

Proposals for Other Regions

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Allow additional moose harvest opportunity in Unit 16A by providing an antlerless hunt and/or an “any bull” hunt as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(14)		
...		
Unit 16(A)		
1 bull per regulatory year as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Or 50-inch antler or 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow; or	Aug. 10—Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—Aug. 17
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Or 50-inch antler or 3 or more brow tines on one side; and	Aug. 20—Sept. 25	Aug. 10—Sept. 25

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up
to XXX antlerless moose
permits may be issued; or**

**Aug. 20—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Nov. 1—Last Day of
February
(General hunt only)**

**1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to XXX permits may be
issued;**

**Aug. 20—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Nov. 1—Dec. 15
(General hunt only)**

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the March 2018 Board of Game (board) meeting in Dillingham, the board requested a board proposal to provide additional moose harvest opportunity in Unit 16A by providing an antlerless hunt and/or an “any

bull” hunt. Unit 16A is in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Peninsula Nonsubsistence Area.

In November 2017, after many years of inadequate survey conditions, a complete moose survey was conducted in Unit 16A. The population was estimated at 8,654 moose, which is above the population objective of 3,500–4,000 moose. The population was comprised of 33.4 bulls:100 cows and 36.3 calves:100 cows. This high calf-to-cow ratio suggests that the population is continuing to increase, and the bull:cow ratio, which also exceeds the objective (20–25 bulls:100 cows), indicates that there are surplus bulls in the population.

Over the last five years the average annual moose harvest has been 204 moose; harvest has been increasing and is within the harvest objective of 190–360 moose. Additional resident harvest opportunities provided through a draw hunt structure will provide the necessary harvest to continue to meet harvest objectives as well as to reduce population levels. Two draw hunts are being proposed in addition to the current archery season and general moose season – one antlerless hunt and one “any bull” hunt.

An antlerless hunt would follow the general season dates for moose in Unit 16A, however, there would be another hunt period beginning post-rut on November 1 extending through the winter until the last day of February. Depending on population size and composition, these two hunt periods could be administered through a single draw hunt with two periods or two separate draw hunts, either of which should maximize hunter participation.

The “any bull” draw hunt would also follow the general season dates for moose in Unit 16A in August – September but would add a second hunt period beginning November 1 and ending December 15. This draw opportunity could also be split either into a single draw hunt with two hunt periods or two draw hunts, depending on the needs of management to bring the population composition into management objectives.

These proposed options are in lieu of registration hunts, which can be unwieldy to administer particularly around high population centers.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game (HQ-F18-072)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the Central/Southwest Region Meeting in February 2018. It was previous numbered Proposal 165.

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A as follows:

Replace the closed area of Unit 19A with a registered Tier I permit hunt. Permits would be available at the store in Sleetmute. Permit application would be for one week, one month before opening season. Anyone acquiring this permit can have no other hunting permits in the Kuskokwim drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closure of Unit 19A above the George River to moose hunting. The fish and game survey of spring 2017 show there is a harvestable population for the first time since the closure in 2006.

This hunting season should have been available in the 2017 cycle of the Board of Game for Interior/Northeast Arctic Region (Region 3), however weather conditions did not allow for aerial surveys to validate this opening until the board cycle was past. The AC was not able to put an agenda change request together because of all the summer activities of its members.

This would not allow for local people to have an opportunity to take moose in close proximity of their communities.

This will be a Tier I registration permit hunt available to all Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Henry Hill (HQ-F17-ACR1)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal as amended from the 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 123. The board amended the proposal to exclude the Maclaren Summit Trail from the Controlled Use Area as described below, which will allow motorized access or transportation of game on the established Maclaren Summit Trail, whereas before it was restricted.

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(i). Controlled Use Areas.

Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area description as follows:

...

(C) Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of Denali Highway, west of **up to 100 feet east of the Maclaren Summit trail from the Denali Highway north to the southern boundary of the Controlled Use Area, and** the Maclaren River drainage, and east of, and including eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier, and the eastern bank drainages of Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork

(ii) The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March through June 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game on the Denali Highway and adjacent highway vehicle parking areas;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area (CCUA) is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 through June 30. The area provides a large hunting area, accessible from the Denali Highway, where roadside and non-motorized hunters have a reasonable opportunity to harvest moose and caribou. Recently there has been some confusion by the public regarding the location of the Maclaren Summit Trail relative to the eastern boundary of the CCUA. Recent GIS analysis conducted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified that the trailhead and the majority of the Maclaren Summit Trail lies within the Maclaren River drainage and the controlled use area. The original proposal (Proposal 123) added the remainder of the Maclaren Summit Trail to the CCUA description whereas the amended proposal removes the entire trail from the CCUA.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-041)

Note: Proposal 129 was accepted by the Board of Game as an agenda change request for consideration at the Southcentral Region Meeting in March 2019.

