

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 1 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 102.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game. Evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk caribou herd as follows:

The recommendation is to evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) figures for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds. Updated caribou population data is warranted in the consideration due to the recent dramatic declines of both herds. More recent harvest data for the North Slope communities may also be included in the evaluation at this time. Proposed regulations change as follows:

5 AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations (a) - Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 21, 22, 23, 24, and 26 (Western Arctic caribou herd, [TESHEKPUK LAKE HERD])

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: 8,000 – 12,000

Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 26A and 24B (Teshekpuk Herd)

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: To be determined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) held public meetings on November 3–4 and December 14, 2015 and reviewed, discussed at length, and made recommendations on conservation management strategies for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds which have been in decline for several years. At these meetings the Council also discussed its concern for the management of the smaller Teshekpuk herd and formally approved submission of a request to the Alaska Board of Game (board) to reconsider the evaluation of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd.

The Council requests the board re-evaluate and establish a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd. Currently both the Western Arctic caribou herd and the Teshekpuk caribou herd are combined together with a single ANS that was originally established by the board in 1992 for just the Western Arctic herd. In 2014 the board deliberated on the findings of customary and traditional uses that led to a positive determination for the Teshekpuk herd and that there was a harvestable surplus of that caribou population. The board was then presented with options for establishing an ANS and voted to forego establishment of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk herd.

The Council is very concerned that the combined ANS has created a range that is too high for the Teshekpuk herd to sustain and has resulted in hunting regulations that may be too liberal with respect to this herd. The Teshekpuk herd is much smaller than the Western Arctic herd and if not addressed may be susceptible to overharvest under the current combined ANS. In light of the recent declines of both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds, and recognizing the importance of the Teshekpuk herd as a primary food source of subsistence caribou for several North Slope

communities, the Council feels it is necessary to re-evaluate managing the two herds separately in order better protect the smaller Teshekpuk herd.

The Council recognizes the complexity of managing for overlapping caribou herds; however, the recent dramatic declines of both Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds warrants a closer evaluation for management of the smaller, more vulnerable Teshekpuk herd. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F16-095)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 2 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 103.

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the hunt structure of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds as follows:

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends that the Board of Game (board) modify the hunt structure for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) and Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH) in Units 21, 23, 24, and 26 by establishing registration permit hunts within the range of these herds. For Unit 22, also within the range of these herds, the board adopted regulations that include a registration permit hunt structure during the March 2016 statewide meeting. Registration permit hunts provide additional tools to monitor harvest and manage caribou herds above what is offered by the registration system that is currently employed.

In preparation for upcoming regulatory years, ADF&G anticipates needing flexibility to actively manage harvest over a very large area of the state if either the WAH or TCH decline to the point that the current hunt management structure is no longer practical for one or both herds. For example, a registration permit allows flexibility to open and close seasons and areas based on seasonal access to caribou, without the need for further board action. Transition from the current harvest registration system to a registration permit hunt would be a significant change to increase ADF&G's ability to monitor harvest and allow for more responsive management.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The WAH peaked at 490,000 caribou in 2003. In 2013 the herd was estimated at 235,000 indicating a ~7% annual rate of decline between 2003 and 2011; the rate increased to an estimated ~15% annually between 2011 and 2013. The 2015 census failed due to poor photography conditions; however, other metrics suggest the herd is currently declining at a reduced rate, estimated at ~7% annually, with a population projection of approximately 200,000 as of 2015. The intensive management harvest objectives for the WAH are 12,000–20,000, with a population objective of over 200,000. Prior to regulatory year 2015 (RY2015 = July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), harvests were estimated at 12,000 caribou per year based on data and patterns available through community harvest assessments. ADF&G is concerned that cow harvest has exceeded 2% since RY2011, but does not have the tools to evaluate the sex composition of the harvest efficiently.

The TCH was estimated at approximately 39,000 in 2013, and 41,500 in 2015. Given confidence limits associated with both estimates, herd growth is implied to have been stable between 2013

and 2015. Minimum counts in those two years were 32,000 and 35,000, respectively. Prior to RY2015, harvests have been estimated at approximately 2,300 per year, through the use of community harvest assessments. If the herd remains stable, these harvests are likely to be near sustainable levels, but additional capability to monitor harvest and adjust seasons, particularly in areas of herd mixture, is increasingly important. The intensive management harvest objectives for the TCH are 900–2,800, with a population objective of 15,000–28,000.

