

Regionwide & Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Establish customary and traditional use findings for migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25, and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunities as follows:

The Alaska Board of Game should determine that migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 12, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, 21, 24, and 25 are associated with customary and traditional subsistence uses and develop regulations that provide reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of migratory birds and waterfowl in these Interior Region Game Management Units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Board of Game has not yet determined whether migratory birds and waterfowl are associated with customary and traditional uses in Game Management Units 12, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, 21, 24, and 25. While the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council provides spring and summer subsistence hunting of migratory birds and waterfowl, many Interior Region rural residents also pursue migratory birds and waterfowl during the fall season for subsistence uses.

PROPOSED BY: Darrell Vent Sr.

(EG-F19-099)

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 92.080(15). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of moose, caribou and reindeer urine as scent lures in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as follows:

The GASH AC would like to propose adding moose urine and caribou/reindeer urine to the list of banned scent lures used for hunting in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region (Region III). This should be a statewide proposal, but this is a Region III meeting. This may help prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease to Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is destroying cervid populations in the lower 48 and Canada. This is a disease we do not want in Alaska. The disease can be transmitted through urine which is commonly used as a scent lure. Commercial moose urine is available for sale in addition to other cervid urine lures.

PROPOSED BY: GASH (Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross) Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F19-020)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 92.115. Control of predation by bears.

Establish intensive management programs for bear across the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as follows:

Under intensive management, for other prey species harvested by hunters or in other area, the commissioner of ADF&G may authorize predation control to recover depleted prey populations under Alaska Statute 16.05.020 (2), and the Board of Game may adopt regulations for similar purpose under AS 16.05.255 either of these authorities are listed under other programs.

We, Alaskan residents that are concerned for the safety of our children, our food security, our wildlife, our resources, and sustainability for future uses, would like to recommend that the Alaska Board of Game adopt appropriate regulations that begin intensive bear management across the state for both brown and black bears.

I will leave it up to your legal teams, division staff, and board support team to work up the regulation language. I'm sure there will be modifications to add regulatory language appropriate to each Unit as this proposal circulates prior to Board of Game meeting.

I recommend that each Unit, give recommendations and modifications in assistance with the language to ensure that needs are being appropriately met throughout the state for predator control, "intensive management."

Areas of more intensive concern are the rural areas with higher subsistence economy.

We, would also like to request that you allow local residents to help with this management, because we know the demand for labor outweighs the number of employees. We are here to help at your discretion and volunteers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The goal is to reduce predation bear rates, allowing humans to take more ungulates while also maintaining sustainable populations of predators. There has been an elevated issue heard throughout the state of bears becoming a problem, in specific the brown bear. This discussion has been brought about during multiple advisory committee meetings, Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings, and the Federal Subsistence Board.

These programs are designed to reduce predation by wolves or bears and increase moose, caribou, or deer that are a need for source of Alaska. Another species that should be added to this is salmon, if possible.

In all areas where salmon use to be the main source diet for these ungulates are now in search of food, because of the decline of salmon in the spawning grounds. Bears are moving into urban and rural communities, putting human lives at risk and their personal harvests to wonton waste.

There is an ever-growing concern, humans witnessing brown bears harvesting caribou calves at an alarming rate. Not only eyewitnesses, but videos where the brown bears are ripping out newborns as the mothers are mid-point delivery.

Our caribou in the Western Region have flat lined and the population has not increased, which is a growing concern. Due to the decline in salmon, subsistence harvests have shifted on increasing the pressure on Caribou to fill the void. If there is not enough caribou to uphold the demand, caribou abundance is at risk to a plummeting decline.

In other regions of Alaska, folks have talked about the moose populations are also declining and they too are concerned about the brown bears hunting moose calves at an alarming rate as well. There is significant concerns about a need for intensive management control on bears.

I had offered to start a proposal through the Board of Game to address these concerns and issues. There are multiple people who are in support of this proposal across the state.

PROPOSED BY: Alissa Nadine Rogers (EG-F19-072)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

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

Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region until harvest or population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed in Region III (Interior and Eastern Arctic) for any moose or caribou population under a current active Intensive Management Predation Control Program until the minimum Intensive Management population or harvest objective for that population has been reached.

