

## **Tok Area Proposals**

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**PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.** Lengthen the trapping season for wolf in Units 12 and 20E as follows:

Change the opening date of the Unit 12 and 20E wolf trapping season to October 1.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to have the beginning of the wolf trapping season in Units 12 and 20E changed from October 15 to October 1, to align the beginning of the season with the federal wolf trapping season in Units 12 and 20E.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-030)  
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**PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Open a resident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 20E as follows:

**Unit 20E, south of an east/west line running through the West Fork bridge on the Taylor Highway (Lat 63.89 N):**  
**One caribou by drawing permit (residents only)**  
**September 1-September 30 and October 21-March 31.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nelchina caribou spend much of their life in Units 12 and 20E. Residents of this area and those that prefer to hunt in this area should have some opportunity to take these caribou when they are present. The boundaries where suggested to eliminate extra harvest of Chisana caribou and minimize harvest of Fortymile caribou. The West Fork of the Dennison Bridge is the most recognizable landmark for people traveling to the area on the Taylor Highway. There may also be another adjustment required to protect the Mentasta caribou herd although many believe it was absorbed by the Nelchina herd. There may be some take of Fortymile caribou in this hunt but currently there is also some take of Nelchina caribou in the Fortymile hunt. These herds overlap ranges slightly, especially in winter, but collateral take should not be significant under a drawing-limited harvest. Other options considered: Expanding other Nelchina hunts to the area; rejected due to complexity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-009)  
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**PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.** Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits as follows:

We would like to see no-shoot zone ¼ mile from each side of the road, so a ½-mile wide corridor, with the highway in the center, along the Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff Road. If not along the entire highway (which we would prefer) at minimum between the Walker Fork Bridge (Mile Post 82) and the Alder Creek Bridge (MP 115.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff.

We would like to see the number of permits for these hunts limited to a level that will allow managers and law enforcement to be able to effectively manage the hunt in a safe and sustainable manner.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The fall Fortymile caribou hunt (RC860) along the Taylor Highway has become a very dangerous, wasteful, ugly, unethical, shooting gallery style of hunt. Resulting in numerous issues including:

- Hunters on ATVs run up and down the highway at high speeds (which is against state law) chasing after groups of caribou on or along the road (harassing animals is also against the law).
- Hunters commonly shoot animals on the highway, from the highway, across the highway and from their ATVs (all against the law). They'll see a group of caribou a ways off on or near the road, speed up to them, slam on their brakes and start shooting into the group. This happens often!
- Hunters along the road shoot down the road and at caribou sky lined on the road or just off the road, without any concern for safety of others, resulting in dangerous conditions for hunters and non-hunters alike along the Taylor Highway, especially in between the Walker Fork Bridge (MP 82) and the Fortymile River Bridge (MP 112.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff.
- Numerous pools of blood in the middle of the road, in this area, with no drag marks, during the fall 2015 season, prove these animals are being killed on the road. This was documented by state and federal managers and enforcement during the fall 2015 season.
- There is significant wounding loss from hunters flock-shooting from the highway, which has been documented by state and federal managers and law enforcement personnel. There were at least 12 caribou killed and left in this area in only a few days during the fall 2015 season, as documented by state and federal managers and law enforcement. And this is just what they were able to find.
- Each fall there are hundreds of people camped all across the high country along this stretch of highway, especially from the Y to MP 105. Garbage and animal remains litter the areas where the hunters camp when the hunters leave (littering is against the law).
- Dozens of gut piles litter the shoulder of the highway in this stretch and are occasionally left right in the middle of a pull-out or on the drivable surface of the road itself (this is against the hunt conditions for RC860 – thus illegal and can be verified by state and federal managers and law enforcement).
- During the fall 2015 season, my wife and I, while working in our garden, had bullets flying over our heads from people shooting at caribou on the road above our house. We also had caribou killed within a few hundred feet of our house that were shot by hunters shooting from the Fortymile River bridge toward our house. This hunt has put our lives and the lives of our dogs in danger, plain and simple, and has taken away our opportunity to hunt or even pick berries safely.
- Issuing over 3000 permits for this area is simply not manageable and not sustainable.
- While some may argue many of these things are already against the law, so much of it is happening that managers and enforcement officers cannot even come close to keeping up with all of this. It is uncontrollable and with dwindling enforcement presence due to state budget problems, the problem will only get worse.