The combined amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for the WAH and TCH is a range of 8,000–12,000. The combined harvestable surplus in 2015 for the two herds, based on a 6% harvest rate, would be approximately 14,500.

Establishing registration permit hunts for these herds will provide managers with additional tools to ensure that harvest levels do not exceed allowable rates for the WAH, which could further depress this population. In addition to providing additional information on harvest levels, the registration permit system will provide annual information on the timing and sex of harvest throughout the herd's range, which is becoming increasingly important to evaluate the effects of harvest on the herd's population status. Another benefit to a registration permit is the ability for the board to require mandatory reporting so harvest can be monitored more closely to prevent overharvest, while maximizing opportunity relative to what is available.

There are no proposed changes to bag limits or seasons; the only change ADF&G is requesting at this time is a change in hunt structure to a registration permit hunt. Restrictions to limit harvest with seasonal quotas, annual bag limits for one or both sexes, or changes to hunting seasons may be necessary for future hunt management. If changes to seasons and bag limits become necessary in the future, the changes would be more easily implemented under the registration permit hunt structure proposed.

ADF&G will present an overview of WAH and TCH hunt management during the January 2017 Board of Game meeting to discuss the potential for changes to seasons and geographic opportunity with the board. The board adopted regulations during the March 2016 meeting that changed bag limits and reporting mechanisms in Unit 22 that we anticipate will allow ADF&G to evaluate initial implementation of a registration permit hunt and annual bag limit in a portion of the WAH range.

ADF&G is seeking public input through this proposal related to regulatory options for ensuring the continued viability of these herds. ADF&G intends to actively engage state and federal advisory committees, effected communities, local governments, and the Western Arctic Herd Working Group in formulating refinements to this proposal. ADF&G also anticipates collecting new information on abundance and herd demographics in the interim before the January 2017 Board of Game meeting. Given the potential for falling below intensive management objectives, ADF&G will prepare an intensive management feasibility assessment for the January 2017 Board of Game meeting.

The public is encouraged to evaluate this proposal, and to provide advice on means for reducing harvest, while minimizing impacts to hunters and users of caribou throughout the ranges of both herds.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-135)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting with the intent that it apply to the Arctic and Western Region Units. It was previously numbered proposal 85.

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 92.010(g). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for caribou as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(g) that allows the harvest of caribou without requiring a harvest ticket or harvest report for residents residing north of the Yukon River. All persons hunting caribou north of the Yukon River must have a harvest ticket in possession and have obtained a harvest report.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Both the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk caribou herds are in decline. Alaska's State Constitution Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained-yield requires the ADF&G to manage the herd on a sustainable basis. Of the three major known factors, weather conditions, habitat, and predation, limiting the herds' size, only harvest by predators can be regulated. Accurate harvest data is essential in order for the Board of Game to make sound decisions regarding caribou bag limits on herds in steep decline. There is a lack of accurate resident caribou harvest reporting north of the Yukon River. Requiring residents living north of the Yukon River to register with ADF&G does not provide accurate caribou harvest data.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council

(EG-C15-072)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 4 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 100.

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Institute no-fly zones for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, & 26A as follows:

Aircraft restricted to only Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This will leave Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to a no-fly zone allowing local villagers to have quiet hunting times and no aircraft noises. This proposal will affect Units and Subunits of 21D, 22, 23, 24 and 26A. Hunters in this area because of weather will need to be prepared to carry with them three days of provisions in case aircraft can't get in to get them out of the area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) declining population numbers. During the WAH meeting in December 2015 and the Regional Advisory Council meetings March of 2016 in Anchorage, information released to the public shows numbers going from 495,000 to 235,000 animals. Local people think aircraft are part of the reason. They attempted to try a correction with proposal WSA16-01.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt

(EG-F16-013)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 5 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 54.

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
Units 12, 18, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,	No closed season. [GENERAL SEASON] <u>Subsistence</u>	No closed season. (General hunt only)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents taking black bears. Black bears in all these units have a positive finding of customary and traditional use, with one exception, and that is the bears that are within the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-083)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 6 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 53.