So in areas where, for example, the population objective has been met for a prey population under an active Intensive Management (IM) predation control plan, but not the harvest objective (or vice versa), this would not apply and nonresident hunting would be allowed.

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

**Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas within Region III
(Interior and Eastern Arctic) under active IM Predation Control Programs.**

Intensive Management Predation Control Implementation Programs to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans.

Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We understand that nonresidents may benefit from IM programs once IM population or harvest objectives are met. That is why we support nonresidents as well as residents paying a fee for the state's intensive management programs. However, nonresidents are not entitled to benefit from IM programs while they are in progress until either the harvest or population objectives for specific moose or caribou populations have been achieved.

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt regulations that match the intent of our Intensive Management law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in Region III in an area where a moose or caribou population is under a formal active IM Predation Control program to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population or harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

Currently there are two active IM programs in place in Region III to increase moose populations, in Units 19A and 19D east. Both programs expire in June of 2020 and will be reevaluated at the March 2020 Region III meeting.

In Unit 19A, neither the moose population or harvest objective has been met, and there is currently no nonresident moose hunting allowed in Unit 19A. In Unit 19D East the latest data shows that the population objective has been met but not the harvest objective. There is one area in 19D where nonresident moose hunting is allowed, but it is outside the predation control area.

This proposal would thus not have any effect on current nonresident moose hunting opportunities in Region III that we can see at this time.

Intensive Management when necessary is first and foremost about putting food on the tables of Alaskans. That's the way Alaskans who support IM efforts understand it. In other areas of the state, like Unit 13, the board has passed similar regulations for caribou, saying that nonresident hunting of the Nelchina herd will only be allowed if the herd is above the population or harvest objective. There is no valid reason not to have a one-size-fits-all regulation across the state on this particular issue.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F19-129)

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf

Extend the season for taking wolves in Units 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C as follows:

I recommend wolf season to start August 1st instead on August 10th. The end date for the prospective area can stay the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the wolf season dates for Units 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C. The season is currently August 10th - May 31st (April 15th for Unit 20C, April 20th for Unit 26) in these units. I would like to see an extension of these dates due to predation of sheep/caribou by wolves. Caribou season in these areas begins August 1st, and sheep season August 10th. I believe that caribou hunters would harvest a

wolf during that season at any time. Sheep hunters often go into the field prior to the opener of sheep season. I believe sheep hunters would harvest a wolf before opener if they are afield and see the wolf. They are less likely to take that same wolf during sheep season. The harvest of additional wolves would help declining sheep and caribou numbers in the Interior and Northeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F19-078)

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

For the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region, allow the use of crossbows in archery only hunt areas for hunters possessing permanent identification cards as follows:

To allow the use of crossbows in an archery/bow only area by anyone possessing an Alaska permanent identification card and who has completed the crossbow certification course by ADF&G in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Crossbows are an effective game management tool and are more likely to ensure an accurate shot and quick kill for elderly hunters. Alaska seniors may no longer be able to hold a draw on a traditional/compound bow or may have lost the strength over time to shoot one. Crossbows allow the older hunter to continue their pursuit of wild game for the freezer and can be used on a solid rest, like shooting sticks. By allowing this new regulation only for resident hunters who have obtained their permanent identification card we can expect experience in judgement to accompany these hunters afield. This new regulation could serve as a Board of Game test pilot program in all the Units of the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region and if successful could be expanded to the entire state when applicable.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Sackett (EG-F19-082)

PROPOSAL 50

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

Establish registration archery only hunts for bull moose in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Units that have general moose seasons as follows:

Institute a new registration conventional bowhunting season for bull moose in all units and subunits that currently have a general moose season by harvest ticket. The season would extend for ten days immediately following the closure of the general moose season. The same bull and antler restrictions in effect in the general moose season in that unit or subunit would still apply.