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 92.530(7)(C). Management areas.

Clarify the ability for trappers to transport furbearers or lawful parts of game as trapping bait within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers requests the Board of Game (board) clarify the intent of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in regard to trappers and the use of motorized vehicles.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:

(A) the area consists of those portions of Units 20 and 24–26 extending five miles from each side of the Dalton Highway, including the drivable surface of the Dalton Highway, from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean, and including the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area;

(B) the area within the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area is closed to the taking of big game; the remainder of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is closed to hunting; however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only, and small game may be taken by falconry;

(C) “no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that

(i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:

(1) Dalton Highway,

- (2) Bettles Winter Trail during periods when the Bureau of Land Management and the City of Bettles announce that the trail is open for winter travel,
- (3) Galbraith Lake Road from the Dalton Highway to the BLM campground at Galbraith Lake, including the gravel pit access road when the gate is open,
- (4) Toolik Lake Road, excluding the driveway to the Toolik Lake Research Facility,
- (5) the Sagavanirktok River access road two miles north of Pump Station 2, and
- (6) any constructed roadway or gravel pit within one-quarter mile of the Dalton Highway;

(ii) aircraft and boats may be used;

(iii) a snowmachine may be used to cross the management area from land outside the management area to access land on the other side of the management area;

(D) any hunter traveling on the Dalton Highway must stop at any check station operated by the department within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation in place for the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) prohibits the use of motorized vehicles to transport hunters, hunting gear, and parts of game. That has been interpreted that hunters could not operate motorized vehicles, but trappers could. It has recently come to the attention of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Department of Fish and Game that due to the definition of “game,” trappers cannot transport furbearers or lawful bait that consists of parts of game with a motorized vehicle in the DHCMA. It is requested that the intent of this regulation in regard to trappers and the use of motorized vehicles be placed into the regulation.

If the intent of the regulation was to only pertain to hunters, then an exception should be created to allow the use of motorized vehicle for the transportation of furbearers taken under the authority of a trapping licenses and parts of game lawfully used as bait under a trapping license.

If the intent of the regulation is to not allow trappers to transport parts of games, then the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) believe that the regulation should read “... no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunter or trappers, hunting or trapping gear, or parts of game...” This will make the intent of the regulation very clear to both enforcement and trappers.

At the time AWT presented the agenda change request to the board at the February 2019 board meeting, it was the belief that the regulations for multiple management areas would need to be clarified in regard to the intent for trappers to transport game and furbearers, but after reviewing the regulations, it was determined that the DHMCA is the only management area needing clarification.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers (HQ-F18-ACR1)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 34.

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

In drawing hunts with a separate allocation for residents and nonresidents, all nonresident permits will be issued from the nonresident allocation as follows:

All nonresidents shall be placed in the nonresident pool of drawing tags for hunts with a separate allocation to nonresidents and residents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Nonresident second degree of kindred in resident drawing pools.

Alaska's must-be-guided law (AS 16.05.407/408) was created in 1967 and would not have passed without the inclusion to allow nonresident hunters to hunt with a resident relative within second degree of kindred (2DK) in lieu of having to hire a guide.

The guide industry has pushed for years to separate out 2DK hunters from guided hunters and in some cases, like Kodiak, the nonresident 2DK hunters are in the resident pool of tags. All nonresident hunters should be treated equally according to our must-be-guided law. All nonresident hunters should be in the same pool of nonresident tags under draw permit hunts with a separate allocation to nonresidents.

Regardless of the level of 2DK hunters for must-be-guided species, a nonresident hunter is a nonresident hunter, period. Alaska's must-be-guided law never intended for one class of nonresident hunters (2DK) to be singled out and separated from the other (guided). There is currently a push by the guide industry to remove the 2DK provision with a new regulation eliminating 2DK nonresident tags entirely; all 2DK hunters in the future will only be allowed to hunt with a resident relative who has drawn a resident tag. The resident relative would essentially forfeit his or her tag and give it to their nonresident relative. That would be worse than putting all 2DK nonresident hunters in the resident pool of tags because it would prevent a resident and nonresident 2DK hunter from both drawing a tag and both having an opportunity to harvest an animal together.

Again, this is not what our must-be-guided law intended. Legislators realized that most nonresidents hunting must-be-guided species would hire a guide. They included the 2DK provision not as a benefit to certain nonresidents over others, but as a way of carrying on family hunting traditions and opportunities. 2DK hunters should never be dependent on a resident relative to put in and draw a tag in order to hunt with them in Alaska. A nonresident 2DK hunter should be given the same opportunity to draw a tag as a nonresident guided hunter within the nonresident pool of tags.

Treat all nonresidents equally as our must-be-guided law intended.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(EG-F17-100)

