

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**REVIEWER LETTER**

DEAR REVIEWER:

September, 2010

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its Southeast Region meeting to be held November 5 - 9, 2010 at the Best Western Landing Hotel in Ketchikan, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to the regulations governing hunting, trapping and the use of game in the Southeast region of Alaska. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and department staff submitted these proposals, which are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

The proposals are set forth in the Table of Contents, which is not the order they will be considered at the board meeting. Prior to the meeting, the board will generate and make available to the public the order of proposals to be deliberated by the board, also known as the "roadmap." The roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

**ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Fax: 907-465-6094**

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and department staff presentations, provide the Board of Game with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and the board begins deliberations. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to mail or fax your written comments to the above Juneau address no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 22, 2010 to ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting and public testimony during the public testimony portion of the meeting is always appreciated. Written comments become public documents.

When providing written comments on the proposals in this proposal book, please consider the following tips to help ensure board members and the public more fully understand recommendations to the board:

**Timely Submission:** Submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Comments received at least two weeks prior to the meeting are printed and cross referenced with proposals and included in the board members' workbooks. Written comments received after the two-week period will be provided to board members at the meeting and will not be cross referenced. Materials received during the meeting also are not cross referenced. If you provide written comments during a board meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

**List the Proposal Number:** Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state "support" or "opposition" to the proposal(s). This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide a preferred amendment in writing.

**Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals:** If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

**Provide an Explanation:** Please briefly explain why you are in support or opposition of the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pro and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

**Write Clearly:** Comments will be photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides, allowing for hole punches. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

**Use the Correct Address or Fax Number:** Mail written comments to Board of Game Comments, ADF&G, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; fax them to 907-465-6094; or deliver them to a Regional Boards Support Office.

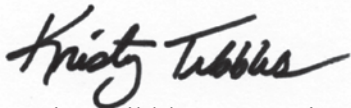
**Advisory Committees:** In addition to the above, please make sure the Advisory Committee meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, etc.

Pertinent policies and findings, proposals, written comment deadlines, meeting calendars and notices for the Board of Game meetings are posted on the Board Support website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.

A tentative agenda for the Southeast Region Board of Game meeting is shown on page xiii. A roadmap detailing the tentative order in which proposals will be made available in October, 2010 at [www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/)

A link to a live audio broadcast of the meeting is intended to be available at: [www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/) throughout the meeting. This link will not function when the board is not in session. Board actions will also be posted on the website shortly after the meeting.

Additional Accommodations: Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than October 22, 2010 to make any necessary arrangements.



Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Game  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
(907) 465-4110

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Fall 2010 Proposal Book**  
**Southeast Region**

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
GUIDELINES  
FOR  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
&  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chairman calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

**If you wish to give testimony for more than one group** (i.e., yourself plus an organization, or advisory committee), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony, whether you testify for yourself or on behalf of an organization. The board chairman will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict testimony to relating what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting, and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
Meeting Schedule  
2010/2011 Cycle**

**Tentative**

| <b>Dates</b>  | <b>Topic</b>                                      | <b>Location</b> |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <b>October 8-12, 2010 (5 days)</b><br>Proposal Deadline – September 2, 2010<br>Written Comments – September 30, 2010  | Nelchina Caribou and<br>Bear Trapping Regulations | Anchorage       |
| <b>November 5-9, 2010 (5 days)</b><br>Proposal Deadline - August 13, 2010<br>Written Comments - October 22, 2010  | Southeast Region                                  | Ketchikan       |
| <b>March 4-10, 2011 (7 days)</b><br>Proposal Deadline – October 29, 2010<br>Written Comments – February 18, 2011  | Central/Southwest                                 | Wasilla         |
| <b>March 26–30, 2011 (5 days)</b><br>Proposal Deadline – October 29, 2010<br>Written Comments – March 11, 2011<br><b>*Note – Meeting begins on a Saturday</b> | Southcentral                                      | Anchorage       |

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For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
 Boards Support Section  
 P.O. Box 115526  
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
 Phone: (907) 465-4110  
 Fax: (907) 465-6094



**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
Meeting Cycle

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species  
(Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Wolf Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas
- Controlled Use Areas
- Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region. Proposals for changes to regulations pertaining to reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, will be taken up annually, at spring meetings.

The Board of Game does not consider proposals to statewide regulations in every meeting cycle. Instead, the Board of Game reviews statewide regulations on a four-year cycle, distributed between fall meetings, every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated "Cycle A" and "Cycle B" meeting schedule is set forth on the next page of this publication.

| <u>Regulations for:</u>   | <u>Will be considered:</u> |             |             |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>SOUTHEAST REGION</b><br>Game Management Units:<br>1, 2, 3, 4, 5  | Fall 2010                  | Fall 2012   | Fall 2014   |
| <b>SOUTHCENTRAL &amp; SOUTHWEST REGIONS</b><br>Game Management Units:<br>6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17<br>All Units:<br>Brown Bear Tag Fees<br>Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts | Spring 2011                | Spring 2013 | Spring 2015 |
| <b>ARCTIC AND WESTERN REGIONS</b><br>Game Management Units:<br>18, 22, 23, 26A  | Fall 2011                  | Fall 2013   | Fall 2015   |
| <b>INTERIOR REGION</b><br>Game Management Units:<br>12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C<br>All Units:<br>Brown Bear Tag Fees<br>Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts                            | Spring 2010                | Spring 2012 | Spring 2014 |

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
Statewide Regulations Schedule

**CYCLE “A”: 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022**

- 5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:
  - .001 Application of this Chapter
  - .002 Liability for Violations
  - .003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
  - .004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
  - .005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
  - .010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
  - .011 Taking of Game by Proxy
  - .012 Licenses and Tags
  - .013 Migratory bird hunting guide services
  - .018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
  - .019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
  - .020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
  - .025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
  - .028 Aviculture Permits
  - .029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
  - .030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid Prohibited
  - .031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
  - .033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
  - .034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
  - .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
  - .042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
  - .047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
  - .104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
  - .106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
  - .110 Control of Predation by Wolves
  - .115 Control of Predation by Bears
  - .116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas
  - .141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
  - .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
  - .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
  - .171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
  - .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
  - .210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
  - .220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
  - .230 Feeding of Game
  - .250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
  - .450 Description of Game Management Units
  - .990 Definitions