The herd, the country, and those of us who live here can't take much more of this, changes need to be made.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Likins (EG-F16-027)  
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**PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(E)(ii). Controlled use areas.** Lengthen the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area hunting season as follows:

(E) Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, from **July 26** [AUGUST 5] through September 20; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access via, or transportation of game on, the Taylor Highway or any airport, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area season to July 26 - September 20 in Unit 20E. The new youth sheep hunting season falls outside of the dates for the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area. This area is very small and has an average harvest of one to two sheep annually. Alaska Department of Fish & Game surveys indicate only two to six legal sheep in the area each year. This area is relatively easy to access by ATV and this access could result in excessive harvest. The Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area was created in 1971 to afford greater protection for Dall sheep populations. The board re-affirmed that the area was meeting its objective at the March 2012 meeting through proposal 151.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-031)  
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**PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(10). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Clarify the boundary of the Unit 12 antler-restricted moose hunting area within the Tok River drainage as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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Unit 12, remainder of that portion in the Tok River drainage upstream **of a line from Peak 5885 at 63° 9.243 N. lat., 143° 24.248 W. long., to Milepost 105 of the Tok Cutoff Highway at 63° 7.438' N. lat., 143° 18.135 W. long., then south along the Tok Cutoff Highway**

**to the Little Tok River Bridge at Milepost 98.2; and within the Little Tok River drainage upstream of the Little Tok River Bridge at Milepost 98.2 [FROM THE TOK CUTOFF BRIDGE].**

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 24—Aug. 28  
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Sept. 8—Sept. 17  
or 50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 4 or more brow tines  
on one side

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 8—Sept. 17  
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or  
antlers with 4 or more brow  
tines on one side

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current boundary of the Unit 12 antler-restricted moose hunting area within the Tok River drainage is unclear as it relates to the Tok Cutoff near the Tok River bridge due to several drainages that originate on the west side of the Tok Cutoff but drain into the Tok River on the east side of the Tok Cutoff. As a result, there is currently no easy way for the public or law enforcement to definitively pinpoint the boundary of the antler-restricted area along the Tok Cutoff near the bridge. This proposal would modify the hunt boundary description to clarify the regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-138)  
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**PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 12 as follows:

A legal bull moose is a spike/fork, 50-inch antlers or a bull with no more than two brow tines on either side if under 50-inch antlers excluding hunt RM291 (along Nebesna Road).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the antler restrictions for bull moose in portions of Unit 12. We would like to try a new strategy for an antler restriction in portions of Unit 12. Current restriction in portions of the Unit 12 are one bull with spike-fork or-50 inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Biologists tell us that the reason a spike or fork bull is legal to harvest is that animals seldom develop into big healthy robust bulls. However, the yearlings with palm antlers and or three or more brow points on either side are spared as they are more likely to have the potential to grow into a superior animal. So we ask why harvest these same animals in the following season or two when they are well on the way of becoming a large bull? It doesn't make sense. Moose counts show that since the antler restriction was put in place in Unit 12, the bull/cow ratio has improved. However not enough to open the general season to any bull. Our committee feels this would be an ideal time for the change. More than likely for the first few seasons of this regulation, there may be a slightly elevated harvest of

bulls, but it is believed that in time as the younger two-brow tine bulls are removed, the harvest will return to normal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-069)  
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**PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 92.074(d). Community subsistence harvest hunt areas.** Expand the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt area by adding a part of Unit 12 as follows:

**5 AAC 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas.**

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(d) Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area for moose and caribou: Includes all of:

...

(2) that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of Unit 12 and Unit 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River, from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier, and that area westerly of the of the easternmost bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier north to the confluence with the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, and that area of the Slana River drainage north of the south bank of Suslota Creek, **and that portion within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Add to 92.074(d): "that portion of Unit 12 within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge" to (d) Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah Community Harvest Area (CSH).

Participants in the community subsistence hunt (CSH) area can only hunt in a portion of Unit 11 on state and National Preserve lands. This area was inadvertently left out of the community subsistence hunt areas. Local hunters hunt within this area for moose and caribou. Including this area will provide more of an opportunity for CSH participants to hunt and harvest a moose or caribou.

Crowded conditions in Unit 13 will be somewhat alleviated, if these lands areas were included into the CSH hunt areas. Local CSH hunters would be able to have more of a reasonable opportunity to hunt in other areas of Unit 11 and Unit 12 to harvest a moose or caribou.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee (EG-F16-050)  
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**PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.** Modify the hunting season and bag limits for grouse in Unit 12 as follows:

In Unit 12, a daily bag limit of five grouse per day with a possession limit of ten, except two per day and possession limit of four, for ruffed grouse August 20—November 10.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Revise and shorten grouse seasons in Unit 12. These season and bag limits are over 50 years old and do not meet today's increased human populations and hunting pressure. These large bag limits and long seasons are leading to the slaughter of grown populations. I would like this proposal to also apply to Units 11 and 13 but these units are not on the Board of Game's schedule this meeting cycle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lee Adler

(EG-F16-019)

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