

Proposed Changes Outside of the Board of Game’s Authority

The Board of Game (board) does not have authority to adopt the requested changes in the following proposals. They are included in the book for review and discussion by the board at the applicable region meeting.

The Board of Game does not have authority to change the Brown Bear Management Strategy or the number of guided permit hunts issued by the U.S. Forest Service or private land owners.

PROPOSAL 142

We feel there are two options to consider:

1. Raise the allowable nonresident recommended hunts in Guide Use Area 04-11 in the Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS) from nine to 13. Keep the total Unit 4 recommended nonresident hunts at no more than 144 hunts; possibly by using some of the “pool” created by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 1/3 Holdback Rule (2009-2017) recently rescinded in the USFS Shoreline II ROD.

OR

2. Reduce authorization on private land in Guide Use Area 04-11 to a maximum of two hunts (2).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A recent letter issued in March 1, 2018 by the Unit 4 area biologist of the Department of Fish and Game indicates Guide Use Area 04-11 on Northeast Chichagof are over three-year average of harvest. The Unit 4 Sitka area biologist has worked with private land owners and has authorized four nonresident hunting guide allocations in Guide Use Area 04-11 on private land. With nonresident historical hunting on USFS land, this new private land hunting is contributing to an overharvest according to the number of recommended hunts in the BBMS.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker (EG-F18-057)

The Board of Game does not have authority to change federal hunting regulations.

PROPOSAL 143

Units 15A Remainder, 15B, and 15C – One antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; ***upon successful harvest, shall have one antler removed and kept by Fish and Wildlife.*** August 10 – August 20.

Units 15B and 15C – One antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; ***upon successful harvest,***

shall have one antler removed and kept by Fish and Wildlife. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the October/November season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. October 20 – November 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the recent past (last 5–7 years), a subsistence hunter contacted both Boone and Crockett scorer and the SCI scorers to score his subsistence moose. This does not fit at all with the idea of providing meat for your family. It should **not** be about a "**trophy hunt**" or "**antlers**" at all. It is about providing protein and **sustenance for your family**. There is already in place current regulations by the Federal subsistence for moose in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Areas and for other species as well. This regulation does not add undue burden to create a "new rule."

Populations have increased in the "subsistence areas" and more pressure will be upon the animals. This season comes after a long general harvest and it further stresses the game to take large antlered breeding animals.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Presley (EG-F18-012)

The Board of Game does not have authority to change federal hunting regulations.

PROPOSAL 144

Units 15A Remainder, 15B, and 15C antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; shall carry a GPS or a mapping program equivalent downloaded to your cell phone and mark the coordinates when an animal is taken. The coordinates must be given to the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) when sealing the antlers. August 10 – August 20.

Units 15A Remainder, 15B and 15C antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; shall carry a GPS or a mapping program equivalent downloaded to your cell phone and mark the coordinates when an animal is taken. The coordinates must be given to ADF&G when sealing the antlers. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the October/November season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

October 20 – November 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the subsistence moose hunts in Units 15A, 15B, and 15C, hunters are quite often unaware of the Federal Moose Range boundaries and could easily harvest a subsistence moose on state land, which would make it moose poaching. By requiring a GPS and or mapping program downloaded from the internet on to a smart phone, you would be able to be aware of where you are to avoid a poaching scenario.

The Board of Game does not have authority for establishing subsistence hunts in nonsubsistence areas under Alaska Statute 16.05.258(c) and lacks the constitutional authority to restrict a hunt based on residency.

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 92.074 Community subsistence harvest hunt area

(a) The commissioner may issue community subsistence harvest permits for designated big game species in the areas specified in this section.

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(e) Ninilchik Community Harvest Area for moose: includes all of Unit 15C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting restrictions in Unit 15C have become more and more restrictive, which has hurt the year-round residents of Ninilchik, Alaska. There is also talk that the bull moose hunt in this region may become even further restricted, possibly to draw permit only, making it nearly impossible for Ninilchik residents to access a traditional and customary resource: moose.

Ninilchik families depend upon protein provided by locally harvested moose as access to other sources is limited. The customary and direct dependence on the game population by the subsistence user for human consumption is a mainstay of livelihood in Ninilchik. Not only is this a traditional and customary hunting area, access to other options of meat is limited with the closest grocery stores 40 miles away. Subsistence harvest options are otherwise very limited in this area for rural residents of Ninilchik and restrictions of moose harvest regulations and lack of a subsistence hunt will make the ability to obtain meat extremely restricted and may eliminate the chance for local residents.

According to the most recently published Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) species management report for moose in Unit 15C (ADF&G Chapter 16. 2013), moose populations in this area have continued to grow since being depleted by severe winters in the 1990s. In addition, the quality and quantity of moose browse has continued to increase. The report referred to above documents that the "main concern for moose management in this unit [15C] is maintain an adequate bull:cow ratio." This report, which is the most recent version available, states that the optimum bull:cow ratio for this management unit is 20–25:100. Hunting restrictions imposed in 2011 increased the bull:cow ratio from 9 bulls:100 cows in 2010 to 22 bulls:100 cows in 2012. This is within ADF&G’s management objective to maintain a healthy and productive population of moose in Unit 15C.

According to verbal reports from the ADF&G area management biologist, during a Central Peninsula Advisory Committee meeting, the Unit 15C bull:cow ratios are at 55:100, well beyond

management objectives. This proposal aims to provide Ninilchik community residents with additional subsistence opportunities while providing managers with additional management tools to maintain a healthy and productive moose population in Unit 15C.

According to State of Alaska regulation 5 AAC 92.072 Community Subsistence Harvest Hunt Area and Permit Conditions and at 5 AAC 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures, ADF&G may issue community-based subsistence harvest permits for big game species where the Alaska Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area. This proposal seeks for the board to establish Ninilchik as a Community Subsistence Harvest Area under 5 AAC 92.074(d), referred hereafter as the Ninilchik Community Subsistence Harvest (NCSH) area.

The NCSH permit program would allow up to 60 permits be issued to Ninilchik households that reside in the United States Census Area of the community of Ninilchik. One permit would be issued per household for Unit 15C. One moose could be taken per permit on a first come first served basis for one bull moose. All meat, including the liver, heart, and hide must be salvaged for customary and traditional purposes. Dates for the NCHS hunting season would be August 20 – September 20.

Each household would be required to submit one completed participant application. NCSH applicants must be Alaskan residents at the time of application. All members of the household must be listed on the application and are subject to all NCSH hunt eligibility requirements and conditions. A "household" means that group of people domiciled in the same residence per 5 AAC 92.990 (23) Definitions.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman (HQ-F18-012)