**CYCLE “B”: 2012, 2016, 2020, 2022.**

- 5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:
  - .009 Obstruction or hindrance of lawful hunting or trapping
  - .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
  - .036 Permit for taking a child hunting
  - .037 Permit for Falconry
  - .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
  - .041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
  - .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
  - .044 Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures
  - .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
  - .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
  - .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
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  - .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
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  - .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
  - .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
  - .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
  - .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
  - .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
  - .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
  - .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
  - .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
  - .135 Transfer of Possession
  - .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
  - .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
  - .160 Marked or Tagged Game
  - .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
  - .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
  - .400 Emergency Taking of Game
  - .410 Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property
  - .420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

Revised May, 2010

| <b>MEMBER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</b>  | <b>TERM EXPIRES</b> |
|---|---------------------|
| Cliff Judkins, Chairman<br>PO Box 874124<br>Wasilla, Alaska 99687           | 6/30/2012           |
| Ted Spraker, Vice Chairman<br>49230 Victoria Ave.<br>Soldotna, Alaska 99669 | 6/30/2011           |
| Ben Grussendorf<br>1221 Halibut Point Rd.<br>Sitka, AK 99835                | 6/30/2013           |
| Lewis Bradley<br>8200 E. Duchess Dr.<br>Palmer, AK 99645                    | 6/30/2011           |
| Stosh Hoffman<br>P.O. Box 2374<br>Bethel, AK 99559                          | 6/30/2011           |
| Teresa Sager Albaugh<br>HC 72 Box 835<br>Tok, AK 99780                      | 6/30/2012           |
| Nate Turner<br>PO Box 646<br>Nenana, AK 99760                               | 6/30/2013           |

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**Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:**

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

PHONE: (907) 465-4110 FAX: (907) 465-6094

[www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us)

## BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

Boards Support Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8th Street  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone: (907) 465-4110  
Fax: (907) 465-6094

### ***HEADQUARTERS***

#### Board of Fisheries

**Jim Marcotte**, Exec. Director II, 465-6095  
**Shannon Stone**, Pub. Specialist II, 465-6097

#### Board of Game

**Kristy Tibbles**, Exec. Director I, 465-6098  
**Scott Crass**, Pub. Specialist II, 465-4046

**Mini Cherian**, Administrative Officer I, 465-6096  
**Brendon Fuhs**, Administrative Assistant I, 465-4110  
**Dani Cherian**, College Intern III, 465-6424

### ***REGIONAL OFFICES***

#### Arctic Region

**Vacant**  
PO Box 689  
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Phone: 442-1717  
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#### Interior Region

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#### Southwest Region

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#### Southeast Region (north of Frederick Sound)

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#### Southcentral Region

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#### Southeast Region (south of Frederick Sound)

**Shannon Stone**  
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone: 465-6097  
Fax: 465-6094

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For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting, call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901

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Website address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Southeast Region**  
**November 5 - 9, 2010**  
**Best Western Landing Hotel**  
**3434 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, Alaska**

**~TENTATIVE AGENDA~**

**NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.** This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate.

**Friday, November 5th, 8:30 AM**

OPENING BUSINESS

- Call to Order
- Introductions of Board Members and Staff
- Board Member Ethics Disclosures
- Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY (upon conclusion of staff reports)

**Saturday, November 6th, 8:00 AM**

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

**THE DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced at the meeting.** Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chairman to testify, are heard.

**Sunday, November 7th, 8:00 AM**

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

**Monday, November 8th – Tuesday, November 9th, 8:00 AM**

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings, resolutions, letters, other

ADJOURN

**Special Notes**

- A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the Board of Game website.
- B. Meeting materials are available through the website at: [www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo) or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- C. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: [www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo)
- D. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than October 22, 2010 to make any necessary arrangements.

**Ketchikan Area – Unit 1A and Unit 1B**

**PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Change the bear baiting season dates in Unit 1A.

Bear baiting: Move the season dates from [APRIL 15] - June 15, to **May 1** - June 15.

**ISSUE:** Bear baiting dates. In units or subunits where wolf trapping goes to the end of April, bear baiting dates should start on May 1.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Interference with wolf sets for the last two weeks of the trapping season.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Trappers keeping their sets out until the end of April without interference from bear baiters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Late April bear baiters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Bob Jahnke

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131031

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear and 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Shorten hunting seasons near certain bear viewing areas in Unit 1A:

Limit the bear hunting season in established bear viewing areas including, but not limited to: Carroll Inlet south of 55 degrees 27 minutes N., and Neets Bay east of 131 degrees 38 minutes W. to September 20 to May 10 within 1/4 mile from the shoreline, i.e., mean high water.

**ISSUE:** Bear hunting and viewing in the same locations.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The quality and reputation of both bear hunting and bear viewing will suffer.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, fewer rubbed bears will be harvested in late May and June and the meat would have to be salvaged.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bear viewers will benefit from the greater likelihood of seeing a bear and both viewers and hunters will avoid the unpleasant experience of encountering each other and their incompatible uses.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters will have fewer days to hunt in a few small areas. Nevertheless, serious bear hunters will still have ample time and territory to harvest their bag limits.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike and Donna Holman

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08121014

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**PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 92.510 Areas closed to hunting.** Close a portion of Unit 1A to bear hunting:

Eagle Creek / Whitman Lake Hatchery Closed Area: The Eagle Creek drainage within a one-mile radius of the Whitman Lake Hatchery, is closed to taking any bear.

**ISSUE:** Declining black bear population from hunting in the Herring Cove area, 8 miles south of Ketchikan by road. Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary is a privately operated 20 acre preserve at Herring Cove. We are located across Eagle Creek from the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association operated Whitman Lake Hatchery. Our property is mostly second growth forest, abutting the Tongass National Forest boundary. Primarily because of salmon hatchery operations, Eagle Creek is a major spawning stream. This normally results in strong bear and eagle activity. We operate guided nature and wildlife tours on a forest trail system, with good views of the creek. Each year since the sanctuary opened in 2004, we have recorded steadily decreasing bear activity. During this period we are aware that bear hunting has increased. Based on the number of guests to date, we will have hosted in excess of 16,000 people on guided tours this year. The now infrequent number of bear sightings is having an adverse impact on our business, and has resulted in sanctuary employment decreasing from 43 to 31 positions since last year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Ongoing bear population reductions will result in decreased jobs, and impact the economic viability of the sanctuary.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By encouraging wildlife conservation in an area dedicated to providing nature and wildlife experiences to Alaskans and visitors. Recovery of the bear population in this area will greatly improve the wildlife viewing for thousands of visitors each year.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Large numbers of the traveling public, school groups, educators, and the local economy.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nobody. A small number of hunters would find it necessary to choose other locations on the road system.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** We erected "No Hunting" signs on our property (some of which is more than 1/4 mile from the Tongass Highway system), without success. Because of the size of the property, it has not been practical to patrol the area after hours.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary LLC

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08121012

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**PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.510 Areas closed to hunting:** Close the Margaret Creek Drainage area in Unit 1 to bear hunting:

As per other known bear viewing observatories such as Anan Creek the following should apply to Margaret Creek Bear Viewing Observatory: Region 1 Southeast Mainland, Unit 1A-1B, "Margaret Creek Drainage Area – Within 1 mile of Margaret Lake, the bear viewing platform, Margaret Creek downstream from the lake, the saltwater drainage and within 1 mile of any USFS maintained road accessed by the boat/floatplane dock in Marguerite Bay is closed to taking any bear."