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Interior/Northeast Arctic and the Arctic/Western Regions as follows:

	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway within the Tok River drainage	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
1 bull		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage		
1 bull by registration	Aug. 10—Sept. 30	No open season.

permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 20(D), in that portion south of the Tanana River

Subsistence

Remainder of Unit 12

1 caribou may be taken by registration permit only during a winter season to be announced by emergency order

(Winter season to be announced)

Subsistence

No open season.

...

Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

(14)

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units 19(A) and 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Remainder of Units 19(A) and 19(B)		No open season.
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31	Aug. 1—Mar. 15 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Unit 19(C) 1 bull	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season. Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(D), except the drainages of The Nixon Fork River 1 bull; or	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
1 caribou; or	Nov. 1—Jan. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
5 caribou may be taken during the winter season to be announced; however, the commissioner may close the season and immediately reopen, by emergency order, a season during which the bag limit is less than 5 caribou	(Season to be announced) (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 19(D) 1 bull	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
20(F), those portions south of the Yukon River, and north and east of a line formed by the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its Intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then north along the Dalton Highway to the Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that		

portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 20(B) **that lays outside the Fairbanks non-Subsistence area**

1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(C)

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 20(D), that portion south of the Tanana River

No open season.

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 12 in that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20—Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(F) south of the Yukon River and west of the Dalton Highway

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Unit 20(F), north of the Yukon River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 caribou		Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
(16)		
Unit 21(A) 1 bull	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(B), that portion north of the Yukon River and downstream from Ukawutni Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(B) 1 caribou	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(C), that portion within the Dulbi River drainage and that portion within the Melozitna River drainage downstream from Big Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(C) 1 caribou	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(D), that portion north of the Yukon River and east of the Koyukuk River 2 caribou;	(Winter season to be announced)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(D)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou per day; as follows:		
up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;	July 1—Oct. 14 <u>Subsistence</u> Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(E)	Aug. 10—Sept. 30	Aug. 10—Sept. 30

1 caribou; however, 2 additional caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced

(17)

Unit 22(A), that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season

Subsistence

(Winter season to be announced)

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

General season

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be Taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken; during the period Aug.
1—Sept. 30, a season may be
announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the
Kuzitrin River drainage
(excluding the Pilgrim River
drainage) and the Agiapuk
River drainage, including the
Tributaries

RESIDENT HUNTERS
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 22(E), that portion east of and
including the Sanaguich River
drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; however calves may not be taken; cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken; during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

(18)

Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

(19)

Unit 24(A), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, and that portion of Unit 25(D) drained by the west fork Of the Dall River west of 150 W. long.

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 24(A), and
Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:
up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 24(B), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, upstream from and including that portion of the Kanuti-Kiloitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek, then downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Units 24(C) and 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence

	Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
(20)		
Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage of the west fork of the Dall River west of 150_ W. long.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 30	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from M ay 16—June 3	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken		July 1—June 30 <u>General season</u>

from May 16—June 30

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

(21)

Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—July 15
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken;

July 16—Oct. 15
Subsistence

3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 16—Dec. 31
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; calves may not be taken;

Jan. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Mar. 16—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion north of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the east bank of the Kuparuk River to a point at 70° 10' N. lat., 149° 04' W. long., then west approximately 22 miles to 70° 10' N. lat. and 149° 56' W. long., then following the east bank of the Kalubik River to the Arctic Ocean

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken
May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of
69° 30' N. lat. and west of the
Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow
caribou may be taken only
from July 1—Oct. 10

July 1—Oct. 10
Subsistence
May 16—June 30
Subsistence

July 1—Oct. 10
General season
May 16—June 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south
Of 69° 30' N. lat. and east of
the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow
caribou may be taken only
from July 1—May 15

July 1—July 30
Subsistence

July 1—June 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, only
bull caribou may be taken
June 23—June 30

July 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence
June 23—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on caribou populations that have a positive customary & traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-F16-085)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 7 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 56.

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for Dall sheep as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 19(A), 19(B), and 19(D) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(C) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger; or 1 sheep with 3/4 curl horn or less; the take of rams with both horns broken, lambs or ewes with lambs, is prohibited; by registration permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—April 30 (Subsistence hunt only)	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u> No open season
Unit 24(B), that portion with the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage 3 sheep	Aug. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 24(B) 1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 25(A) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with a full-cull horn or larger may be taken only from Aug. 10 through Sept. 20; up to 3 sheep may Be taken by registration permit	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	

only Oct. 1—April 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger.

