt small game before the school year begins, while the weather is relatively warm, and populations of grouse and ptarmigan are accessible.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-244)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Open a general hunt with no closed season and no bag limit for beaver in Unit 16B as follows:

Open beaver for a general hunting season in Unit 16B. Under the fur animals section for beaver of the hunting regulations, move the Unit 16B beaver to the section with the other units that have beaver open for no limit and no closed season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To open beaver for a general hunting season in Unit 16B. The beaver numbers are very overpopulated for the area. Every pond has at least one beaver lodge and several lakes have four or more lodges. Each lodge could have as many as 12 beaver living there. The beavers are starting to dam the salmon streams and flood out habitat vital to the other species living there. Very few, if any, beavers are harvested by trappers in Unit 16B during the trapping season, it's simply too difficult to have an impact when there's three to four feet of ice. A hunting season will slowly bring the beaver numbers back to a healthy population. If beaver numbers are not lowered then more habitat will be destroyed, salmon will be impacted on their travels upstream, private property in the unit will be damaged, and there is always a greater risk of disease spreading within and outside of Unit 16B; diseases such as Giardiasis, Hepatitis A, Salmonella, Campylobacter and Cryptosporidium which can all be caused by beaver.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Perrins II (EG-C14-265)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 95.505. Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge as follows:

AS 16.05.255(a)(1) states that the Board of Game may "set apart" game reserves and refuges subject to legislative approval. the Board of Fisheries has a similar authority under AS 16.05.251(a)(1). I propose the following action:

The Board(s) of Game (and Fisheries) hereby sets aside lands described below, acquired and transferred to the State for addition to Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, for enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and related public uses of the refuge.

Additions to include the formerly named M'Karzel, Williams, Fritzler, Cassity, and Cope parcels, and any other similarly situated acquisitions in state ownership.

In addition, the board(s) requests the Alaska Legislature to approve this action by amending AS 16.20.032 to include the additions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 1990, ADF&G has collaborated with public and private partners to acquire inholdings and parcels adjacent to Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge from willing sellers to consolidate and add land to the refuge for fish and wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing, secure public access and facilitate outdoor education and other compatible uses. Five primary parcels, comprising over 1,360 acres have been purchased for over \$310,000 of public and private funds and transferred to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources with conservation easements for incorporation into Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Over the past 20 years, no legislative action has affirmatively added these parcels to the refuge, either because ADF&G and past administrations have not been successful in moving a bill or because no sponsors have acted.

It is important, if only for completing valuable good faith conservation actions, to request addition of these parcels to the refuge so ADF&G can manage these lands consistent with refuge goals and management plans and address current issues.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Rothe (EG-C14-301)

Sheep Hunting Proposals for Central/Southwest & Interior Regions

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the Dall sheep hunts in Units 13D and 14A to full curl rams with limited permits as follows:

All Unit 13D and Unit 14A sheep drawing permit hunts should be conducted under the current full curl regulations. All sheep hunts in Units 13D and Unit 14A should be managed for a high quality hunting experience with a goal of not harvesting more than 50% of the known full curl rams.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At present draw sheep hunts in part of Unit 13D (DS160 and DS260) and all of Unit 14A are any ram hunts. This regulation has been in place since 2008. To date that is six full seasons. The thinking at the time when these regulations were adopted was there would be fewer permits issued and less hunting pressure on the old mature rams and that would lead to a population with more mature (full curl) rams in it. Neither of these areas has increased the number of mature rams by much, if any. There is a high number of permits being issued in Unit 14A with a corresponding high number of sub-full curl rams harvested. You can't get more mature rams with this large harvest of young rams. Continued harvest of young rams before breeding age will mean their genetics are not reaching the gene pool. These sheep populations have declined significantly in the last ten years and we need to manage them conservatively. These hunts should be changed to the harvest of full curl with a limited number of permits issued so that no more than 50% of the known number of full curl rams are harvested in any given year. Both Unit 13D and Unit 14A should be managed as trophy areas (that is what a full curl is) with a high quality hunting experience as the goal.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-C14-306)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the bag limit for Dall sheep in Units 13D and 14A to full curl as follows:

Change the current language to read: A legal ram is a full curl or larger, or a ram with the tips of both horns broken, or a ram at least 8 years old.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the current any ram bag limit for Units 13D and 14A, for draw hunts DS160, DS170, DS175, DS180, DS185, DS190, DS195, DS260, DS270, DS275, DS280, DS285, DS290 and DS295. This would align the legal horn size with all the other areas of the state. Our advisory committee is unanimously opposed to the taking of sub-legal rams.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-319)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts, and 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts. Reinstate language regarding proof of guide-client contract for Dall sheep, mountain goat and moose drawing hunts as follows:

For the Central/Southwest Region, reinstate the language in 5AAC 92.057 (regarding sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts) and in 5AAC 92.069 (regarding specific nonresident moose drawing permit hunts) as it exists now prior to changes that will take effect July 1, 2015.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2014 the Board of Game passed Proposal 146, to eliminate the requirement for a guide-client contract and proof of guide use area registration at the time of application for drawing permit hunts, and amended it to be effective July 1, 2015. The board stated that its intent was not to eliminate the guide-client contract, and there was some confusion as to what this action would actually do. In reality it eliminated the need for the contract as these sections were the only ones mentioned in the regulations of the guide-client contract. I think this issue needs to be reconsidered and there is work currently being done by the ADF&G, the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and the Big Game Commercial Services Board to maintain the requirement for the guide-client contract for these draw areas and place the responsibility on the guides and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to be sure the guides are compliant.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Montgomery (EG-C14-212)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Allow a maximum of 10% of sheep hunt participation for nonresidents in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

Sheep proposal for all of the Central/Southwest Region:

A maximum of 10% (10% is not guaranteed) nonresident participation in all sheep hunts for all of the Central/Southwest Region. This includes guided general and permit hunts and next of kin hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses overcrowding, lack of opportunity, a stressed legal ram population and a diminished hunting experience for Alaska residents. All of these issues can be addressed by reducing the number of hunters in the field and that must start by reducing nonresident participation.

Alaska residents have an approximately 23% success rate. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska, which is an allocation that no other state would tolerate. Most states allocate a maximum of 10% of the tags to nonresidents, which is less than 10% of the harvested resource.