The purpose of this new hunt being registration would be so that the Department of Fish and Game can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of this hunt being scheduled after the general moose hunt is to allow for less foliage and cooler weather to minimize potential loss or waste of meat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska has very few specific bowhunting seasons by comparison with most other states, which have long conventional bowhunting seasons. Conventional bowhunting seasons provide significant additional opportunity for hunters to be afield and minimal harvest of the resource. Additional bowhunting seasons could provide increased hunter interest and participation as well as possible additional Alaska state and guide revenue.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F19-136)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Remove the bag limit restriction of one sheep every four years for nonresidents over the age of 60 hunting in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as follows:

For all Units in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region, the bag limit for Dall sheep for nonresidents over 60 years of age should be one ram of legal horn for that area every year and not every four years.

The nonresident should be 60 years or older at the time of harvest of the ram.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At 60+ years of age a hunter most likely doesn't have many sheep hunts left and restricting nonresident participation is costly to the State of Alaska at \$160.00 per license and \$850.00 per sheep tag, not to mention the other expenditures the hunter incurs coming and going to Alaska.

The one sheep every four years for a nonresident hunter was a concession by the guide industry founded during the Sheep Working Sessions a few years back and of no biological necessity or consequence.

PROPOSED BY: Hunter and Gatherers Lives Matter (EG-F19-134)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Change the nonresident general season sheep hunts in Units 20 Remainder and 19C to drawing permit hunts as follows:

Put all nonresident sheep hunters on draw permits for Units 20 Remainder and 19C, with a limited allocation of up to 50 permits for each hunt.

Unit 20 Remainder

Nonresidents

August 10 – September 20

One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years **by permit**

Unit 19C

Nonresidents

August 10 – September 20

One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years **by permit**

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

Unlimited Nonresident Sheep Hunting Opportunity in Units 20 Remainder and 19C.

Unit 20 Remainder and Unit 19C general season sheep hunts place no limits on nonresident opportunity and consistently the nonresident sheep harvests in Unit 20 Remainder and 19C are at or near 60 – 80 percent respectively.

In 2017, the last year data is available at the time of this writing, nonresidents harvested 58 percent of the sheep in Unit 20 Remainder and 78 percent of the sheep in Unit 19C.

Resident hunters have been putting in proposals to limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in these areas, or to provide an earlier resident-only season, for over a decade, expressing that unlimited nonresident opportunity has led to a decrease in sheep populations, conflicts and crowding afield that negatively affect hunt quality, access issues, and lower resident success rates.

Ironically, the Board of Game has not disagreed with most of those complaints. In fact, the current Chairman of the board told the legislature in 2013: “Another area the Board of Game is looking at, and I’m sure this is going to come up fairly soon, we’ve got a meeting in Fairbanks 2014 in the spring, and this is south of Fairbanks, 20A, there’s currently about 15 guides registered for this area. And from what I hear from other guides – I’m not a guide – but what I hear from other guides around the state is that the area can probably support about a third of that number and have some really quality hunting, so that’s another area we’re going to have to deal with, And here’s something else that I’m really concerned about. Is that, there’s a difference in having guides competing with guides, that’s one issue, but the way I look at it as a BOG member, and a real state’s rights sort of guy, is that this really puts a lot of competition on residents. Because guides are well equipped, they have large camps, wall tents, a string of horses, aircraft, they’re set up, I mean this is their business. For your average hunter that goes in there for a long weekend or a week or whatever, those guys, those residents have a tough time dealing and getting game in places where you have a lot of guide competition.”

For over a decade, the Board of Game has implied that the problem is not too many nonresident sheep hunters (who are required to hire a guide), rather the problem is too many guides on state lands, and the Chairman’s testimony above was in support of a proposed program to limit guides on state lands. That program failed to get approval in the legislature and there is currently no funding to implement it outside legislative approval. It’s time for the board to use their authority to limit nonresident sheep hunters who are required to hire a guide.

We’d also point out that this same problem was brought up in 2008 by resident hunters regarding the unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in the Chugach Unit 13D and 14A hunts. The vast majority of the legal ram harvest was going to nonresident guided hunters. Residents had conservation and other concerns and were told by the Department of Fish and Game that the full-curl harvest regime was sustainable no matter how many legal rams were taken out of a population

each year. Don't worry, your general season opportunities will not go to draw only under this allocation scheme.

But then the department did have conservation concerns, and instead of first restricting nonresident hunters as the public had asked for, the board put all hunters on draw permits only which significantly reduced resident hunting opportunities, and to this day the Chugach hunts are still draw only for residents.

