

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the lynx trapping season in Units 19C, 19D, and 21A as follows:

Current seasons: November 1 – March 15

Proposed seasons: November 1 – March 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lynx trapping pressure in Units 19C, 19D, and 21A is a fraction of what it was in the 1980s and 1990s and harvest of lynx is lower than what the population could support so there is no biological reason to object to this proposal. Lynx trapping does not drive trapper effort in these units; marten drives effort between November and February and wolf and wolverine drive this effort between November and the end of March. Lynx are occasionally caught incidentally in wolverine and wolf traps during this time and this take will continue whether or not this proposal passes so very few additional lynx will be harvested if this proposal passes. Fur quality is variable during the proposed additional season with most hides being quite good and certainly adequate for home uses. The meat is always good. If this proposal passes, the trapper will be able to retain these lynx; there will be a reduced burden on the Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Wildlife Troopers to deal with late caught lynx; and additional opportunity will be afforded trappers with little additional lynx harvest.

The McGrath AC considered submitting this proposal for all of the McGrath area office units, but we did not because the affected committees should comment on their own preferences.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-049)
