

Cordova Area – Unit 6

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 085.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued; or	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by registration permit only;	Nov. 1-Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We recommend reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt. Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The population objective is 400-500 moose. A population estimate completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 600 moose, 25% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999-2000 season. However, if the available harvest is not taken under the federal system or there is a change in the management strategy (allocation between state and federal permits) this hunt will be needed. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to restrain the growth of this population beyond what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-336)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Restrict the taking of goat for five years when a nanny is taken in Unit 6, as follows:

Add language to the Unit 6 goat regulation for units and bag limits to read: "However, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for five regulatory years." We used

similar language adopted by the board for Units 7 and 15 remainder. Options of less than five year prohibitions would be considered.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest of nannies (females) in Unit 6. Recent studies have shown the sensitivity of small goat populations to the harvesting of breeding-age females. Observed kid production in some subunits has been less than 20:100 kids to adults (K:A) in summer/fall surveys, with the average being 16K:100A. Harvest of females has been recorded in subunits as high as 50% over a ten-year period. Coastal goat populations are exposed to extremely challenging weather, and because of the lower elevations at which this occurs predation has a significant impact on population recovery. The mixture of the natural conditions and human manipulation will ultimately prove not sustainable if not addressed. The board took action by adopting exactly the same language in Units 7 and 15 remainder several years ago. Both units are coastal, having similar climates, but very different harvest patterns. Unit 6 goat harvest is split between nonresident guided hunters and local residents primarily. The subunits with the high nanny harvest are those targeted by local hunters, many of whom are habitually harvesting females.

Several hunting areas in Unit 6 have been closed down completely, or closed early by Emergency Order due to high level of female harvest. Hunters, wildlife viewers and, most importantly, the species are likely to benefit. The object is stable, long-term population growth.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee
(EG-C14-196)