Much of the sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region is regulated by permit hunts and nonresident participation should be reduced to a maximum of 10% (10% is not guaranteed,

whether guided or next of kin). The 10% number for nonresident permits should be calculated from the entire region and not micromanaged with each subunit. General hunts should have a maximum of 10% nonresident participation, which would be taken from a five- year average of nonresident license applications.

The only other solution considered should be the elimination of nonresident sheep tags until the Board of Game addresses this issue on a statewide basis and creates a better experience for Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal (EG-C14-260)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit sheep harvest by nonresidents to 10% of total harvest in Units 11, 13, 14, and 16 as follows:

Nonresident harvest of legal sheep, whether by draw or general harvest tag, will only be 10% of the total harvest. (Empirical data exists to determine the limitation of both draw hunts and general harvest hunts to determine the actual number of tags that should be allowed to ensure that total harvest by nonresidents does not exceed 10%.)

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents and the disparity of success between resident and nonresident hunters. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. 40% of legal rams harvested are by nonresidents. While residents may harvest the other 60%, less than one in four resident hunters are actually successful. Understand that fact--over 75% of resident hunters are unsuccessful every year. Nonresident hunters are significantly more successful than resident hunters because of their guides who can spend tens of thousands of dollars locating rams in the offseason by fixed wing aircraft. Most residents can't afford a plane to locate rams, much less the fuel. The current structure has successful sheep hunting becoming a rich man's sport. That's not right and by not limiting nonresident tags (draw and general), the board has created a very sad state of affairs with our sheep population, and especially our population of legal rams.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-295)

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 44.)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Change the nonresident general sheep hunts to draw hunts for the Interior Region, and cap the number of permits based on sheep density as follows:

All nonresident sheep hunts in Region III (Interior Region), where we have general open season hunts for nonresidents (excluding subunits within U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS) lands) become draw only, and the total number of permits is capped based on sheep density and population estimates and/or recent historical sheep harvest data for each subunit, to try to achieve a balance whereby nonresident guided sheep hunter harvest rates are lowered, more full curl rams are left on the mountain, and the conflicts afield greatly reduced.

(If the Board of Game (board) prefers, this regulation if passed could have a sunset clause added should the proposed Department of Natural Resources (DNR) guide concession program ever be implemented.)

We recognize that not all areas in Region III are experiencing the problems outlined in this proposal. However, if the board only works to “fix” the problem areas, that presents the real possibility that some guides will shift to areas still open to general season nonresident sheep hunting where the same type of problems will occur.

There are various ways the board could decide permit allocation levels. One way would be to look at the sheep harvest statistics for federal lands where the federal guide concession program is in place. It has been widely promoted that the proposed DNR guide concession program the board favors as a solution to these issues was supposed to mirror or be similar to the federal concession program. Just using the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as an example, nonresident sheep harvest rates have tended to average between 25-30%. Below are the statistics from 2011 for subunits 26B and 26C within the Refuge:

**Interim Reports GS000 Sheep - Year 2011 Unit 26B, 26C
Current File Statistics (110)**

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Did Hunt	Not	Total Hunters	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Residents	95	36.8% 36.8% of all overlays	163	63.2% 63.2% of all overlays	0	0%	258	100%
Non Res	37	72.5% 72.5% of all overlays	14	27.5% 27.5% of all overlays	0	0%	51	100%
Unspecified	7	41.2%	10	58.8%	0	0%	17	100%

		41.2% of all overlays		58.8% of all overlays				
No Overlay	0	0% of all tickets	1	100% of all tickets	0	0%	1	100%
Total	139	42.5%	188	57.5%	0	0%	327	100%

Nonresident guided hunters took 37 of 139 total sheep for a 27% harvest rate. Nonresident guided hunters comprised 15% of the total hunters.

ISSUE: Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunities and unlimited guide numbers in parts of Region III.

In many parts of Region III (excluding USFWS and NPS lands) where we have open general season sheep hunts, there are no limits on the number of nonresident hunters or the guides they are required to hire to hunt sheep. Because nonresident guided hunters have such a higher success rate than resident hunters, this has led to concerns of localized diminished populations and future restrictions on resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities. Some areas are also experiencing crowding, conflicts between guides and resident hunters and conflicts between guides licensed for the same area.

Our primary concerns are sheep conservation and continued resident general season sheep hunting opportunities. We firmly believe that we can't allow any areas to have nearly every full-curl ram harvested each season, which is what we fear may happen in some areas if we continue to allow unlimited guiding and nonresident sheep hunting opportunities. We also believe, just on a matter of fairness to Alaskan resident sheep hunters, that nonresident sheep harvest rates of 40% across much of Region III, and 50-80% in some subunits, is unacceptable.

For example, below are the 2011 statistics for two subunits (2012 data not yet available):

**Interim Reports Sheep - Year 2011 Unit 19C
Current File Statistics (110)**

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Did Hunt		Not		Total Hunters	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Residents	10	16.7% of all overlays	50	83.3% of all overlays	0	0%	60	100%		
Non Res	66	82.5% of all overlays	14	17.5% of all overlays	0	0%	80	100%		
Unspecified	2	100% of all	0	0% of all	0	0%	2	100%		

		<i>overlays</i>		<i>overlays</i>				
No Overlay	3	100% <i>100% of all tickets</i>	0	0% <i>0% of all tickets</i>	0	0%	3	100%
Total	81	55.9%	64	44.1%	0	0%	145	100%

For subunit 19C, there were 80 confirmed nonresident guided hunters and 60 resident hunters who hunted Dall sheep in 2011. Guided nonresident hunters took 66 of 81 total sheep, resulting in 81% of the total overall harvest.