**ISSUE:** The problem is trying to mix bear viewing facilities with bear hunting areas in Margaret Creek within Traitors Cove. At stake is the safety of visitors to the Traitor's Cove/Marguerite Bay bear-viewing areas and sustaining the bear population for the ever-expanding economic and recreational resource of bear-viewing.

It is a conflict of interests, i.e. those who wish to simply view the wildlife versus those who want to hunt bears. Viewers outnumber hunters by a large number: 46 percent (235,000) of Alaskans are wildlife viewers versus 14 percent (70,776) are hunters. (source:www.outdoorindustry.org/pdf/AlaskaRecEconomy.pdf)

The majority of visitors enjoy the opportunity for non-consumptive use by: viewing bears either at the United States Forrest Service (USFS) platform, on the roads, beaches, in the woods or Margaret Creek; ATV and bike use; hiking; canoeing/boating on Margaret Lake; fishing in Margaret Lake and Margaret Creek; flora and fauna photography; crabbing and shrimping in Traitor's Cove, Marguerite Bay and the Salt Chuck; camping in tents at the former log sorting yard; and over-nighting in boats at the dock.

Eleven years ago Margaret Creek was opened by the USFS as a bear viewing facility. The entire facility consists of a USFS dock used by boats and floatplanes, a logging road, and a one-third mile trail ending at a viewing platform from which to view bears. The USFS has authorized a total of 3436 Special Use Permits for visitors to participate in bear viewing tours. There are a total of six tour operators who bring passengers to Margaret Creek for bear viewing (Taquan Air, SeaWind Aviation, Island Wings, Southeast Aviation, Carlin Air and American Safari Cruises). These permits represent approximately 1.25 million dollars of revenue for Ketchikan



(population approximately 12,000), representing a large percentage of these local companies' annual income. Based on data received from the USFS the total number of visitors to Margaret Creek who go there for bear viewing is between 2010 and 4020 persons annually. Approximately seventeen percent (292 to 584) of the visitors are local residents who arrive by their own means. Anan Creek, another bear viewing facility in Unit 1B, sees approximately 3600 visitors annually. Hunting has been closed in this area already. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) should acknowledge the growing naturalist user group and provide for such.

According to department records, in the past eleven years that the bear viewing facility has been in place, 78 bears have been taken from the Margaret Creek drainage area. This is an average of seven bears per year. Additionally, bears that see between 2000 and 4000 people per summer have become habituated to humans and do not have a natural aversion to their presence.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Incompatibility of the two user groups is a safety issue. It is possible that an injury could occur. Currently viewing by locals and visitors is being negatively impacted. Risk of serious injury or death by, as per department quote, "stray bullets can travel over a mile and still be deadly" (source: [www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bears.problem](http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bears.problem)) and/or an encounter with a wounded bear. The department is creating a potentially dangerous situation by allowing bear hunting to continue in this area. The bears in this area are habituated to humans, making them easy targets for hunters and thus contributing to the decline in the bear population in southern Southeast Alaska as noted in the summer 2010 "Bear Trails" news from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Another consequence is the decline in revenue of the local bear-viewing companies and resultant negative impact on the local economy. The population of bears at this time is so low that many visitors fail to see any bears at all. Should this continue it could mean the end of bear viewing tours and the loss of a great deal of revenue for Ketchikan.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, in that bears could not be harvested within the boundaries noted in the proposed regulation, thus ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainability of the species and in turn making it possible for recreational and commercial bear viewing to continue and flourish. This would be a positive economic impact to the local Ketchikan economy.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Locals and visitors who enjoy viewing wildlife would benefit. It will also insure the continued economic benefit of local businesses who conduct tours of the area. It makes sense for the State of Alaska to be pro-active in managing the resources for everyone, to designate the acreage around an advertised and popular bear-viewing platform to be exempt to bear hunting. Thus providing the overwhelming majority of the Traitor's Cove/Marguerite visitors, who are not bear hunters, a designated place to enjoy bear viewing in safety and peace and the protection of this resource for the continuance of the bear-viewing industry.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A few hunters may have to seek other locations. However, given that there are twenty-two million acres in Southeast Alaska, most of which are open for

bear hunting with very few closed areas, adoption of the suggested solution is unlikely to have any long term or far reaching effects.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** A complete ban on hunting in the entire Traitor's Cove area. This solution would be restrictive on hunters. A seasonal ban on hunting in the Traitors's Cove area. This solution would not address the problem of the declining bear population.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack and Bev Davies

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0812108

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**PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.** Close an area within the Misty Fjords National Monument in Unit 1 to brown bear hunting:

Region 1 Southeast Mainland, Unit 1A-1B; Misty Fjords National Monument - Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove. All drainages leading into Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove are closed to taking brown bears and black bears.

**ISSUE:** The problem is the quality of bear sightings for visitors to Misty Fjords National Monument, specifically Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove.

There are thousands of locals and visitors combined who go to Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove for whom the sighting of a bear is the quintessential symbol of Alaska's wilderness. For most, the trip to Misty Fjords National Monument is a once in a lifetime experience. People come from as close as Ketchikan and as far away as South Africa to visit this Alaskan treasure. Seeing a bear in its natural environment lives in the memory of these people for a lifetime. Most people come to Alaska to see a bear, yet most leave never having seen one. The numbers of people who would love to see a bear in Rudyerd Bay and/or Walker Cove is staggering compared to the numbers of people who wish to hunt them there. If only in a few areas, Alaska should be proactive in protecting one of its most valuable and sustainable resources - its bears. Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove have the grandeur of a National Park if not so in name, we should treat them so in spirit. Future generations will appreciate our actions.