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 25

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion west of the Etivluk River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 sheep by registration permit only

No open season.
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only provided that the harvestable surplus is greater than 9 in combination with that portion of Unit 23 in the DeLong Mountains

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 26(A), that portion east of and including the Etivluk River drainage, excluding Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 sheep by registration permit only

Aug. 1—Apr. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion within The Gates of the Arctic National Park

3 sheep Aug. 1—Apr. 30 No open season.
Subsistence

Unit 26(B), that
portion within the
Gates of the Arctic
National Park

3 sheep Aug. 1—Apr. 30 No open season
Subsistence

Remainder of Units 26(A) and
(26B) Aug. 10—Apr. 30 Aug. 10—Sept. 20
1 ram with a full-curl horn or
Subsistence **General season**
larger

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl
horn or larger may
be taken only from
Aug. 10 through Sept.
20; up to 3 sheep may be
Taken by registration
permit Oct. 1—April 30

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
Oct. 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl
horn or larger Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on sheep populations that have a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-088)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed for any prey species in the Arctic/Western Region under an intensive management (IM) predation control plan until the minimum intensive management population and harvest objectives for that prey species have been reached.

This solution will benefit resident hunters and the prey populations the Board of Game and the Department of Fish & Game are trying to increase for Alaskan consumptive uses.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas under IM predation control plans. IM predation control implementation plans to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans. Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt regulations that match the intent of our IM law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in any area of the Arctic/Western for a prey species that is under a formal IM predation control plan to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population and harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-097)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region Units as follows:

A 90/10 allocation should be put in place for sheep. A maximum of 10% the resource should go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed and a minimum of 90% should go to Alaska residents. All nonresidents will be put on permits and can apply to get a permit out of the 10% pool.

All general hunts that require permits due to low game numbers should follow this 90/10 rule. All sheep should be on this 90/10 rule. This should be a statewide regulation but since the Board of Game rejected this request we will have to start with Interior/Northeast Region and the Arctic/Western Regions until the next statewide meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A 90/10 percent sheep allocation needs to be adopted in the Arctic/Western Region. Other states have similar policies in place and the Board of Game (board) seems to feel comfortable ignoring resident requests for this preference. A minimum of 90% of the resource would go to residents and a maximum of 10% would go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed.

The number of sheep hunters (resident and nonresident) from the past three years should be averaged and nonresidents would be allowed to apply for permits on 10% of that total number.

EXAMPLE: If the average of those hunters (**hunters that actually hunted sheep**) was 1,500, then the Department of Fish and Game should issue 150 permits for nonresidents. 10% of 1,500 =150 This 10% would apply to guided hunts and next of kin - all nonresidents. Instead of listening to the requests for resident preferences the board makes sure the guiding industry loses nothing. The sheep numbers have diminished, the experience has diminished, and the success has diminished for residents. Nonresidents harvested 45% of the sheep statewide last year! Who is responsible for this?

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Barney (EG-F16-098)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Establish a 90/10 percent resident/nonresident sheep permit allocation. The Board of Game should only allow 10% of sheep permits to be purchased by nonresidents with 10% being the ceiling and not guaranteed. This 10% allocation should be calculated on an average of resident and non-resident sheep hunters from the previous three years. This 10% allocation should include both next of kin and guided hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game (board) needs to address the overcrowding issue for sheep hunters, declining ram numbers (especially quality rams), and most especially, the over-harvest of Dall sheep by nonresidents. **In 2015, nonresidents harvested 45% of the total rams harvested statewide.** This is not acceptable, nor is it sustainable, and the board should implement allocation rules that give Alaska residents a minimum of 90% of the resource.

There have been two sheep surveys conducted by Dr. Brinkman of the University of Alaska per request and funding by the board: a random survey and a non-random survey. These Brinkman surveys overwhelmingly showed that nonresident hunters are the problem —100% on the non-random survey and 77% on the random survey expressed this. These incredibly high percentages were both ignored and disregarded. Instead of listening to the people, the Board of Game produced its own proposal (207)—one that was never asked for by the public in the proposal process, is completely unenforceable, hampers numerous Alaskans and helps the guides and their clients.

