

Delta Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the bag and possession limit for ruffed grouse in Unit 20D as follows:

Unit 20D, that portion lying west of the east bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River

Fifteen per day, thirty in possession, provided that not more than five per day and ten in possession may be sharp-tail grouse, **and not more than five per day and ten in possession may be ruffed grouse.**

Aug 25—Mar 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? High-quality ruffed grouse habitat in the Delta Junction area is limited to the Delta Agricultural Project, a burned area on a military reservation and small areas of natural habitat. Access to this area is well-developed and hunting pressure has been increasing rapidly. Many non-local residents are traveling to this area to hunt grouse. There is also a significant potential for non-consumptive use of ruffed grouse as spring bird watchers view courtship displays. Ruffed grouse can be easily harvested at times by hunters in vehicles along roads, agricultural fields and military trails. Ruffed grouse limits should be reduced from 15 per day to five per day in line with the sharp-tail grouse limits.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-016)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures:

...

(b) In addition to any condition that the department 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, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), **20(D)**, 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), only if that person obtains a permit under this section;

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(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C), a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a black bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures under a permit issued by the department, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking; in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), **20(D)**, 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a brown bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures under a permit issued by the department, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking.

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adjacent units to Unit 20D currently allow bait stations (bait or scent lures) for brown bear. Harvest reports show no biological data that would suggest reasoning for brown bear baiting restrictions in Unit 20D. Recommend amending regulations to adopt Unit **20D** into 5 AAC 92.044. This amendment should follow all other regulations and statutes covered in adjacent Units (20A, 20B, 20C and 20E) for baiting and taking of black bear and brown bear.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-052)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

The regulations should include Unit 20D: In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, **20D**, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ability to harvest a brown bear from a black bear bait station in Unit 20D. There is an extremely healthy population of brown bears in most of Unit 20D, and most hunters would welcome the opportunity to harvest a brown bear off from a bait station. Especially since much of Unit 20D is accessible from the road system, a reduction in the population of brown bears would mean better survival rate of black bear and also a better survival rate of moose and caribou. I believe that this would reflect the opinion of a large portion especially of Delta Junction area residents.

PROPOSED BY: Roy Louis Peters (EG-F16-028)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

Currently Units 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20E allow the harvest of brown bears at legally registered black bear bait stations. Adopting this proposed change would allow the harvest of brown bears in all of Unit 20, subject to the established seasons for brown/grizzly bear in each sub-unit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at black bear bait stations as follows:

Unit 20-wide, allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at registered black bear bait stations, subject to the established seasons for brown/grizzly bear in each unit. No baiting of brown/grizzly bear in Units that do not have black bear.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Muche, Zachri Kendl, and Kyle Moll (EG-F16-059)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

Open Unit 20D for legal grizzly bear baiting. Even just opening up Unit 20D north of the Tanana River would be helpful.

Example language: Brown grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. (Please just add Unit 20D.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a high number of grizzly bears in our unit to the point where it is difficult to even bait black bears. Shooting brown bears over bait during black bear baiting season in Unit 20D is requested and should be highly considered.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy Dow (EG-C15-068)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

Open grizzly over bait during black bear season in Unit 20D.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Grizzly bear over bait in Unit 20D; all other subunit in Unit 20 are open during black bear bait season.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Sauer (EG-C15-020)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(18)

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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 **Controlled**

Use Area [YOUTH HUNT
MANAGEMENT AREA]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or
50-inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

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
Controlled Use 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 youth
hunt drawing permit only; up
to 10 permits may be issued;
a person may not take a
calf or a cow accompanied

Sept. 1—Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1—Sept. 30

by a calf;

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

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The objectives of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts are to 1) stabilize population growth of this high-density moose population; 2) address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition, and reduced reproductive success; 3) make progress toward meeting the Unit 20D intensive management (IM) harvest objective of 500—700 moose; and 4) provide youth and disabled veteran hunting opportunity. These objectives are being met.

Antlerless moose hunts are offered in southwest Unit 20D, which has the highest moose density in the unit. This area has great potential for population growth due to an abundance of high quality moose habitat created from extensive land clearing for agricultural use and multiple wild fires over the past 30 years. Total moose harvest in all of Unit 20D averaged 278 moose (an average of 272 bulls and six antlerless moose) during regulatory year (RY) 2014 and RY2015.