According to United States Forrest Service (USFS) records there are 25 Ketchikan based companies who are permitted as outfitter/guides who take people to Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove for the following activities: 7 flight seeing/fishing/hiking/shoreline use; 10 companies authorized for camping (kayak tours), freshwater fishing, hiking, and shoreline use; 8 companies - freshwater fishing. In addition to the USFS permitted companies, there are at least 4 boat companies who operate on saltwater in Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove bringing people to see the monument and its wildlife. The revenue generated from these 29 Ketchikan based companies represents millions of dollars for the local economy annually.

By comparison, there are 5 authorized hunting guides whose guided use areas are divided throughout the entire 2.2 million acres of Misty Fjords National Monument, of which Rudyerd

Bay and Walker Cove comprise of only a small part. According to department records, in the past ten years 25 bears have been taken in Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove, 7 from residents and the remainder from non-residents. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no records of population estimates for these areas and so cannot say how many bears are likely to inhabit the area. However, there are only a few drainages in Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove and they are so short and so steep as to not offer much in the way of bear habitat. Experience has shown, the taking of two to four bears a year results in far fewer bears that can be seen by its visitors downstream.

Aside from Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove, there are many more fjords and literally dozen more drainages within Misty Fjords National Monument in which hunting bears would still be allowed, areas which are more appropriate for hunting as far fewer people go there. Setting aside the most highly used areas from hunting, areas where people expect to see wildlife, should not be a problem.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sport hunting in tourist areas is bad for public relations, and discourages people from coming. People say they come to Alaska to see bears because they cannot see them anywhere else. If tourists come to Rudyerd Bay hoping to see bears and then do not see them, it could result in fewer visitors going to Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove in the future. This would produce an economic loss for the Ketchikan economy already reeling from a decline in tourism.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Without an accurate assessment of the bear populations in Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove it would be difficult to determine the impact of hunting. However, tourist dollars are an additional resource in Alaska, and should be managed for long term sustainability. Without pressure from hunting bear sightings should increase thereby helping to insure the future of tourism to Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove and sustaining the Ketchikan economy.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All sightseers who are the major user group in Rudyerd Bay and Walker cove would benefit. As a potential breeding ground and reserve, this area could help increase bear populations in adjoining areas where hunting will continue to be allowed.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There are five authorized guides who conduct hunts in Misty Fjords National Monument, a 2.2 million acre parcel of land, however only one of them is permitted to operate within Rudyerd Bay and/or Walker Cove. Given that there are 2.2 million total acres in Misty Fjords National Monument it seems reasonable that there is enough acreage to accommodate bear hunting in all the remaining areas.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** 1) Allow only resident bear hunting in Rudyerd. Any bears taken out of Rudyerd diminishes the number of possible future sightings for visitors. 2) Allow bow hunting only. Any bears taken out of Rudyerd diminish the number of possible future sightings for visitors.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michelle Masden

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08161042

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**PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Shorten the hunting season for bucks-only in Unit 1A:

Open Season for bucks in Unit 1A: August 1- **November 30** [DECEMBER 31]

**ISSUE:** Bucks-only season in December.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some day our deer herds in parts of Unit 1A will start to rebuild and this will help.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes - It would be hard to argue that the quality goes up in December for bucks in Unit 1A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Long term users of the resource in Unit 1A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No Response.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY:** Dennis Diamond - Robert Jahnke

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131026

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**PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Change the method for setting permit numbers for goat in a portion of Unit 1A.

There should be a better, defined criteria used for setting permit numbers for goats in a portion of Unit 1A (DG003 - Deer Mountain Transplant).

**ISSUE:** The criteria used for setting permit numbers for goats in a portion of Unit 1A (Deer Mountain Transplant). Permit numbers dropped from 25 to 4 in one season; it seems to have been arbitrarily set. There should be better surveys before permit numbers are set.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Concern of many local hunters who helped in the transplant.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Goat hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Bob Jahnke

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131030

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**PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping.** Lengthen the wolverine trapping season in Unit 1A.

Open season for wolverine in Unit 1A: November 10-~~April 30~~ [FEBRUARY 15].

**ISSUE:** The Department of Fish and Game data does not justify the Board of Game decision to cut 2 1/2 months off the wolverine season in Unit 1A. Even though wolf harvest numbers stayed high, actual effort has dropped in the later part of the wolf season because of the wolverine regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Less wolf trappers in the field.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Improves deer and goat populations

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Wolf trappers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** April 30 for Units 1-5. But this would parallel the new blanket policy in place now and that would make no sense.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dennis Diamond and Robert Jahnke

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131027

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**PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping; and 85.056 Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.** Raise the management objective for wolves in Unit 1A:

Raise the management objective from 25 to 30 wolves a year.

**ISSUE:** The management objective for wolves in Unit 1A, historic harvest levels (24 years) have averaged about 30.5 wolves a year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Thirty wolves is a realistic number.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Bob Jahnke

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131029

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## Juneau-Douglas – Unit 1C and Unit 1D

### **PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.051. Discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures.**

Designate a Juneau area in Unit 1C under discretionary permit conditions for trapping.

5 AAC 92.051 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(b) The Juneau area of Unit 1C is designated as an area subject to discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures described in (a) of this section. In this subsection, the Juneau area is the land and water area that drains into marine waters at any point between the end of Thane Road and the end of Glacier Highway at Echo Cove and the land area of Douglas Island that drains into marine waters at any point along the entire length of the Douglas Highway.**

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game is requested to provide additional protections to the public in areas where trapping occurs close to populated and heavily visited road and trail areas of Juneau. The Juneau area is an urban area that is densely populated and confined to narrow areas of land adjacent to the coast. The concurrent use of the Juneau area for recreation and trapping presents a potential for conflicting uses of the relatively small area of land available in Juneau. The public who shares the outdoor areas of Juneau with trappers would like to be sure that persons who trap in the Juneau area are familiar with legal requirements of trapping and take other appropriate measures as necessary to protect the public. The proposal gives discretion to Department of Fish and Game to place conditions and restrictions on permits as needed and as appropriate to protect the public.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Increased outdoor activity by residents of Juneau increases the chance that an adult, child or pet may be injured in a trap while using areas close to the Juneau road and trail system. Dogs have been killed in traps that were relatively close to roads in the Juneau area. The limited closure of specific trails to trapping does not address all of the sources of potential conflicts between the recreating public and trapping activities in the Juneau area.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The proposal is neutral on improving the quality of the resource harvested or produced.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This proposal will benefit the public (hikers, skiers, snow shoers, snow machiners, dog walkers, etc.) who frequently use areas close to Juneau's roads and trails.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, including trappers, should be hurt by this proposal. Trappers can continue to trap in the Juneau area consistent with the conditions and procedures that would be set by the department to protect the public.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Closure of the Juneau area to trapping is not necessary to protect the public and to prevent conflicts between user groups.