Members of the board have been quoted saying that Alaska residents need to “*share the burden*” with nonresidents if they are to reduce the numbers of sheep hunters. This is unreasonable and inappropriate when **45% of the rams harvested statewide are by nonresidents.** The board needs to value residents over nonresidents and manage our resources according to our state constitution which clearly and distinctly states that our game resources will be managed sustainably and for the benefit and use by and for Alaskans. These sheep, and all fish and game resources within the state, are owned collectively by the residents of the State of Alaska. They are not owned by any specific group, by guides, or by residents of other states. They are owned by us—the residents of Alaska, and we expect them to be managed for our benefit and those of future Alaskans. Nowhere in our state constitution does it state that our game populations will be managed for residents of other states. Nowhere does it state that our game populations will be managed so that individuals or organizations can make money or a living off of our game resources. Nowhere does it state that

the State of Alaska owes anybody a job. And nowhere does our constitution state that residents need to “*share the burden*” of management with nonresidents. Our Alaska State Constitution does state, however, that our resources will be managed sustainably “*for the maximum benefit of its people*.” We, the residents of Alaska, are “*its people*.” Having a 90/10 allocation so residents are a higher priority would help meet this mandate and edict.

This 90/10 concept has been presented to the board numerous times and by a variety of people, yet the board has always favored nonresidents and opposed giving residents a higher allocation. This is simply not right. Nor is it acceptable. The board should listen to what was expressed in its surveys, should listen to the concerns brought forward by residents who do not have financial interests in the management of this resource, and should manage our game resources as mandated by our Alaska state constitution—for its people. If the board is unsure of how that would work or what that actually looks like, any other state in the union could be used as a model or example.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-F16-068)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 86.

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.010(h). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(h) that allows hunting of Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park without possessing a harvest ticket or obtaining a harvest report. Accurate sheep harvest data gathered from mandatory harvest tickets and reports is essential for managing game populations that are declining rapidly.

Since moose populations are currently not in peril within the Gates of the Arctic National Park, the Alaska Outdoor Council cannot make the same argument to remove the harvest ticket/report exception for moose on grounds of conservation concerns, but if the Board of Game should choose to delete the entire section (h) of 5 AAC 92.010 that would be fine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dall sheep populations are also in decline in the Western Brooks Range. The Alaska Board of Game closed Dall sheep hunting to all hunters in Units 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage during their spring 2015 meeting. The Gates of the Arctic National Park is considering taking over Dall sheep management and allocation due to declining sheep populations. Accurate sheep harvest is critical in order for the ADF&G to manage the sheep herds on the sustained-yield bases as required by state law Alaska Statute 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C15-073)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep harvest allocation cap and change all nonresident sheep hunts to draw permit hunts in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Amend 92.008 by adding a new subsection to read:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Arctic/Western Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the total sheep harvest.

Or:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Arctic/Western Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual sheep harvest does not exceed XX sheep.

All nonresident sheep hunts in the Arctic/Western Region will be draw-only hunts with an allocation set subunit by subunit under 5 AAC 92.008 so that harvest levels do not exceed 10% of the total Arctic/Western Region sheep harvest based on using the last three years of historical nonresident participation and harvest data for each subunit.

This solution is preferable to a nonresident draw-only participation allocation because much lower levels of participation for nonresident guided sheep hunters still may lead to harvests of up to 30%, which we firmly believe contradicts the intent of our constitution for a maximum benefit to resident Alaskans.

The sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters will benefit if this solution is adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Future nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in the Arctic/Western Region. When/if sheep hunting opportunity is again allowed in the Arctic/Western Region for both residents and nonresidents, if we do not place strict limits on nonresident sheep harvests it can lead to more closures and loss of opportunity to residents.

Reasons for sheep declines can be many, but whenever the Board of Game or the Department of Fish & Game restricts or shuts down sheep hunting opportunity it means that sheep hunters can play a role in the continued decline of our sheep resource.

If sheep populations rebound in the Arctic/Western Region and sheep hunting is again allowed for residents and nonresidents in Units 23 and 26A, nonresident sheep hunters should be limited to no more than 10% of the total harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-099)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a 25% cap on nonresident harvest of Dall sheep and make all general sheep hunts for nonresidents draw hunts in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Establish a maximum cap of 25% total harvest for Dall Sheep by nonresident hunters participating in units currently open for general season harvest in the Arctic/Western Region. Additionally, make all general season sheep hunts for nonresidents drawing only.