The largest antlerless harvest (n=113) that occurred recently in Unit 20D was in 2009 when antlerless hunts were newly authorized. The southwest Unit 20D population estimate has been stable (approximately 4,000—4,500 w/SCF applied) since 2011, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) limits antlerless hunting opportunity. Bull harvest in southwest Unit 20D has been stable during the same time period, ranging from 135—165. The 2014 population estimate for southwest Unit 20D was 4,321 moose (corrected for sightability) with a density of 3.2 moose per square mile. The southwest Unit 20D population composition was estimated to contain 38 calves:100 cows and 32 bulls:100 cows during a fall 2014 geospatial population estimator survey.

Antlerless harvest will likely be needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will help meet the IM harvest objective of 500—700 moose without reducing bull:cow ratios below the management objectives. The population trend and harvest rate suggests the low, consistent antlerless harvest provided by three drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (i.e., ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents, predation), is an appropriate rate of antlerless mortality that contributes to stability in the southwest 20D moose population.

ADF&G will continue to evaluate antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth. 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. Additional permits would be issued only if more harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could quickly increase to undesirable levels. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and our ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. Additionally, the population may need to be reduced dramatically when new data are available and analyzed.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-129)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 20D as follows:

Seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 20D

That portion of Unit 20D which is south of the north bank of the Tanana River and east of the west bank of the Johnson River, except that portion within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of the east and west forks, and within one mile of the west fork.

Alaska Residents - One bull
Sept. 1—**Sept. 20** [SEPT. 15]

With the vast amount of moose browse just across the Tanana River created by the 463,994 acre Billy Creek burn in 2004, good wolf trapping reports from the north side of the Tanana and with the Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area to the south, overharvest should not be an issue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Local residents report that moose movement along the Tanana River Valley in eastern Unit 20D during the first part of September (the first part of the existing hunting season) is very slow, especially during a warm fall, and that rutting behavior is minimal until the last few days of the current hunting season. Extending the hunting season until September 20 would provide hunters with a better opportunity to harvest a bull moose. A bit more hunting opportunity in this area would be appreciated.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Geyer (EG-F16-025)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 92.530(19). Management areas. Require proof of qualifying status prior to awarding disabled veterans' drawing permits in Unit 20D within the Delta Junction Management Area, and implement other changes as follows:

Regarding the Unit 20D wounded warrior veterans hunt (DM795); the problem is that many of the DM795 tags are not getting to qualified veterans and subsequently going unused.

- 1) A great solution would be to authorize at least three of these tags as governor's tags, so nonprofit organizations could coordinate qualified candidates and cover some expenses for the hunt in coordination with the Fort Greely resources manager. This would be of great benefit to the veterans we are all trying to help.
- 2) The regulation should require that winners of the DM795 submit proof of qualification to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) within two weeks of notification, before they receive their tags in the mail, or they should submit proof of qualification at the time of application. This would solve the problem of the tags not getting to qualified recipients. There is no reason that these tags should be wasted like they are currently.
- 3) ADF&G should make an effort in coordination with the Fort Greely resources manager to contact the winners of the tags this year—this month—and ensure that at least some of these tags are getting to veterans that qualify for them. There are nonprofit organizations interested in assisting these veterans with their expenses for this hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The six tags provided for wounded veterans to attend this hunt are amazing and I'd like to thank the Board of Game for authorizing them. I am a wounded veteran. I have attended the DM795 hunt and it was a life-changing experience for me. However, I was very sad to learn that I was the only one who used the tag last year. The other five tags didn't get to qualified applicants, or the winners were unresponsive to contact attempts. In my case, I applied, but wasn't initially drawn. Rather, I received a call less than two weeks before the hunt, from the Fairbanks area ADF&G personnel, asking if I would be interested in hunting. They were calling down the list of applicants and I was the only qualified applicant that could make it to Delta Junction with such short notice. This happened because several of the winning applicants for the DM795 draw were not qualifying disabled veterans. Previously, ADF&G personnel has called the draw winners to verify qualification. When they encountered applicants who admitted they accidentally applied, but do not qualify, ADF&G would then try to contact other applicants to get the tag to a veteran that qualifies. Unfortunately, the Fairbanks ADF&G had decided not to contact any of the applicants this year.

Another problem is that Fort Greely's resources manager has resources to guide and house the qualified hunters. He has had trouble connecting with the winners of these tags. If he and other organizations knew who had won and how to contact the winners, it is possible that the entire trip could be funded by nonprofits in honor of the service of these wounded veterans.

PROPOSED BY: Joshua Revak

(EG-F16-067)