**PROPOSED BY:** George Utermohle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08161039

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**PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.550(1)(F). Areas closed to trapping.** Add the Treadwell Ditch Trail to the list of trail areas closed to trapping in Unit 1C.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping. The following areas are closed to the trapping of furbearers as indicated:

Unit (1)(C) (Juneau area):

.....  
(F) a strip within one-quarter mile of the following trails as designated on United States Geological Survey maps: Herbert Glacier Trail, Windfall Lake Trail, Peterson Lake Trail, Spaulding Meadows Trail (including the loop trail), Nugget Creek Trail, Outer Point Trail, Dan Moller Trail, Perseverance Trail, Granite Creek Trail, Mt. Roberts Trail and the Nelson Water Supply trail, Sheep Creek Trail, Point Bishop Trail, Amalga Trail, Auke Nu/John Muir Trail, Eagle Glacier Trail, Point Bridget Trail, **Treadwell Ditch Trail**, and Salmon Creek Trail; however; traps with an inside jaw spread of five inches or less which are set at least five feet above the ground and snow are allowed if set more than 50 yards from the trail;

**ISSUE:** The Juneau community actively uses the Treadwell Ditch Trail. the trail has recently been upgraded which is encouraging more use. It has similar characteristics as the other trails that are closed to trapping in Unit 1(C). For the safety of the public, mountain bikers, hikers, joggers, and dog owners in the community, the Board of Game is urged to add the Treadwell Ditch Trail corridor to the list of trails that are closed to trapping under 5 AAC 92.550(1)(F).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The safety of the public is jeopardized by the trail area not being close to trapping, Increased use due to significant trail improvements currently under way just heightens the problem. Placing traps on or near a heavily used trail area makes it more likely for an unfortunate incident to occur.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The proposal is neutral on improving the quality of the resource harvested or produced.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The many members of the Juneau community who use the trail for recreation and dog walking should benefit by increasing the public safety.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, including trappers, should suffer if the proposal is accepted. Trappers can continue trapping furbearers outside of the Treadwell Ditch Trail area. Due to increased public use, the Treadwell ditch trail area is likely to be a less productive area



for trappers due to the increased noise and activity from the public hiking, biking, and snow machining on or near the trail.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** We considered just requiring posting of signs - trapping is allowed on the trail. We do not think signs will adequately protect the public who use the trail area.

**PROPOSED BY:** George Utermohle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08161038

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**PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Allow the use of snare for taking wolves in Unit 1C.

Reinstate the use of snares for the taking of wolves in Unit 1C, Gustavus forelands.

**ISSUE:** Calf recruitment in Unit 1C suffers partly from predation from wolves and freeze thaw cycles make trapping ineffective with leg hold traps.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lower numbers of younger animals coming into the herd will eventually affect harvest opportunities. Without the Department of Fish and Game and Board of Game intervention, opportunities for trappers will be affected.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** N/A

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Trappers and hunters alike.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who would like to see trapping banned.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Allow snares as per the Craig Gardner type. Alaska Department of Fish and Game to minimize the incidental catch of moose.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Wagner

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0730103

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**PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.510(a)(3)(B)(i). Areas closed to hunting.** Clarify the area closed to hunting in Unit 1C:

(i) Glacier Highway from Mile 0 to **the northern bank of Peterson Creek** [Mile 23.3 AT PETERSON CREEK];

**ISSUE:** The regulation says Glacier Highway from Mile 0 to Mile 23.3 at Peterson Creek. The bridge over Peterson Creek is actually at Mile 23.7. Peterson Creek does parallel the Highway at Mile 23.3. Most people know the regulations as being the bridge, but the regulations does not make this clear.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There is good bear hunting along the highway between mile 23.3 and the Peterson Creek bridge. Due to the regulation not being clear, many hunters may not take an animal in that area thinking it is closed, while other hunters would.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, between mile 23.3 and the bridge there is at least one residence located within 1/4 mile of the road.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone, this proposal makes the regulation easier to understand, and using the northern bank of Peterson Creek will reduce the need to adjust the regulation in the future should the mileage change due to straightening of the highway.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who like hunting the area many already think is closed.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Leave it at mile 23.3 instead of the bridge, but there is no easily identifiable landmark for people to go by.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08121010

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**PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting season and bag limits for brown bear.** In a portion of Unit 1C, extend the season and modify the bag limit for residents and nonresidents:

In the Berner's Bay portion of Unit 1C; one brown bear every [FOUR] year[S] with a season of March 15 - **June 20** [MAY 31].

**ISSUE:** There are two concerns. First, due to persistent winter conditions it is difficult to hunt brown bears in Berner's Bay during the spring. Second, based on the Department of Fish and

Game research it appears there are ample bears, both black and brown bears, in Berner's Bay and they may be keeping moose calf recruitment low. By extending the spring brown bear season hunters will have additional opportunity to take bears and it may help with moose calf recruitment.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The brown bear resource in Berner's Bay will continue to be under-utilized. In addition, moose calf recruitment may remain depressed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. This change will provide additional opportunity to hunt brown bears in Berner's Bay and may assist in moose calf recruitment.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bear and moose hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Repeal the \$25.00 resident tag fee. Tag fees are a small charge considering the resources needed to hunt brown bears.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick Yurko

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131037

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**PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait of scent lures.** Require GPS coordinates for baiting black bears in Unit 1D:

All persons registering black bear bait stations in Unit 1D must first provide GPS site coordinates to the Department of Natural Resources.

**ISSUE:** Black bear bait station locations in Unit 1D are not currently required to be identified by GPS coordinates even though the permit has provisions for GPS coordinates. GPS coordinates for bait stations are required in other parts of Southeast Alaska.

Individuals such as foresters, tree thinners, brown bear hunters and recreationist have no way of knowing where black bear bait stations are located because they are only vaguely identified on a 1-63000 scale map located in the Haines Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office as well as one small sign located directly at the bait station site.

