

## **Regionwide / Multiple Units**

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### **PROPOSAL 1**

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

Shift to later moose hunting seasons in Units 13 and 14 as follows:

**Solution:** Shift hunting windows later in the year for impacted areas such as mine in Unit 13 and 14, whereas the hunting season ends on September 20th. Ending the moose season near October 9th would allow cooler temperatures to set in, and also aid in the ease of meat preservation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Moose hunting in Alaska needs to be moved back later in the season. Why: Alaska's climate has changed or shifted to where September months are not conducive to hunting, whereas temperatures are warmer than in years past. This has a negative effect on moose activities. Warmer temperatures will keep moose bedded down in the day and less active, it has also been observed that the rut is being delayed by warmer temperatures. These changes have put hunters at a growing and compounding disadvantage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sean McKenney (EG-F20-017)

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### **PROPOSAL 2**

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

Establish registration archery seasons for Dall sheep in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 as follows:

Regulatory language: (for Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16)

Resident: One ram, with full curl horn or larger, by bow and arrow only from August 1 - August 5, by registration permit available at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>. Certified bowhunters only.

Nonresident: One ram, with full curl horn or larger, by bow and arrow only, every four regulatory years from August 1 - August 5, by registration permit available at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>. Certified bowhunters only.

\*\*\* Optional addition: Any hunter participating in this registration archery hunt may only hunt sheep with bow and arrow during this regulatory year in the unit where they took advantage of the archery season, including during the general season from August 10 - September 21.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is an increasing interest in bowhunting opportunities for Dall sheep in Alaska but, aside from very low odds draw tags, there are currently no archery seasons or areas for sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region. This is a proposal for a resident and nonresident, August 1 – August 5 registration archery season for full curl Dall Sheep in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16.

During the regular rifle season, bowhunting is difficult to safely achieve given the overall popularity of sheep hunting and the ability of rifle hunters to take very long shots. Bowhunters often spend many hours to days attempting to get within bowrange of a particular ram and rifle hunters can easily interfere with any chance of a successful bowhunt. In the worst case, it's even possible for rifle hunters to unknowingly shoot over the backs of bowhunters stalking sheep, especially in more popular and easily accessible areas.

In addition, there are many nonresident bowhunters who would welcome an opportunity for a guided bowhunt outside of the regular sheep season. Such a season would provide additional revenue for guiding operations and make Alaska a more competitive and appealing option for nonresidents bowhunters planning to book a sheep hunt.

In the past, early bow seasons were rejected by the Board of Game, in part, because of concern that bowhunters would push sheep out of certain areas just prior to the season. In this proposal the bow season would match the existing youth season, August 1 – August 5, thereby giving the sheep a five-day break from hunting all pressure prior to the general season.

A bowhunting season in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 would provide a wonderful opportunity for bowhunters to spend time safely in the mountains and is very unlikely to impact sheep populations and numbers of legal rams. Over the ten-year period from 2009-2018 bowhunters killed about 1% of legal rams taken in the Alaska's general season. Even in the DS140/141 and DS240/241, which are bowhunting only draw hunts for *any ram* in an easily accessible area, the success rate over the same ten year period was about two – three rams per year for almost 70 tags awarded each year, and only a small fraction of the rams that were killed in these hunts would be considered legal in a full curl only area.

Combined with a short season that is separated from the general season by five days and a very low projected success rate, there is no downside to allowing bowhunters an opportunity to safely pursue sheep each season in this region. It would simply allow bowhunters a short window each year to pursue sheep in a safer and more enjoyable fashion.

Making this a registration hunt would allow for accurate statistics about harvest and use.

\*\*\* Optional: In the interest of fairness and of bowhunters being willing to make sacrifices to gain the privilege of a bowhunting season, this hunt could be combined with a “choose your weapon” condition whereby any bowhunter who takes advantage of this archery season would be restricted to hunting with bow and arrow only during the remainder of the regulatory season for the unit where he or she hunted the special archery season. This should help assuage concerns that bowhunters have an “unfair advantage” of any kind and would demonstrate the commitment of archery hunters. This type of “choose your weapon” regulation has been implemented successfully in other states where it is popular with both bow and rifle hunters. Bowhunters not participating in the registration hunt, who only hunt the current general season (8/10 - 9/21), would not be subject to “choose your weapon” regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward (EG-F20-167)

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**PROPOSAL 3**

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

Open an archery only season for Dall sheep in Units 13, 14A, 14B, and 16 as follows:

Establish an archery only season in Units 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from **September 21 to October 10.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish an archery only sheep season in Units 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from September 21 to October 10.

There was an average of 618 rams taken per year from the years 2009 to 2018. The average number of rams taken with archery equipment per year during that same time span, was a total of eight rams. This equates to less than 1.5% of the take of legal rams from 2009 to 2018.