This 25% harvest cap would be on a unit by unit basis. That is, no unit will have a nonresident harvest that exceeds 25% of the total Dall sheep harvest for that particular unit. For example, if the average harvest of Dall sheep in Unit 19C is ~100 rams, then the maximum harvest for nonresidents in that particular unit would be no greater than ~25 rams.

The 25% harvest would be based off of the previous five years average total harvest of Dall sheep in each particular unit. For example: Unit 19C has seen an average total harvest of ~82 rams/year for (2010-2014). Thus, the total nonresident harvest would be restricted to no more than 20 rams (25% of 82).

Additionally, all general season hunts open to nonresidents would become “drawing hunts.” Each unit with a general season hunt would become a drawing for nonresidents only. (Current regulations would not change for resident hunters). The amount of tags available to nonresidents would be based off of two things; A: The nonresident harvest cap for each particular unit, and B: The nonresident success rate for that particular unit. For example: If Unit 19C has a maximum allowable nonresident harvest of 20 rams and the nonresident success rate for that unit is 65%. Then this would allow for 31 nonresident tags to be available for that particular unit. Drawings would be available for all units which currently have open non-resident general season hunts for Dall sheep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, Alaska resident hunting opportunities for Dall sheep have diminished due to diminished populations of Dall sheep and less areas/units open to general harvest of Dall sheep. This has led to increased competition/crowding from guided nonresident hunters due to a lack of available legal full curl Dall rams. As a result, it is necessary for the Board of Game to decrease the number of Dall sheep harvested by nonresident hunters. Additionally, the amount of nonresident hunters present in the field need to be reduced in order to mitigate the increased crowding and competition during sheep season.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Graham (EG-F16-023)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a nonresident sheep harvest cap of 12% for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

I am asking the board to put a cap on nonresidents being allowed to hunt each year for sheep in the Arctic/Western Region at 12% of the total harvest looking at a three-year average.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity for Dall sheep.

As an Alaska resident, I would like to see the Board of Game show preference towards their fellow Alaskans when sheep numbers are down like they are now.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-062)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Restrict the harvest of Dall sheep in the Arctic/Western Region to one every five years as follows:

I'm asking the Board of Game to mirror the Unit 7 and 15 mountain goat guidelines on harvest but re-word for Dall sheep for the Arctic/Western Region:

If a hunter harvests a sub-legal ram (determined by ADF&G horn sealing) that hunter is prohibited from hunting Dall sheep (harvest or permit) for five years. (I think this is fair, based on the four-year wait for anyone after harvesting a Tok Management Area ram).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sub-legal Dall sheep harvest. Statewide sub-legal harvest is about ten percent of the total harvest; this needs to be addressed. Hunters (myself included) need to take the time and make sure the ram in front of us is 110 percent legal before pulling the trigger (no more iffy ones). I see this as a good thing for our sheep herds.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-055)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts; 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a 90/10 percent permit allocation for resident and nonresident drawing permits for sheep, moose, caribou, and brown bear as follows:

Where we currently have or in future may have draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents in the Arctic/Western Region for Dall sheep, moose, brown/grizzly bear and caribou, the nonresident allocations should reflect constitutional intent to maximize the benefit to resident Alaskans and be no more than **“up to 10% maximum”** of the available number of permits.

All resident hunters will benefit if this solution is adopted by being given their constitutionally mandated maximum benefit to our game resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? **Arctic/Western Region nonresident draw permit allocations.** We would like the Board of Game to ensure that any draw-only hunts for both residents and nonresidents in Arctic/Western Region will have a clear and substantial resident preference opportunity to draw and to hunt.

Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc.

Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever the species, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial constitutional preference to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-096)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 17 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 47.

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 92.990(26). Definitions. Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds as follows:

"Edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); **for all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs;** [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Define edible meat for all game birds in Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C to reduce or eliminate wanton waste of migratory birds.