In the spring of 2010 the wildlife protection officer in Haines stated before the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee that he has great difficulty locating black bear bait stations and in some instances is charged by brown bears that are frequenting the black bear bait stations before he can actually see the site. Other times he fails to locate the bait station all together. He also stated that several local brown bear hunters are known to register black bear bait stations as a means to gain an exclusive brown bear hunt location; under the pretence that they never actually put out bait so that they can legally kill a brown bear at the location.

The local State DNR Forester also stated to the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee that his crew as well as tree thinners have experienced problems with secretive bait stations and faced aggressive brown and black bears that frequent the bait stations. Additionally he stated that a great deal of trash is commonly left on public lands at bait station sites.

Clearly black bear bait stations are problematic in Unit 1D and better regulations and law enforcement tools are needed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Bait stations will not be properly checked for compliance by Alaska Wildlife Troopers, who are already underfunded and stressed for time with other statewide enforcement issues.

Individuals with a "Need to know"; such as brown bear hunters, foresters, hunting guides, tree thinners and recreationists will continue to have no way of actually avoiding black bear bait stations.

Many local hunters, non-hunters, and some local Fish and Game Advisory Committee members have recently expressed concern that black bear bait stations may need to be abolished in Unit 1D all together or have a permit period open only after the brown bear season has closed.

If this situation is not resolved at the Fall 2010 Board of Game meeting it is likely that a great deal of local support for terminating all black bear bait station permits in Unit 1D will be forthcoming during the next Board of Game cycle for Southeast Alaska. This would effectively end a long standing traditional means of harvesting black bears simply because of a deficient management regulations combined with a permitted black bear bait station season that overlaps a general brown bear season in a location heavily used by several user groups.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Secretive black bear bait stations are a menace to society. By registering black bear bait station GPS Coordinates with the DNR people with a "Need to know" can avoid accidentally illegally hunting brown bears in the vicinity of bait stations. Foresters, tree thinners, and others with a need to know can be provided with coordinates in order to avoid accidentally walking into black bear bait stations, which are commonly frequented by aggressive sow brown bears with cubs. Law enforcement personnel will have a means of quickly locating bait stations for reasons of compliance. Less trash will be left on public lands and fewer brown bears will be illegally shot at black bear bait stations because the bait station owners knows that he could be checked for compliance.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** 1) Individuals with a genuine need to know can obtain black bear bait station coordinates as a means to avoid bait stations while engaged in other activities in the vicinity. 2) Law enforcement because they can quickly and accurately locate black bear bait stations for compliance. 3) Legitimate brown bear hunters and guides because they will have a reliable method of avoiding the black bear bait stations where the harvest of brown bears is illegal. 4) The bait station hunters because they will have a reliable means of establishing the required distance between the bait stations and areas not open to baiting, including homes, cabins, roadways, and public trail systems.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The only individuals to suffer from registering black bear bait station GPS coordinates are hunters that illegally harvest brown bears at black bear stations and bait station permit holders that are out of compliance concerning the type of bait used, illegal locations of bait stations and leaving contaminated soil and refuse at the site after the permit has expired.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Ending all black bear bait station permits in Unit 1D was rejected because there is a long history of black bear baiting near Haines as a subsistence food source, and not all bait stations permit holders are out of compliance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Al Gilliam

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131033

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**PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.040. hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Change the registration hunt to a drawing permit hunt for goat in Unit 1C:

The area from Eagle River to Mt. McGinnis should either go to a draw permit with a limited number of permits, or redefine the hunt area for RG012, that is north of Eagle River to Antler River, to encompass Eagle River south to Mt. McGinnis.

**ISSUE:** Lack of goat hunting opportunity from Eagle River south to Mt. McGinnis.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lost hunting opportunities.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** As of now it is a unutilized resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** A handful of people lucky enough to draw a permit and put in the effort to harvest a goat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None

**PROPOSED BY:** Adam Messmer

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0805106

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**PROPOSAL 17 – 5AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Align Unit 1D mountain goat archery only season near Skagway with season dates for adjacent hunt area(s) RG024.

**5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. (a) ...**

| <b>Units and Bag Limits</b>  | <b>Resident<br/>Open Season<br/>(Subsistence and<br/>General Hunts)</b> | <b>Nonresident<br/>Open Season</b>                       |
|--|---|--|
| Unit 1(D), that portion between Taiya Inlet and River and the White Pass and Yukon Railroad                  | <b><u>Sept. 15 – Nov. 30</u></b><br>[SEPT. 15 - NOV. 15 ]               | <b><u>Sept. 15 – Nov. 30</u></b><br>[SEPT. 15 - NOV. 15] |
| 1 goat by registration permit only, and by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited |   |  |

**ISSUE:** The archery only portion of RG024 has season dates of Sept. 15-Nov. 15, which is 15 days shorter than the remainder of the RG024 goat hunt area (Sept. 15-Nov. 30). This was an oversight when the area was opened to archery-only at the fall 2008 board meeting. There is not a conservation concern with lengthening the archery season by 2 weeks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be confusion in season dates for areas administered by a single hunt number.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Mountain goat hunters, department staff, and enforcement officials.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610D

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**Prince of Wales – Unit 2**

**PROPOSAL 18– 5AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping; and 5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.** Modify wolf regulations in Unit 2 to: 1) Reduce annual bag limit for wolf trapping from unlimited to 10 wolves/season; and 2) Require sealing within 14 days of harvest.

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

| <b>Species and Units</b> | <b>Open Season</b> | <b>Bag Limit</b>                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| (13) Wolf                |                    |   |
| Units 1 and 3 - 5        | Nov. 1 - Apr. 30   | No limit.                                   |
| Unit 2                   | Dec. 1 - Mar. 31   | <b><u>10 per season.</u></b><br>[NO LIMIT.] |

**5 AAC 92.170. sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine. ...**

(b) The sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, land otter, wolf, or wolverine must be accomplished as follows:

- (1) wolf (in Unit 2) taken by trapping must be sealed on or before the **14<sup>th</sup>** [30<sup>th</sup>] day after the date of taking;

**ISSUE:** The department is concerned about a decline in the wolf harvest in Unit 2, which we believe is indicative of a decline in wolf numbers. Wolf researchers on POW Island have noted a substantial reduction in the amount of wolf sign (e.g., scats, tracks, denning activity). Harvests have declined from a high of 131 wolves reported in 1996, when populations appeared to number 300-350, to a low of 18 wolves reported in 2009. Local trappers have noted lower populations as well.