Given the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data above it seems reasonable to assume there is no biological concern with regards to bowhunters and their potential impact they would have with a lengthened season. This would be available to both residents and nonresidents, allowing guides to extend their season for bowhunting clients. This also would influence sheep hunters to opt out of hunting during the general season with a rifle to plan a bow hunt for the later season. It must also be understood that weather alone could complicate the logistics to hunt sheep during this season extension and therefore potentially decrease the success rate with archery equipment even greater. There would be no need for a registration permit as the prior given data suggests no biological concern and harvested rams already must be sealed by ADF&G.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herb Mansavage (HQ-F20-015)  
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**PROPOSAL 4**

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

Establish a registration hunt by bow and arrow only for Dall sheep within Units 9, 11, 13A, 13B remainder, 13C remainder, 13D remainder, 14A remainder, 14B, and 16 as follows:

Institute a registration hunt for certified bowhunters only beginning September 21 and ending on October 10 or by emergency order. This registration hunt would be for the same areas already open to general harvest ticket in the earlier season.

Bag limit of one ram with full-curl horn or larger for residents.

Bag limit of one ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years for nonresidents.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Aside from drawing permit hunts, there are currently no opportunities in this region of Alaska for bowhunters to pursue Dall sheep without the presence of rifle hunters.

With large numbers of hunters afield and the ability of rifle hunters to kill sheep at long distances, bowhunters often struggle to find areas to hunt where they can safely stalk close to animals without fear of being exposed to crossfire and other forms of interference.

A solution to these problems is to establish an archery only sheep season in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from September 21st to October 10th.

From 2009 to 2018, there was an average of 618 rams taken per year. The average number of rams taken with archery equipment per year, during that same time span, was eight rams. This shows that bowhunters accounted for 1.3% of the average harvest of rams over 10 seasons.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game can monitor the participation and success rates more closely. Establish registration Dall sheep bow hunting only season

Having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would bring in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

Providing a designated archery season for sheep would provide additional hunting opportunities for residents and guided nonresidents with essentially no impact on rifle hunters or sheep populations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-056)

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## **PROPOSAL 5**

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

Establish three archery registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 where there are general season hunts as follows:

In Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 where there is a general season (harvest ticket) sheep hunt, there would be established three registration hunts for conventional bow and arrow (bowhunter certification required). The dates for each registration hunt would be as follows: August 1 - August 9; September 21 - September 30 and October 1 - October 10. A legal sheep would be a full curl ram (or eight or greater years old or double broomed). A hunter could register for and hunt all three hunts but would have to register for each one separately after returning from the field from each hunt. Registration could be online or in person. The later hunts could be closed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The function of the Board of Game should be to NOT ONLY issue restrictions to hunting but should also be to increase hunting opportunities where reasonable and in a fashion that would be of no biologic impact to the species being hunted. Many states in the Lower 48 have established long archery seasons both before and after the regular firearms seasons. As a result archery hunting has been growing in numbers, while the overall number of hunters in most states has been declining. This has potentially caused serious

problems with Pittman-Robertson funding of some states game management and conservation programs. The issue is a request for the Board of Game to identify areas and species where hunting opportunities can be increased with minimal impact on the species being hunted.

A good example would be archery (conventional bow and arrow) sheep seasons both before and after the usual firearms season. Bowhunters would appreciate the chance to hunt sheep at a time when there was no competition from firearms hunters. This proposal would be for a conventional bow and arrow sheep season. It would be a registration hunt so that ADF&G could accurately keep track of participation and success rates. Legal sheep would be Mature Rams Only as defined by full curl, eight years old or older or double broomed, which is the same as for the firearms hunts. ADF&G has already stated that with those restrictions there should be no harm to the sheep population. Note that these hunts would be available to both residents and nonresidents (who would still require a guide). This would give guides an opportunity to sell additional hunts if they were willing to take bowhunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost (EG-F20-124)  
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**PROPOSAL 6**

**5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.**

Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

**5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.**

- (a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:
  - (1) Unit 11;
  - (2) Units 13 and 16(A);
  - (3) Unit 16(B) and 17;
  - ...
  - (11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:
    - (A) Unit 9(B), within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;
    - (B) Unit 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;
    - (C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;
    - (D) Unit 9(E), within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;
  - (12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.
- (b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17;

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board of Game (board) liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 Board of Game meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

In March 2011 the board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. However, brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of bears in defense of life or property.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-053)

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**PROPOSAL 7**

**5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**

Increase bag limit for black bear in Units 13D and 16 as follows:

Change the bag limit of black bears in Units 13D and 16 from three every regulatory year to five every regulatory year.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is an abundance of black bears in Units 16 and 13D with a bag limit of three bears. I would like to see the bag limit increased to five black bears every regulatory year in these units for both residents and nonresidents. These units have dense black bear populations and giving some hunters the

opportunity to harvest more of this surplus of black bears will have no negative effect on the population.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Montgomery (EG-F20-047)