During the spring 2015 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) meeting wanton waste language was adopted similar language for the spring/summer subsistence harvest season defining edible meat “human consumption” as: the meat from the breast, back, thighs, and legs. We would like to place the wings, gizzard and heart in the category of “human use” which would allow these part to be used by humans for non-edible purposes, e.g., trapping. However, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs and skin are optional.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee would like the fall hunt to be as consistent as possible with the spring/summer subsistence regulations proposed by the AMBCC for the 2016 season. This is the customary and traditional practices in our region and all the included areas addressed in this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-092)

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

(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 of Game 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 the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 4 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 14 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for nine years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for four 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 regulatory year 2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 14-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 the Department of Fish & Game (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 one to three bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one 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 one and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-134)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 49.

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred as follows:

This new regulation does not solve any issues in the Arctic, Western, Interior or Eastern Arctic Regions and Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C should be excluded from this regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new regulation, 5 AAC 92.130, adopted during the 2016 Statewide Regulation meeting is strictly allocative in nature and lacks a conservation basis. The regulation from the proposal reads as follows:

A guide required species under AS 16.05.407(a) taken by a nonresident personally accompanied by a resident relative under AS 16.05.407(a)(2) will count as the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident relative who accompanies the nonresident.

This regulation was adopted without viable data on the number of nonresident second degree of kindred hunters and their harvest from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for the Arctic, Western, Interior and Eastern Arctic Region units. ADF&G presented data that was admittedly limited and inaccurate, and this data was used as a basis for carrying the amended proposal 51 during the 2016 board meeting cycle.

The Alaska legislature took deliberate steps to provide for the second degree of kindred exemption. This was presumably done to allow residents to share their hunting experiences with close family, rather than to require residents to act as guides who are not allowed to take game while with a client.

This regulation allocates additional harvest to nonresident hunters by preventing a resident from harvesting game and as such is punitive to resident hunters. Additionally, the board recognized at the time that this regulation was based on choosing what was more valuable, a guided nonresident or a resident sharing a hunt with a family member, but unfortunately chose to side with the guiding industry.

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 14. This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region as proposal 20 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 48.

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions; and 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts as follows:

In order to allow more opportunity for those hunters wishing to use a crossbow while hunting during special hunts like the roadside "targeted hunts" for moose in Southcentral and the Interior, or while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges around the state where either muzzleloaders or shotguns and bow and arrow are the approved hunting tools, I would ask the Board of Game to include the use of crossbows as a fourth approved hunting tool.

In addition to those wishing to hunt with a crossbow, there are those older or smaller hunters who, for whatever reason, cannot use a bow and arrow that meets the existing requirements. A person who cannot draw and hold a bow and arrow can normally still use a crossbow if that tool was legal for use.

What I am proposing is that the category of crossbow be added to the list of approved hunting tools for those hunts in game management areas, state game refuges, and special hunts where either a muzzleloader or shotgun is legal along with bow and arrow. For areas or hunts that are specified as bow and arrow only, nothing will change.

A crossbow has certain advantages over a bow and arrow and also has some major disadvantages compared to a bow and arrow. However, the two hunting tools are still relatively comparable in power and range. A crossbow does not even come close to a muzzleloader or shotgun in comparison. If a muzzleloader or a shotgun is legal to use, along with bow and arrow, then there are no practical concerns to not allow a crossbow along with bow and arrow in those areas or hunts which also allow a muzzleloader or shotgun.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently several state game management areas, state refuges, and special hunts statewide which support weapons restricted big game hunts. Most of these hunts prohibit the use of centerfire, high-powered rifles and specify that only muzzleloaders, shotguns using slugs, or bow and arrow (or some combination of the specified implements) are allowed. Hunters choosing to use muzzleloaders or bow and arrow must comply with existing regulation requirements for these hunting tools, i.e., things like muzzleloading caliber or the bow's draw weight.

These restrictions in areas or refuges or special hunts are done largely for safety reasons because all of the approved hunting tools are considered short-range compared to a highpowered rifle.

The Board of Game recently defined crossbows in regulation into their own category with requirements on power, bolt length, etc. This was done because crossbows as hunting tools are gradually increasing in hunting use for big game in Alaska during the general season and have

become the fastest growing hunting tool in the Lower 48 for hunting animals like white-tailed deer and black bear. It was felt that a distinction between bow and arrow and crossbow was necessary.

Since crossbows are defined separately from bow and arrow, current regulations allowing the use of bow and arrow exclude the use of a crossbow for hunting during that same hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo

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