Biologists and the public on POW have also encountered wolf snares and leghold traps left in the field after seasons have closed. This has resulted in unnecessary deer mortality and presumably unreported wolf and bear mortality as well. State regulations require trap/snare markers but this is not required under federal subsistence regulations, which makes enforcement challenging and problematic.

The passage of this proposal will have little to no immediate effect on wolf populations since the majority of Unit 2 trappers currently operate under federal regulations. However, ADFG sees this proposal as a step toward recognition of a population concern and will begin collaborating with the US Forest Service to pass stricter federal regulations that more closely mirror state regulations.

At this time, the department does not have a reliable population estimate for wolves in Unit 2. But it is probable that wolf numbers are half of the 300-350 that was estimated when the department had reliable data (mid-1990s). Per 5 AAC 92.008 (1) we have set a harvest cap of 30% of the estimated wolf population. Our estimate of 150 wolves would then allow for a harvest cap of 45. The department intends to set this as its updated cap.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department is concerned about the long-term sustainability of this population. The Alexander Archipelago wolf is a distinct subspecies and extremely low population numbers could potentially trigger listing as a threatened or endangered species.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Reducing the bag limit to 10 wolves/year will spread opportunity between trappers. Requiring sealing within 14 days will allow quicker in-season management by the department, which is going to be important given a reduced harvest cap.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** If wolf populations can be stabilized it could lead to increased trapper opportunities and avoid the potential for listing as a threatened or endangered species.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The majority of harvested wolves are trapped by a few dedicated trappers who take on average more than 10 wolves each per season. This proposal could lead to reduced opportunity for them.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The department will be lowering the harvest cap on wolves in Unit 2. Harvest cap guidelines are for the harvest of no more than 30% of the total fall population. The department intends to set a revised harvest cap of 45 wolves.

Encourage USFS to adopt similar regulations including marking of traps/snares.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610B

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**PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.** Close the Dog Salmon Creek area to bear hunting in Unit 2:

The Dog Salmon Creek drainage within one mile of Dog Salmon Creek downstream from the wildlife viewing platform within a one-mile radius from the mouth of Dog Salmon Creek at Polk Inlet, is closed to taking any bear.



**ISSUE:** The inherent dangers of bear viewing and hunting taking place at the same location. This is happening at the wildlife viewing platform on Dog Salmon Creek, near Polk Inlet on Prince of Wales Island. This location is connected to the island road system by a United States Forrest Service (USFS) road, and is accessible by boat or floatplane at a USFS dock one mile away at Polk Inlet. Taquan Air has been flying groups of visitors to this area for nine years. The company maintains a guide with a van in the area from July through September each summer season, and is permitted by the USFS to bring 2,000 visitors for wildlife viewing to Polk Inlet / Dog Salmon Creek in 2010. Based on our guide's reporting, there has been increased bear hunting activity and annual declines in bear sightings since we started bringing guests to this location.

There is strong demand from both Alaska residents and visitors to see Alaska wildlife, particularly bears, and there are relatively few locations where the infrastructure is in place to satisfy the need. Polk Inlet is one of these special places: 25 minutes by floatplane from Ketchikan, or by the Prince of Wales Island road system. At the present rate of bear population decrease, it won't be long before the platform on Dog Salmon Creek will not be a viable bear viewing facility.

In the Summer 2010 issue of Alaska Department of Fish & Game's publication *Bear Trails*, concern is expressed about the declining bear population on Prince of Wales Island.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** We are concerned that bear viewer lives are at risk when hunting is permitted at established bear viewing locations. Bears at these popular viewing locations become somewhat habituated to humans and no longer represent a hunting challenge. Continued bear hunting at these clearly identifiable locations will deplete the resource to the point where hunters go elsewhere and it is no longer attractive to wildlife viewers. Along with the loss of a resource goes a substantial revenue loss for air carriers and related employment. The board has an opportunity to introduce regulations at this and other established bear viewing locations to solve the concerns of the two user groups, to the benefit of all.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Will enable the bear population to grow, provide separation of the viewing and hunting user groups, and maintain existing revenue sources for tour operators.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskans and visitors will benefit from being able to view bears in their natural habitat, and keep them out of areas favored by hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some hunters may want to seek other areas. The vastness of the Tongass National Forest offers unlimited hunting opportunities.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Venture Travel LLC and Taquan Air

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08121011

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**PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Set a number of tags to be allocated for black bear hunting in Unit 2.

If unlimited hunting cannot be sustained, then define the harvest objective and issue only those tags likely to meet the objective. Alternately you could allow every other year hunting but that still could result in more tags sold than biologically sound.

**ISSUE:** As a nonresident hunter and landowner on Prince of Wales I see the need to limit black bear harvest sufficiently to maintain bear populations at objective. However, the limiting of overland vehicles in September essentially discriminates against non-guided hunters who don't have bigger boats to get around. I would much prefer to have to draw my tag in a lottery and only be able to hunt some years but have more options for methods of take during those hunts. It also seems that providing for a well defined and limited number of tags should make for a quality hunting experience for those who draw as well as allowing the Department of Fish and Game to control harvest to the desired number of bears, far more than unlimited over the counter tags with transportation impediments.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** From a biologist's perspective, and I am one, limiting tags by lottery drawing should do more to specifically meet a harvest objective. Over the counter tags still leave a lot of wiggle room for harvest numbers and could still result in overharvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by limiting overharvest of bears to keep numbers and trophy quality up to desirable levels.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** "Average Joe" hunter.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Outfitters may not like this so well since they benefit in the short run if tags are easy to obtain. In reality they will also benefit if hunt quality remains high, if it does not then booking will eventually fall. But I think it's hard to look that far ahead when you run a seasonal business.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Unlimited tags and unrestricted hunting could result and may already have resulted in decreased bear numbers and size.

**PROPOSED BY:** Allen Carter

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0806107

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**PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Shorten the opening of black bear season in Unit 2:

Unit 2 black bear: [SEPTEMBER 1] **October 1-** May 31.