**Interim Reports GS000 Sheep - Year 2011 Unit 20A
Current File Statistics (110)**

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Did Hunt	Not	Total Hunters	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Residents	40	25.2% <i>25.2% of all overlays</i>	119	74.8% <i>74.8% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	159	100%
Non Res	62	72.1% <i>72.1% of all overlays</i>	24	27.9% <i>27.9% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	86	100%
Unspecified	1	16.7% <i>16.7% of all overlays</i>	5	83.3% <i>83.3% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	6	100%
No Overlay	1	100% <i>100% of all tickets</i>	0	0% <i>0% of all tickets</i>	0	0%	1	100%
Total	104	41.3%	148	58.7%	0	0%	252	100%

For Unit 20A, a subunit known to have the type of crowding and conflicts described in this proposal, in 2011 there were 86 confirmed nonresident guided sheep hunters and 159 resident hunters. Guided nonresident sheep hunters took 62 of 104 total sheep, resulting in 60% of the total harvest. (Note that even though resident sheep hunters were nearly double the nonresidents, guided nonresident hunters still took 60% of the sheep)

While we certainly support and respect the guiding profession and encourage nonresident hunting and want to share our wildlife resources with our nonresident hunting brethren, we believe there needs to be new limits applied to nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

This proposal is similar to the one we put before the board in 2012, and at that time the board expressed great displeasure when the Department of Fish and Game presented data on the high nonresident sheep harvest rates in some subunits, like those above. The board is well aware of

these ongoing problems, but has put off acting on them using the rationale that the proposed DNR Guide Concession Program that would limit guides (and thus their nonresident clients) would be implemented on state and Bureau of Land Management lands. But as of this writing, the proposed DNR guide concession program has not been funded and has been declared “dead” by DNR sources. Even if it were to be revived and be implemented, the earliest implementation keeps getting pushed farther and farther ahead on the calendar.

With all due respect to the board, we feel strongly it is well past time to act now in ways that will better conserve our sheep populations, prevent the loss of resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, and curb the ongoing conflicts that surround nonresident guided sheep hunting in much of Region III.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued localized diminished populations of full-curl rams that threaten population sustainability and resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, continued user conflicts and crowding, and continued inequitable nonresident sheep harvest rates of 40% annually in much of Region III, and 50-80% in some subunits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. By limiting nonresident sheep hunting opportunities in much of Region III we thus limit the number of guides they must hire, thereby reducing total sheep harvests, better conserving sheep populations, as well as improving the quality of sheep hunts for both guided and unguided hunters by reducing crowding and conflicts afield.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those who put the resource first and wish to see our Region III sheep populations conserved and sustained. All resident hunters who want to see their general open season sheep hunting opportunities retained, and their success rates go up. All guided nonresident hunters who don't want to compete with so many other guided hunters and who favor a more quality sheep hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some guides would suffer monetarily because of the lower number of nonresident clients. Division of Wildlife Conservation funding would decrease because of a decrease in nonresident sheep tags being sold, and some local economies could see a decrease in nonresident hunting-related tourism, but it's important to emphasize that these same things would happen if the DNR proposed guide concession program, which the board supports, was implemented.

Nonresident sheep hunters would lose the guarantee to be able to hunt Dall sheep in parts of Region III, and would have to take their chances with a draw-only hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Waiting for the DNR proposed guide concession program to be implemented. Rejected because we have already waited too long for this proposed concession program to be implemented, and it now appears it will never come about. 2) Only trying to “fix” the known problem areas in Region III, not making all of Region III draw-only for nonresident sheep hunters. Rejected because it has the potential to spread the problems to the areas still open to general season nonresident sheep hunting. 3) Including Region III registration

sheep hunts for residents in all general (non-draw) open season areas, mandatory harvest reporting period, Alaska Department of Fish and Games discretionary authority to close some sheep hunts based on harvest reports, in conjunction with our proposed solution. Rejected because we don't believe we need that at this time, but our concern is to conserve sheep so that sheep hunting by all can continue, and we do believe it is important that resident sheep hunters are fully cognizant this may be necessary down the line and preferable to a draw-only hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers EG050113878

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 46.)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts and limit the permit distribution to 10% of the annual ten year average for the Interior Region as follows:

Nonresidents wanting to participate in sheep hunting in Alaska will have to enter by drawing permit. The drawing permit will be limited to a maximum of 10% of the annual ten year historical average sheep harvest.

ISSUE: Because of our decreasing resident hunter success and falling sheep populations, I would like the Board of Game to limit, by drawing permit, all nonresident hunters of Alaska's Dall sheep to a maximum of 10% of the preceding ten year average historical harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskans limited natural resources will continue to be taken by increasing number of nonresidents. Ignoring this fact, and the fact of our shrinking sheep population, will soon force drawing permits on Alaska residents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal not only protects our natural resources from the ever increasing pressure of the guide industry, but also places Alaska on EQUAL footing with ALL western states who have long ago, limited the nonresident hunters to a maximum of 10% of the sheep permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Alaska residents, and the natural resources we are entrusted with.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some nonresident hunters and some in the guide industry.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Trying, yet again, to express to the Board of Game that we have a statewide problem with our Dall sheep populations. I am not blaming the guide industry for the decreasing sheep populations, I am saying that the increased percentage nonresident harvest, shows an increased pressure on our sheep.

The first step in restricting access of our limited game resources, should be to place our nonresident hunters on EQUAL footing with the nonresident hunters in other states.

PROPOSED BY: Vern Fiehler

EG042813810

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 47.)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a bowhunting only season for Dall sheep in Interior Region as follows:

Add a new bowhunting only sheep season in all northern and north-central units where there is a current general sheep season. Dates would be August 1-9; the bag limit would be one full curl ram. Open only to International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certified bowhunters.

ISSUE: Overcrowding of hunters seeking Dall sheep is reducing the quality of the sheep hunting experience.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem will continue to increase and eventually all sheep hunting will need to be by drawing permit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would improve the quality of the outdoor experience which qualifies as a resource. It would not improve the quality of the products produced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters by being given a chance to hunt sheep with less direct competition from rifle hunters. Firearm sheep hunters by not seeing quite as many hunters in the field when they were actually hunting because the bowhunters who wanted to hunt sheep would probably utilize the bow season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one really. Bowhunters for Dall sheep have a very low success rate even when they are allowed to take any sheep. This hunt would be much more difficult because it would be for full curl rams only. This proposal would serve to spread out utilization with very little effect on the sheep population. Multiple parties on the mountain at the same time significantly reduces the quality and enjoyment of the hunting experience for all involved.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Have the new archery season be after the regular sheep season, September 21-30. This is the model which has been in effect for over 30 years in Unit 14C. However the northern units (especially the Brooks Range) have very short cold days in late September and weather could be a safety issue. Long warm days are important to bowhunters who must be patient waiting for an opportunity to get close to sheep.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association

EG050113876

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 48.)

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts. Change all nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts in Unit 20 with a 75% distribution of nonresident permits as follows:

Turn all nonresident Dall sheep tags in Unit 20 to drawing only and limit the number to 75% of the number of nonresident tags based on historic average.

