

Barrow Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the western portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24) ...	July 1—Sept. 14	No open season.
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage. 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.

The moose population in the western portion of Unit 26A north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique compared to the unit-wide population, and the distribution is very sparse because there is very little moose habitat in the coastal plain. However, each year a small number of bulls and cows migrate into the area 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 establish a population, but these moose provide the only opportunity to harvest a moose in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A.

Unit 26A moose population estimates fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose between 2011 and 2014. More recently, staff counted 145 moose in 2015 and 158 moose in 2016. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate, but is likely around ten moose per year. Harvest reports indicate two antlerless moose have been harvested since 2005, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population. Due to the low harvest rate the department recommends reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters to opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this remote portion of Unit 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-131)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 34 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 114.

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine. Lengthen the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 26 as follows:

Units & Bag limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresidents Open Season
(1)		
Units 1 - 5 (General hunt only) 1 wolverine	Sept. 10 - Feb. 15	Sept. 1—Feb. 15
Units 6 - 10, 12, 15, 16(B) and 17 – <u>25</u> [26] 1 wolverine;	Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Mar. 31
Units 11, 13, 14, and 16(A) 1 wolverine	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31
<u>Unit 26</u>	<u>July 15 - March 31</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>July 15—Mar. 31</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunters in Unit 26 (all subunits) almost never get a chance to take a wolverine while hunting in the fall because the season opens after they are likely done hunting. The wolverine season opens September 1, and it is common practice to be off the north side of the Brooks Range by September 1 to avoid being caught by approaching winter. Wolverine hides are acceptable in the arctic in the summer for most hunters (as opposed to trappers). Most hunters will have very few opportunities to take a wolverine in their lifetime and would be thrilled with slightly less underfur on an otherwise very good specimen. Starting wolverine season July 15 is much more reasonable. Another alternative would be August 1. Another alternative would be to include all Arctic Units (22-26) This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western Region and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meetings to cover all subunits in Unit 26.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-006)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 35 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 99.

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Lengthen the hunting seasons for wolf in Units 24-26 as follows:

Units 24-26 wolf season: July 1—April 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wolf hunting seasons in the arctic actually open later in the fall than some areas much farther to the south. Many caribou and bear hunters hunt before the wolf season is open and sheep hunters are in the field a few days before the season opens in most areas. The opportunity to harvest a wolf is not being realized by these hunters. It is quite common for hunters to hunt in late July in these units and the option to harvest a wolf would be appreciated. Take is relatively low by hunters on wolf even with long seasons (as opposed to trapping). The opportunity to take a wolf is much more important to most hunters than the quality of the pelt. Trappers depend on the quality of the pelt for monetary value, conversely, most hunters will only take a couple wolves in their life and the opportunity is much more important than the monetary value of a good pelt. Most hunters would be more than satisfied with the quality of a late July wolf to hang in their home. Other considerations: Open Season August 1; apply this proposal only in Unit 26 where seasons are drastically shortened by weather. This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western and Interior and Eastern Arctic meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-007)