The department continues to say there are no conservation concerns for the Unit 20 Remainder and 19C sheep populations, but there is no doubt overall that the sheep population over time in these areas has declined. The current department data shows stable sheep populations at much lower levels than in the past.

The board wants to manage the Unit 20 Remainder and 19C sheep hunts for maximum opportunity, but that should not mean maximum opportunity for nonresidents. There has to be some limits, even if/when the department has no conservation concerns. Resident hunters should have a clear priority opportunity to hunt sheep, but the way it is now resident sheep hunters find themselves having to go around guides and their clients in the field, instead of the other way around, and having to compete with too many nonresident guided hunters for access and opportunities to harvest a sheep.

We want to ensure that the same thing that happened in the Chugach does not happen in the Interior, that before any restrictions are placed on residents that nonresidents are limited/restricted first.

The board recognizes these issues and it's time to stop kicking the can down the road hoping for some solution other than limiting nonresident sheep hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F19-132)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Establish an archery only registration permit hunt for Dall sheep in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as follows:

In Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 26B and 26C where there is a general sheep hunt by harvest ticket from August 10 through September 20, institute a registration conventional archery hunt for sheep, August 1 – August 9, with the same legal requirements for rams only full curl, double broomed or 8 years of age or older.

The purpose of requesting this to be a registration hunt is to allow assessment of the actual participation and success rates in this new hunt.

This would be limited to conventional archery gear only, so no crossbows or other primitive weapons. There is over thirty years of harvest data from archery sheep hunts in Unit 14C to support the very low success rate for conventional bowhunters on mature rams.

This would be for both resident and nonresident hunters. It would give opportunity for guides to sell additional hunts if they chose to guide bowhunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska has very few specific bowhunting seasons by comparison with most other states, which have long conventional bowhunting seasons. Conventional bowhunting seasons provide significant additional opportunity for hunters to be afield and minimal harvest of the resource. Additional bowhunting seasons could provide increased hunter interest and participation as well as possible additional Alaska State and guide revenue.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F19-111)

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska as follows:

- (a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

- (4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Reauthorizing the exemption allows residents who have not purchased the \$25 brown bear tag to take bears opportunistically. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III (Interior and Eastern Arctic) brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take brown bears opportunistically.

Region III brown bear populations are healthy, and harvest is monitored through the brown bear sealing requirement. Reauthorizing all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III maintains simpler regulations, high resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization includes tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

The Department of Fish and Game estimates that brown bear harvest accounts for less than 6% of the bear population. Harvest is composed primarily of males and is sustainable. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear populations are managed by adjusting seasons and bag limits. The resident tag fees that were in place prior

to 2010 appeared to have little effect on harvest rates in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-153)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 92.085(5). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the use of dogs for hunting for lynx in Units 12 and 20 as follows:

Implement a hound hunting season for lynx starting October 15 – December 31 in Units 12 and 20. Harvest to reflect the same as in trapping license. Open to resident and nonresident hunters alike.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lack of hound hunting opportunity within the State of Alaska. I propose the implementation of a hound hunting season for the pursuit and harvest of lynx in the State of Alaska. Alaska is open to all walks of life willing to work hard and put in their time. I feel like legal law-abiding hunters should have that opportunity if they so choose to partake. I realize that with no road systems it will be difficult. But nothing up here is easy. With the implementation of this season there will be virtually no impact to the lynx population as there are virtually no hound hunters up here. And with no harvest limit with a trapping license hound harvests will be a drop in the bucket of the total population taken. I propose this season takes place starting October 15 and runs until the end of December. The snow will be deep by then and it will stop hounds from being able to successfully pursue their quarry. With this late fall and winter season there won't be any worry or dogs getting mixed up in brown or grizzly bears either.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler OBrien (EG-F19-093)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Establish minimum distance requirements for trapping around dwellings in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as follows:

No trapping within one mile of a house/cabin/dwelling/mailbox.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I want there to be regulation that prohibits a trapper from setting any traps within one mile from any house/cabin/dwelling. I'm tired of these road hunters that set traps and catch dogs/cats near our homestead and neighbors!

PROPOSED BY: Doug and Opal Welton (EG-F19-040)