ISSUE: The overcrowding/overlapping of guides in Unit 20, conflicts between guides, their clients and residents and also an overharvest of rams that have not yet reached their full potential trophy value.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this issue is not addressed, a conflict will continue to exist and potentially increase between guides who are currently overcrowding one another during the current Dall sheep season. This overcrowding during Dall sheep season has also lead to reports to the Big Game Commercial Services Board of registered guides violating Alaska Statute 08.54.720 as well as more disturbing conflicts between guides and resident hunters.

The overcrowding of guides in Unit 20 has also led to an overharvest of rams in a means that does not allow them to reach their full potential trophy value. This is a major issue especially in Unit 20 where recent genetics have shown many rams take over eight years to reach the full curl requirement. If this issue is not addressed, we as a committee fear resident and nonresident hunters will never again have the opportunity to harvest a true trophy ram, which Unit 20 has been historically known to hold. As of 2011, over 70% of the Dall sheep harvested in Unit 20 have been by nonresidents, who are all required to have a registered guide accompany them. By simply reducing this number by a small fraction, harvest will in turn drop and many more rams will have the opportunity to reach older age. Nonresident hunters will still have the opportunity to hunt in other less pressured portions of Alaska, which is the only state in the United States to not require all nonresidents to apply for a drawing tag for wild sheep.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. By reducing the number of hunters in the field, the overall harvest numbers would decrease while at the same time give hunters the opportunity to disperse. This would in turn lessen the impact of harvest on individual herds and allow for rams to reach greater trophy value. The smaller harvest would also allow these higher trophy value rams to breed more ewes, spreading their genes while also increasing the overall Dall sheep population in Unit 20.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both resident and nonresident hunters alike as well as law-abiding guides.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A small percentage of nonresident hunters as well as a portion of the guiding industry.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Turn all nonresident sheep tags in Unit 20 to drawing only tags and reduce the number of tags to 80% of average. We believe as an Advisory Committee that this is not a sufficient enough percentage to reduce the overall harvest and guide conflicts in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG050113877

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 113.)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Create a youth Dall sheep hunt in Unit 20 remainder as follows:

Sheep, remainder of Unit 20

One sheep, drawing: July 20-August 5

Qualified youth hunters, one drawing permit per lifetime of hunter.

Youth hunters must have successfully completed a Alaska Department of Fish and Game approved Hunter Education Course and must be accompanied by a licensed resident adult that is at least 21 years of age or older. Proxy hunting is not allowed during this hunt. Biologists to determine the appropriate amount of permits to be offered.

ISSUE: Create an interior of Alaska youth sheep hunt. Currently youths can participate in regular season sheep hunts, but often are unable to compete in the field with older more seasoned adults.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Our hunting tradition will decline over time as our youths interest moves to other activities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, only provides a quality hunting experience without heavy competition from adults for our resident youth.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Youths ages 10 to 17, who draw a permit and are given this opportunity to hunt with an adult, often a parent, for several days above tree line.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Youths turning 18 or older would not eligible for drawing or the hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered asking for a ram only hunt, but creation of a ram or ewe only hunt has the potential to make their ultimate youth hunt into a horrible experience should they accidentally take ram on a ewe hunt or if ram is one inch short. We can avoid the possibility of that happening with an any sheep hunt. Also considered starting the season later, but Yukon Territory starts their sheep hunt July 15, why not in Alaska?

PROPOSED BY: Dave Machacek

EG032913741

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit nonresident sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region by having shorter seasons, drawing permits, or other methods as follows:

Nonresident hunting should be reduced with either shorter season, draw permit only, or some other method which limits their numbers.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident hunters do not have adequate access to sheep hunting opportunities. With the increased pressure from guides and nonresident hunters, chances for a successful hunt for a resident are slim to none. Nonresident hunting should be reduced with either shorter season, draw permit only or some other method which limits their numbers. The guide industry shouldn't suffer, because economic forces will prevail and they will charge more per hunt to ensure an enjoyable Alaskan quality experience.

PROPOSED BY: Keenan Zerkel

(EG-C14-307)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit allocation of nonresident sheep permits to 10% for the Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Sheep proposal for Central/Southwest Region Units:

Limit nonresident permit sheep hunts to 10%.

Once drawn, one cannot apply again for that specific draw permit (both residents and nonresidents).

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal addresses the lack of preference and opportunity given to residents for sheep hunting draw permits. Residents on average are only 20-25% successful in harvesting a legal ram whereas nonresidents, who harvest > 40% of all the rams annually in the state, are much more successful. A nonresident has an equal chance of being drawn for a permit sheep hunt as does a resident in our state. In most every Western State, nonresidents are limited to 5-15% of permits awarded for big game hunting opportunities. Also, many big game permits out of state are "once in a lifetime" hunts, not to be applied for again by either resident or nonresident. This allows for greater opportunity in subsequent years for those not initially drawn.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Ferucci

(EG-C14-254)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Begin resident sheep hunting seven days earlier than nonresidents in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 as follows:

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3 to September 20. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10 to September 20. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with nonresidents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides. If this problem is not addressed, Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

An earlier start for residents would have several benefits: Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less, quality rams.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprinkle

(EG-C14-292)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish earlier season date openings for resident sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

Sheep hunting dates for all of the Central/Southwest Region:

Residents: August 3 – September 20

Nonresidents: August 10 – September 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses overcrowding, lack of opportunity, a stressed legal ram population, and a diminished hunting experience for Alaska residents. All of these issues can be addressed by reducing the number of hunters in the field at the same time.

Alaska residents have an approximately 23% success rate. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska, which is an allocation that no other state would tolerate. Most states allocate a maximum of 10% of the tags to nonresidents, which is less than 10% of the harvested resource.

If sheep season started seven days earlier for residents, much of the overcrowding in the field would be eliminated. Air traffic would be spread out over a longer period and many of the residents would be returning from their hunt when the nonresidents were heading out. This will not reduce stress on the sheep population but it will create opportunity for residents and give them a better hunting experience. The Board of Game needs to limit nonresident participation but this will help in the Central/Southwest Region until we have a statewide meeting in 2016.

The only other solution considered would be to limit nonresident sheep season to 14 days (August 10-August 24) and resident sheep season would be August 10- September 20.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

(EG-C14-264)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a nine day, resident archery season in August for Dall sheep in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

Create a new hunting season for bow and arrow only for Dall sheep from August 1-9, in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, and 16 that currently have general sheep hunts by harvest ticket only.