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**PROPOSAL 8**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

Shorten coyote trapping season in Units 9, 13, 14B, 16 and 17 as follows:

Unit 9 (October 1 - April 30) November 10 - March 31

Units 13 and 16 (October 15 - April 30) November 10 - March 31

Units 14B and 17 (November 10 - April 30) November 10 - March 31

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Shorten the coyote trapping season. Coyotes are harvested for fur not food. Current seasons were set for various reasons one being the hope lamb predation would be reduced. There is no data to support this that I know of. Coyote fur is better in November and March than October and April. Aligning the opening date of coyote season with most other furbearers will help eliminate by-catch problems. Citations have been issued for failure to salvage and/or surrender other furbearers taken during early coyote season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lessard

(EG-F20-021)

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**PROPOSAL 9**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping**

Extend the wolf trapping season in Units 13 and 16 as follows:

October 15th – May 31st [April 30th].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend the season for wolves in Units 13 and 16 to May 31st.

Snow conditions in these units many times allow for travel by snowmachine far past the current season closure. This would give trappers the ability to extend their season during late snow years and potentially allow for trapping areas that would have normally been closed but their snow conditions allow for travel. Hides would still be in great condition at this time of year and would allow for potential access into areas that would be extremely difficult to reach during the middle of winter. This season already has no limit on wolves, therefore there is no biological concern.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herb Mansavage

(HQ-F20-013)

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**PROPOSAL 10**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

Allow the harvest of beaver by bow and arrow under a trapping license with salvage requirements in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16 as follows:

From page 31 of the Alaska trapping regulations summary book:

It is against the law to take beaver by any means other than a steel trapper snare except:

**In Units 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 beaver may be taken throughout the trapping season with firearms or bow and arrow as long as the hide or meat is salvaged.**

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 FROM APRIL 15 - MAY 3, A FIREARM MAY BE USED TO TAKE 2 BEAVER PER DAY PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION; AND IN UNIT 17 A FIREARM OR BOW AND ARROW MAY BE USED TO HARVEST BEAVER FROM DECEMBER 1 - APRIL 14, PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED;]

[AND IN UNIT 16 A FIREARM MAY BE USED TO TAKE BEAVER THROUGHOUT THE TRAPPING SEASON.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is significant discrepancy in the legal method and means for taking beaver in the Central/Southwest Region. There is apparently no scarcity of beaver because there is no limit to the bag limits. This proposal would simplify the regulations for legal method and means for harvesting beaver and make them uniform over most of the units within this region. In most of Interior/Northeast it is legal to take beaver with steel traps, snares, firearms and bow and arrow. In most of western Alaska it is legal to "shoot" (does not specify firearms) beaver throughout the season as long as the hide or meat is salvaged. There seems to be no good reason to prohibit taking beaver using firearms or bow and arrow during the entire trapping season in Units 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 as long as the hide or meat is salvaged.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost (EG-F20-096)  
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**PROPOSAL 11**

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

Add bow and arrow as legal method of take for beaver in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16 as follows:

(3) taking beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare, except that a firearm **or bow and arrow** may be used to take two beaver per day in Units 9 and 17 from April 15 through May 31 if the meat is salvaged for human consumption; **a bow and arrow may be used to take beaver in Unit 9, 11, 13 and 16 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84;** a firearm may be used to take beaver in Units 1-5, 8, 16, 18, 22, and 23 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84; a firearm or bow and arrow may be used to take beaver in Unit 17 from Dec. 1 through April 14 if the meat is salvaged; a firearm or



bow and arrow may be used to take beaver in Units 12, 19, 20(A), 20(C), 20(E), 20(F), 21, 24, and 25 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** If firearms are already a legal method of taking a beaver under trapping regulations, a bow and arrow should be added as well. Currently it is legal to harvest beaver with a firearm or bow and arrow under the trapping regulations in Unit 17 from December 1- April 14 provided the meat is salvaged. It is also legal to harvest beaver in Units 9 and 17 with firearms from April 15-May 31 provided the meat is salvaged but bow and arrow is for some reason not included. Also, in Unit 16 beaver harvest is legal with a firearm throughout the trapping season and again, the use of bow and arrow is not included.

A bow and arrow can be a more effective as well as safer means of harvesting beaver. Actual advantages over a firearm are better ability to continue momentum through the water with less risk of ricochet as is likely when a firearm is discharged toward water surfaces. In addition, beaver shot with firearms may have a higher loss rate than arrow harvested beaver especially if a line is attached to the arrow. Also, arrows are far less likely to damage fur and meat than bullets or shot.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-098)  
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