These seasons would be for full curl, broomed both tips or 8+ year old rams only. Twenty years of bowhunting harvest statistics from Unit 14C indicate that only 1.7% of bowhunters are successful at taking full curl rams. IBEP certification would be required (it will be required for all bowhunting after July 2016 anyway).

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Overcrowding and limitation of opportunity for hunting Dall sheep. We suggest a method to increase hunting opportunity, spread out participation and reduce crowding with minimal impact on the species.

By creating a new hunt by bow and arrow only before the regular sheep season it would reduce crowding that occurs August 10 at the opening of the general sheep season. Hunters choosing to use bow and arrow would gain an advantage of being first into the mountains. They would be

enjoying a higher quality sheep hunting experience because of less crowding. At the same time they would be markedly limiting their chances of actually killing a ram because of the need to get so much closer to their quarry than if using a rifle. There is no biologic reason to wait until August 10 to open sheep season as sheep seasons in Canada open as early as July 15.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C14-243)

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 41.)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify season dates for Dall sheep in the Interior Region as follows:

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to nonresidents.

ISSUE: The Board of Game (board) needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with nonresidents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the

resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska 's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, though some will say nonresident hunters, nonresident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than nonresidents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that nonresident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly, again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business who does not favor this proposal. If not sure whether to favor Alaska residents over nonresidents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is re-established. Charge resident hunters nonresident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of nonresident tags. This would be the best management practice the board could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. I rejected this solution based on past performance of the board where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle EG042913813

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 42.)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open resident sheep hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region as follows:

Sheep season dates in Region III:

Alaska residents:	August 5 – September 20
Nonresidents:	August 12 – September 20

Alaska residents may only hunt sheep in regions with similar start dates. This will keep hunters from trying to get an early start in one region (which would cause overcrowding) and then shift to another area. If a resident hunter picks Region III or V those are the only regions they may hunt sheep for that season. If the Board of Game would have passed the early start dates at the last statewide meeting we wouldn't have to make more rules. We need to start this region by region so Alaskans will have this statewide preference by 2016. A different colored sheep tag for

Region III & V would make it easy to see if the resident hunter is in the appropriate area and legal.

ISSUE: Overcrowding, lack of quality experiences, and low allocations of sheep for Alaska residents. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of Alaska’s sheep and that number keeps increasing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of the hunt has been diminished by overcrowding and this is the best way to separate the number of hunters in the field. This is not a new idea and resident sheep hunters have supported this concept in the past. The resident has had to compete against the infrastructure of the guiding industry and everyone is trying to enter the mountains at the same time. Air services could spread out their charters and many residents would be returning when the nonresident hunters would be heading out to hunt with their chosen guide. Getting a legal ram is a difficult task and this would give our young Alaska resident hunters a much better opportunity to be successful. This should be a statewide proposal but the Board of Game failed to pass any of the 23 proposals presented to them requesting some preferences for Alaska residents. This statewide issue won’t come up again until 2016 so now we need to adjust the dates in different regions.

The only other solution is to put all nonresidents on permits. The number of permits given to nonresidents would be 15% of the total sheep harvest of the previous year. Example: 1000 sheep harvested = 150 permits for nonresidents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will make it much easier to get hunters in and out of the field – both resident and nonresident. Both groups will have a better experience due to less crowded conditions. Guides want people to think that nonresidents will quit coming to Alaska to hunt if any preference is given to Alaska residents and this is not the case. Nonresidents can come to Alaska and buy over the counter tags for most species cheaper than a deer tag can be purchased in many of the western states. The nonresident tag fees are a big boost to ADF&G but the Board of Game and the Alaska Legislature needs to keep resident Alaskans as their number one priority.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska resident sheep hunters and nonresident sheep hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial operators (guides) will complain but they are making money off a public resource we (all Alaskans) own and many of these guides are nonresidents who can’t legally harvest sheep, goats, or brown bears but they can guide other nonresidents. The price of the tag is cheap but the cost of a guided hunt is expensive.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

EG042913829

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 43.)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open resident sheep seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region as follows:

In Region III (Interior Region), change the dates for sheep hunting to:

Alaska residents: August 1 to September 20

Nonresidents: August 10 to September 20

ISSUE: The quality, safety and crowded conditions of sheep hunting at the start of the season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The overall quality and safety of sheep hunting in Alaska will continue to deteriorate due to the large number of people trying to get into the field at the start of the season. This will put a big strain on all of the resources and parties involved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would increase the overall quality and safety of sheep hunting for both the residents and nonresidents by eliminating overcrowding and the competition for available resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both the residents and nonresidents would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, although the guides and some nonresidents may disagree.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There is no other solution to this problem. I think that the guiding industry is doing a good job for their customers using a public resource to make a very good living. I welcome nonresident to come to Alaska and hunt but a quality hunt is very important for everyone and unless something is done this will not be the case.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes EG043013842

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 49.)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open resident sheep seasons one week prior to nonresidents in Units 25 and 26 as follows:

Residents have the first week of sheep season without the presence of guides and their hunters.

ISSUE: Open sheep season one week for residents only in Units 25 and 26.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guides think that they own the areas I know of one in particular in Unit 25 that comes over with his whole crew to try to scare off a resident hunter.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This helps separate the competition that guides have with hunters. The guides charge such a high price these days that it puts a lot of pressure on them to give there hunters a quality hunt. It would be better for all hunters because a lot of resident sheep hunters would be done hunting by the time the guides arrive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? I think everybody would.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would because the experience is what counts less competition is a better experience.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Gossen

EG042813811

Regional and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a seven day moose season for bowhunting following the general season hunts in Units 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17 as follows:

In each of the units listed for moose hunts where only a harvest ticket is required there would be a separate season "by bow and arrow only" starting the day following the general season and extending for an additional seven days. These hunts would have the same antler restrictions as currently listed for each unit. They would be limited to IBEP certified bowhunters only. Note that starting in July 2016 anyone hunting big game anywhere in Alaska will be required to be IBEP certified.

(This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We request additional hunting opportunity for moose for IBEP certified bowhunters. We would like to see seven days added to the end of the general moose season with a season for bowhunting only. This would be for moose hunts in these units currently available by harvest ticket and would not include areas open only by drawing permit.

The primary reason for this request is to increase hunter opportunity at a time when the bulls are moving more because of the rut and meat care is easier because of cooler weather. The early archery season in Unit 15 has had very low participation and success because of dense foliage, limited moose movement and warm temperatures which make meat salvage difficult. We believe that this would result in a slightly higher harvest rate but would still be easily within the biologic surplus of animals available to be harvested without affecting the overall moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C14-242)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

- a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:
- (1) Unit 11;
 - (2) Units 13 and 16(A);
 - (3) Unit 16(B) and 17;
 - ...
 - (11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:
 - (A) Unit 9(B), within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9(E), within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 9(B);

(2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);

(3) Unit 17;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 board meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 board meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest brown bears by allowing opportunistic taking.

The board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities during the board meeting in March 2011. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of defense of life and property (DLP) bears.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The Board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EG-C14-349)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Remove the meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

Remove all meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait for the Central/Southwest Region.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear salvage requirements that force hunters to salvage meat that may be inedible. Why force hunters to salvage meat that may not be fit to eat?

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-318)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Remove meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Align salvage requirements for brown bear with black bear, for bears taken over a bait station for the Central/Southwest Region.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Salvage of brown bear meat taken over bait. Remove salvage requirement.

PROPOSED BY: Joel Doner (EG-C14-314)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations in the Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Eliminate the requirement to "remove all contaminated soil" from a bear bait site at the conclusion of the baiting season.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At bear bait stations the requirement to remove all soil contaminated by the baiting at the end of the season is an excessive nuisance and is perceived by hunters to be a form of harassment by regulators who may be personally opposed to baiting bear in spite of the fact that bear baiting is a legal and accepted means of hunting bear and is often the only practical means of hunting bear in certain areas. This combined with the requirement to provide accurate GPS locations before a permit is obtained sends a message to hunters that they are potentially subject to prosecution if an

enforcement officer comes into the bait site with a trowel and samples some dirt which may have an increased sugar or fat content by lab analysis. From a practical perspective it is virtually impossible to remove all contaminated soil. Anything that is used for bait is biodegradable and will rapidly be removed by organisms from bacteria to bears. Anything not removed will go to fertilize the soil. There is no guidance with what should be done with the "contaminated soil". Alternatives would be to spread it out, carry it any given distance and throw it out, transport it back to town, and take it to a public dump.

Nothing in this discussion should be interpreted as wanting to change the regulation requiring removal of all trash, litter, bait barrels and other artificial structures at the end of the baiting season.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-299)

Note: AS 16.05.783 only allows same day airborne for taking of wolves as part of a predator control program authorized by the board. The same restriction does not apply to coyotes.

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Allow same-day airborne hunting of wolves and coyotes as follows:

Wolves and coyotes may be taken the same day you are airborne in all of the Central/Southwest Region during any open season. A person must be at least 300 feet from the aircraft before shooting and cannot use the aircraft to herd, position or harass the animals in any way before landing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see same day airborne hunting of wolves and coyotes for residents and nonresidents in all of the Central/Southwest Region. There is or has been active predator control in most of this region and this would be a good tool to take some additional wolves and coyotes. Chances to take wolves and coyotes are rare and having to pass up a chance at one because you have flown that day seems like a waste.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-214)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Lower the bag limit for goldeneye for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

Lower goldeneye to allow no more than three goldeneye in the general bag.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A low abundance of this limited range bird; Barrow's goldeneye are a sea duck with sensitive lifestage histories, behavior and reproductive strategies below long-term averages. They are mistakenly placed in with the dabbling general bag limit, with those birds counting in the millions above long term averages

PROPOSED BY: Sea Ducks Unlimited

(EG-C14-311)

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

For more accurate data, create a harvest ticket with opportunity of reporting harvest by species for migratory birds to gain information presently limited to ADF&G.

Use the system already in place for other species like deer, moose etc.

If reported electronically:

- Once filed online a certified receipt for your report will be returned by email. This receipt is proof that report has been filed.
- Harvest tickets and registration permits are good for a regulatory year, not a calendar year. For example, a harvest ticket for 2013 would be valid from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.
- If ADF&G does not receive a hunt report, hunters will not be eligible for future hunts. Online reporting allows hunters to determine which reports have filed and which you have not.

If reported by mail:

Hunt reports will come with harvest tickets attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field but must be completed and returned within 15 days of the close of the season even if you did not hunt or did not take an animal. Reports of personal harvest location are confidential.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Electronic online or mail in harvest tickets and reporting required for migratory birds by species.

PROPOSED BY: Sea Ducks Unlimited

(EG-C14-235)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

People hunting in Alaska can legally wear whatever they want while pursuing game, including their choice of foot wear and/or any other personal protective equipment that they deem will make their hunt more safe.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game's (board) ban on wearing felt soles while hunting, making wading and rafting while hunting unsafe and dangerous for people. Anyone who has spent much time in the field—or worse, had unexpected “swims”—knows how dangerous our cold waters are and how quickly one could lose their life. Even a quick dunk can be unforgiving and have dire consequences. The difference between wearing felt and wearing rubber or caulked boots is like night and day. Unfortunately, there are no alternatives, regardless of what you are told. If you personally are unaware of this fact, then you have little experience wading rivers or streams and need to better educate yourself on the issue. Safety wise, it is the same as driving without a seat belt, or running a chainsaw without a pair of chaps. Sure you may get by without them, but do you want to get into an accident without your seat belt on? In essence, that’s what the board’s (and the Board of Fisheries) ban does. The ban states loud and clear that our safety, our lives and that of our children and loved ones, is unimportant.

If you do not lift this ban, people will die, drown and perish while hunting, due to our cold water temperatures. It’s as simple as that. While the attempt to thwart the spread of invasive plants and animals is noteworthy, the board’s lack of adequate analysis of the scientific data on this subject is both troubling and reckless. Can felt soles transport invasive plants and animals? Unfortunately, yes they can. But please look at the research—which is extremely limited at best. This small amount of research, much which has not been peer reviewed, has indicated that felt soles can spread such invasive species as Didymo (rock snot), possibly whirling disease, and one New Zealand mudsnail was proven to be transported by a felt boot. One! Research has also proven that these invasive species can be carried and transported to other waters on shoe laces, socks, inside the wading boots themselves, on the wading material itself and even on rubber wading boots. Furthermore, research has also proven invasive species can be transported from one water body to another by boat trailers and through bilge water of boats and float planes traveling to and from different water bodies. Even Darwin wrote many years ago, about migrating waterfowl transporting plants and animals from one water body to another, both internally and externally. Why not ban all of these vectors then?

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-298)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

All hunters pursuing big game with a crossbow in the Central/Southwest Region must have passed a certification course presented by ADF&G and carry their certification card in the field. This regulation to be effective starting July 2016.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game passed a regulation stating that all hunters hunting with bow and arrow for big game must pass the IBEP certification and carry their certification card while hunting starting in July 2016. The board did

NOT include hunters who hunt with a crossbow in this regulation. There are safety issues involved with use of a crossbow which are unique to crossbows and do not apply to regular archery equipment or firearms. A crossbow is a different implement than bow and arrow but kills in the same fashion with sharp cutting of vital structures rather than shock as with a firearm. Firearms hunters who pick up a crossbow need to learn the limitations of the weapon, acceptable shot angles and target anatomy. In addition they need to learn appropriate follow-up and recovery techniques which may differ significantly from their experience with firearms. Crossbow hunters who wound animals may leave a visible projectile in the animal which can reflect poorly on not only crossbow hunters but also on bowhunters and intact on all hunters. I believe that all hunters who use a crossbow for hunting big game in Alaska should be required to pass a crossbow certification course developed and presented by ADF&G and should be required to carry their certification card while hunting big game with crossbow. The course should include a field day in which the student demonstrates knowledge of safe use of the crossbow and a minimum level of shooting proficiency.

Nothing in this should be interpreted to imply that crossbows are the same as archery equipment. the course must be separate from the IBEP certification and taught by instructors knowledgeable in use of crossbows and certified to teach the course. Also, nothing in this proposal should imply that crossbows are acceptable for use in special archery only areas or hunts.

This proposal is to cover all regions open for proposals for consideration by the Board of Game during their 2015 meetings. It is my intention to make the same proposal next year to apply to the Interior and Arctic/Western Region. This proposal is to be effective starting in July 2016 which would align it statewide with the recently passed regulation for bowhunters and would also give ADF&G time to implement the education programs.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-293)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

For the benefit of all Alaska residents change current regulations in all Central/Southwest units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regard to all hunting opportunities.

For all harvest ticket hunts: Allow state residents to start the hunting seasons five days early or allow state residents to hunt for five additional days after the season has closed for nonresident hunters.

For drawing hunts: change allocation systems to ensure Alaskan residents have been allocated to receive 75% of any drawing hunt opportunity. If state residents do not use that percentage of the pool, then the unallocated portion may be used by nonresident hunters.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the benefit of all Alaskan residents change current regulations in all Units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regards to all hunting opportunities.

I am hopeful that the board will address the inequalities in resident hunter preference. For many years a significant portion of the large game species has been taken by nonresidents. This is due to several factors, as managers of a state resource, the board should be morally and ethically obligated to ensure that resident hunting opportunities and resident hunting preference are a priority.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Secor

(EG-C14-227)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

I'd like to see the Board of Game adopt a new allocation schedule for all big game draw permits in the Central/Southwest Region: 90% to residents and the remainder plus any undersubscribed to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue is allocation of big game draw permits. Currently a nonresident hunter has equal chance in the lottery as resident meat hunters. Nonresidents, albeit supporting the guide industry, have historically much better success rates no doubt due to the work of their guides. The end result is that more of the real harvest goes to nonresidents, many of whom don't even want the meat; rather than Alaskans who will respect the harvested animal all year long every tasty bite of the way. This is in direct contradiction to our mandate by Alaska's Constitution Article 8 section 3 stating that meat belongs to the residents. Most other states currently allocate only 10% of their draw permits to nonresidents, and guiding is still big business there. A real tragedy to the continuation of hunting tradition will befall us as our kids potentially will lose future opportunities to hunt this great land.

Considered was action to establish a point/preference system like most states to more directly and effectively tackle the issue, but this appears to be a legislative issue and would also take many years to implement. Also considered was a shorter season for nonresidents, but to be fair especially to mountain hunters, an equal number of weather windows should be provided for both. This would also promote mad-dash boating and bush flying, a dangerous and disrespectful practice. If nothing is done about this issue, meat will continue to be mis-allocated, Alaskan youth may see future opportunities lost, and game resources will decline.

Thank you for considering this 90/10 draw permit allocation, Alaskans appreciate it.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone

(EG-C14-240)

Note: The board does not have authority to place restrictions on the transportation of hunters.

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 10% sheep harvest for nonresidents in Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Allow nonresidents only 10% maximum of harvest. This should include second degree of kindred. Also restrict the number of drop off hunts that air charters can perform. Stacking hunters is not good for anybody.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is in regards to overcrowding. Residents only harvest about 23% of the total harvest per year, while nonresidents harvest 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska. This is total that is totally out of control. The board needs to follow the Alaska constitution. It is clearly stated that the Alaskan residents come first.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Gossen

(EG-C14-270)

Interior Region – Reauthorization Proposals

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 20A, 20B, and 20D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, the Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Remainder of Unit 20(A); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	
1 bull by drawing permit	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	

only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Remainder of Unit 20(A); or

(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; by muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued in combination with nonresidents in Unit 20(A); or

Nov. 1–Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; by muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued in combination with residents in Unit 20(A);

Nov. 1–Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

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

Aug. 25–Feb. 28

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer's refuge

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
(General hunt only)
Nov. 21–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 21–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

Sept. 1–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Dec. 1–Jan31
(General hunt only)

Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
(General hunt only)
Nov. 21–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 21–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing

Sept. 1–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

1 moose by targeted permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or

Aug. 21–Aug. 27 (Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 8–Sept. 25

No open season.

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only

Oct. 15–Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 8 permits may be issued

Sept. 8–Sept. 25

Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take

Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)

No open season.

a cow accompanied
by a calf; or

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

Oct. 1–Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull, by bow
and arrow only; or

Sept. 26–Sept. 30

Sept. 26–Sept. 30

1 bull by registration
permit only; by
muzzleloader only

Nov. 10–Dec. 10
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that
portion of the
Salcha River
drainage upstream
from and including
Goose Creek

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull, by bow and
arrow only;

Sept. 26–Sept. 30

Sept. 26–Sept. 30

1 bull by registration
permit only; by
muzzleloader only

Nov. 10–Dec. 10
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion
of the Salcha River drainage
downstream of Goose
Creek and upstream from
and including Butte Creek

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

Sept. 5–Sept. 20

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 1,500 permits
may be issued in

Aug. 15–Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

No open season.

combination with the hunt in the Remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

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

Oct. 1–Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

No open Season

1 bull by registration permit only; by muzzleloader only

Nov. 10–Dec. 10
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

Sept. 5–Sept. 20

1 moose by drawing permit only; by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 16–Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 200 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 5–Aug. 14	No open season
1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	Sept. 5–Sept. 20
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in the Remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		
Unit 20(D), that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River, except the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers	Sept. 1–Sept. 15 (General hunt only)	

with 4 or more brow
tines on one side; or

1 bull by drawing
permit; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 1,000 permits may
be issued in combination
with that portion in the
Delta Junction Management
Area; a person may not
take a calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

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

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers with
4 or more brow tines
on one side

Sept. 5–Sept. 15

Unit 20(D), that portion
within the Bison Range
Youth Hunt Management
Area

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Unit 20(D), that portion within

the Delta Junction Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

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

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

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

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 15

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued

Sept. 1–Sept. 15

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats) may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow ADF&G to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives. It will also allow hunters to harvest moose toward meeting the intensive management harvest objective without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

Unit 20A: The purpose of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A is to regulate population growth, to meet the IM mandate for high levels of harvest, and to provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity for success in obtaining moose for subsistence uses in Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Non-subsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats). The goal is to protect the health and habitat of the moose population and to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits.

The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,768 in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage. The objective beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 (RY04) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,272–14,115 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2012.

The current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose (the IM population objective adopted by the board in 2012) while monitoring indicators of moose and habitat condition for density-dependent responses. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 8,678–11,633 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2013. As a result,

the antlerless hunts will be suspended during RY14. However, if the November 2014 population estimate exceeds 12,000 moose the antlerless hunts may need to be reinstated in RY15 to regulate population growth.

Unit 20B: *Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)* — The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to regulate population growth in the FMA and potentially reduce moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

The number of moose–vehicle collisions in the FMA are high and pose significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and reduce moose–vehicle collisions, ADF&G incrementally increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose in the FMA during RY99–RY10. Moose–vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems have declined during RY06–RY13, presumably, in part due to the consistent antlerless moose harvests of 27 to 52 during RY09–RY13.

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

The MFMA moose density was high in 2010 (4.1 moose/ mi²). In order to reduce the moose population, harvest of antlerless moose during RY12 and RY13 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2013 estimate shows a more appropriate density in the MFMA (2013 = 2.6 moose/ mi²). Therefore, to stabilize this population, antlerless harvest will be reduced to approximately 1–1.5% of the total population to maintain the current population.

Unit 20B, drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and the Remainder of Unit 20B — The antlerless moose harvest in this area is designed to regulate the moose population in this portion of Unit 20B and to help meet the IM harvest objectives for Unit 20B. The 2013 population estimate (14,057 moose) indicates the population declined from the 2009 estimate (20,173 moose) and is now at a more appropriate level for the habitat. The antlerless harvest will be approximately 1–1.5% of the total population to maintain the level of the current population estimate.

To mitigate hunter conflicts, we spread hunters out over space and time. Each of 16 hunt areas has permits in three time periods: one before the general hunt, one during, and one after. This maintains a few hunters at a time in each permit area, yet is expected to achieve a harvest of approximately 140 cows.

Finally, extensive burns in northcentral Unit 20B will provide excellent habitat in the future. With improving habitat, continued high predator harvest, and relatively mild winters, we can expect continued high productivity and survival of moose, along with increased yield.

Unit 20D: The moose population in Unit 20D reached the IM objective of 8,000–10,000 in 2006. The highest density (5.6 moose/ mi²) was in southwestern Unit 20D where the population was exhibiting effects of increased competition for food, including a moderately low level 2-year

average twinning rate of 14%. Antlerless moose hunts during RY06–RY09 contributed to a decreased moose density in southwestern Unit 20D. The goals of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts were to stabilize population growth and to address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition, and reduced reproductive success. Most of these goals have been met. Moose density was reduced from 5.6 moose/ mi² (pre-antlerless hunts) to 3.2 moose/ mi² (post-antlerless hunts). Overwinter browse utilization decreased from 25% in 2007 to 15% in 2010. The average weight of 9 month old calves increased from 340 lbs. in 2010 to 366 lbs. in 2012 (K. Seaton, ADF&G, unpublished data, Fairbanks).

With the exception of the Bison Range Youth Moose Hunt, antlerless permits have not been issued since fall 2009. However, antlerless moose will be part of the bag limit for the Delta Junction Management Area Disabled Veterans Moose Hunt, beginning in fall 2015. Future antlerless hunts are likely needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will contribute toward meeting the IM harvest objective of 500–700. However, registration permits will be issued only if additional harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

Antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20D and their effect on moose density and population growth will continue to be evaluated. Future antlerless moose hunts will be implemented as needed based on evaluation of three indices of density-dependent moose nutritional conditions in relation to changes in moose density: biomass removal of current annual growth on winter browse, proportion of females with twin calves, and late-winter calf weights. There are currently no plans to issue permits for antlerless moose hunting in Unit 20D during the 2015 season, with the exception that an antlerless moose (except a cow accompanied by a calf or a calf) is part of the legal bag limit in the Bison Range Youth Moose Hunt and the Disabled Veteran Moose Hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-345)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska as follows:

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

...

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

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident brown bear tag fees were put in place statewide during the mid-1970s to discourage incidental harvest, elevate the status of brown and grizzly bears to trophies, and to provide revenue. Today, Region III populations are healthy, grizzly bears are highly regarded as trophies, and revenue can be generated from non-tag fee sources. The board must annually reauthorize all resident tag fee exemptions. Reauthorizing these tag fee exemptions will allow residents who are unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting, due to lack of vendors or economic reasons, to opportunistically and legally harvest grizzly bears.

Eliminating all resident grizzly bear tag fees throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska (Region III) simplifies regulations, increases resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these grizzly bear populations. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III grizzly bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take grizzlies opportunistically. During regulatory years 2006–2009, 35% of grizzlies harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities (compared to 4% incidental take in regions I and II and 17% statewide).

We estimate that a kill rate of at least 6 percent, composed primarily of males, is sustainable. Human-caused mortality in most of Region III has been consistently less than 6% of the population. Where harvests are elevated (i.e. Units 20D, 20B, 20A, and portions of 26B), grizzly populations are managed through changes in seasons and bag limits. Resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have no effect on harvest in these areas.

As part of this request to reauthorize exemption of grizzly tag fee throughout Region III, we recommend that the board, at a minimum, continue to reauthorize the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-353)