**ISSUE:** Eliminate the month of September from the black bear harvest season to lower the take of sows, including sows accompanied by cubs. The current harvest season coincides with the usual timing for sows to utilize salmon streams in Unit 2, resulting in high sow harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A waste of an important commercial resource in Unit 2; A high percentage of bears taken in September will be sows, resulting in long term reductions of black bear numbers on Prince of Wales Island.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of the resource is improved by concentrating hunting effort when it's more likely to encounter mature boars.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bear hunters will benefit as there will be less disappointment in the condition, sex and size of harvested bears. Local residents and businesses will benefit with potential increased bear viewing opportunity through the summer.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There may be some loss of revenue to resorts and B&B's due to shorter overall bear season, but an increase in quality may result in Unit 2 receiving increased attention from bear hunters looking for a quality hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY:** Raymond Slayton

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131018

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**PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Shorten the black bear hunting season in Unit 2:

Unit 2 black bear: October 1- **May 31** [JUNE 30].

**ISSUE:** Eliminate the month of June from the black bear harvest season to lower the take of sows accompanied by cubs and bears with "rubbed" hides.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A waste of an important commercial resource in Unit 2. A percentage of bears taken in June will not have good hair, and won't be valued the same as a mature bear with good hair.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The timing of the harvest is crucial to the best condition of the hide. Under the current regulation only skull and hide are required to be salvaged in June. While some good hides can be found in June, the month of May and earlier will always produce superior hides and a wiser use of the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bear hunters will benefit; there will be less disappointment in the condition of harvested bears. Local residents and businesses will benefit with potential increased bear viewing opportunity through the summer.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There may be some loss of revenue to resorts and bed & breakfasts due to shorter overall bear season, but an increase in quality may result in Unit 2 receiving increased attention from bear hunters looking for a quality hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY:** Raymond Slayton

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131017

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**PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Change the black bear hunt in Unit 2 to a registration hunt and shorten the season dates:

Unit 2 bear: October 1 - May 31, by registration.

**ISSUE:** The problem is the likely overharvest of black bear in Unit 2. I propose making Unit 2 a registration hunt for black bear, providing the department with important hunter success rates and allowing for better understanding and control of the harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A waste of an important commercial resource in Unit 2, resulting in changes in bear sex ratios, reduced age classes and long term reductions of black bear numbers on Prince of Wales Island.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of the resource is improved by ensuring the number of bear hunters on Prince of Wales Island is commensurate with the number of mature bears available for sustainable harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bear hunters will benefit as there will be less disappointment in the condition, sex and size of harvested bears both trophy and subsistence. Local residents and businesses will benefit with potential return to trophy bear status in Unit 2.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There may be some loss of revenue to resorts and Bed & Breakfasts due to fewer overall bear hunter numbers, but an increase in quality may result in Unit 2 receiving increased attention from trophy bear hunters looking for a quality hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY:** Raymond Slayton

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131019

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**PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.030 (1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Lower the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2:

Unit 2: Reduce nonresident bag limit for deer to two antlered deer annually.

**ISSUE:** Southeast charter boat operators have recently begun using the outfitter option to take their clients deer hunting. This has increased pressure on deer herds in Game Management Unit 2 and most likely in other parts of Southeast Alaska.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Deer populations could be threatened by the increased activity of non-resident hunters. This situation could pose a conservation risk similar to that which developed for black bear populations on Prince of Wales Island (Unit 2), which the Board of Game recently had to address by restricting to hunting by boat only. Eventually resident bag limits could be reduced to compensate for the expanded activity of non-resident hunters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Non-resident hunters would probably be more selective and shoot the more mature deer, since they would only get to take two.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The deer population and Alaskan residents who rely on these deer for food.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Non-resident hunters may be disappointed at the reduced opportunity. Guides may get fewer clients because of this.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Reducing the non-resident bag limit to one deer but that seems too restrictive at this time. Reduce all bag limits, but these deer are an important food source for the residents of Prince of Wales Island and other Alaskans. Resident bag limits should be subject to restriction second only to subsistence.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Merritt

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08121013

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**PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits for wolves; 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolves; 5 AAC 92.051. Discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures; and 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Modify the wolf trapping and hunting regulations for Unit 2:

In order to facilitate a reduction in the illegal unreported take of wolves in Unit 2 we propose that the Board of Game implement the following regulatory change:

Require that traps and snares be marked with owner's name and contact information.

In order to help avoid the over-harvest of wolves in Unit 2 we also propose that the Board of Game implement one or more of the following regulatory changes:

1. Reduce the harvest cap
2. Reduce the time limit for checking traps and snares
3. Reduce time to report harvested animals for sealing
4. Introduce bag limits for trapping

In addition to the above regulatory changes, the Board of Game must work with the Department of Public Safety to insure the enforcement of current and future regulations for wolf hunting and trapping.

**ISSUE:** The Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) is a subspecies of gray wolf that is genetically distinct from interior Alaskan wolf populations and lives in geographically and genetically isolated island populations in Southeast Alaska. Forest habitats in Southeast have been dramatically altered by timber production in the Tongass National Forest and changing forest conditions will likely continue to impact wildlife species. Biologists expect to see a decline in deer populations throughout the region due to changes in forest habitat quantity and quality. Deer are the main prey of wolves in the Tongass and any decline in deer will trigger a decline in wolf populations. Thus concern over the continued long-term viability of this genetically distinct wolf population will continue to grow.

Research by Person and Russel concluded the annual mortality of wolves due to illegal harvest in Unit 2 was 19 percent while the legal harvest mortality was 23 percent. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (the Department), the maximum sustainable level of harvest for wolves is approximately 30-35 percent but can be lower when ungulate populations are low. The total annual harvest of 42 percent in Unit 2 therefore exceeds the 30 percent harvest cap implemented by the Board in 1997 and is above the sustainable harvest of wolves reported by the Department. Biologists working in the field on Unit 2 have seen little wolf sign this year, indicating a likely population decline.

Wolves play an important role in buffering prey species against dramatic population fluctuations and maintaining overall ecosystem health. We encourage the BOG to help protect the integrity of this complex forest system and the viability of each segment of the Alexander Archipelago wolf population by regulating the harvest so as not to exacerbate potential population declines. We encourage the BOG to consider the excessive illegal harvest of wolves in Unit 2 when setting regulations for future harvest. We further request that the BOG address the issue of illegal harvest by any means practicable including calling on the Department of Public Safety to take the steps necessary to resolve the issue.

It is difficult to craft a single recommendation for how regulations should be adjusted to insure the continued viability of this wolf population. Rather, the Board of Game must utilize the best available biological and social information to determine the best course of action and consider implementing multiple regulatory changes.

#### Background and justification

The Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) is a subspecies of gray wolf endemic to Southeast Alaska, whose individual island and mainland populations are geographically and genetically isolated from one another. As well, this subspecies is genetically distinct from interior Alaska wolves. Forest habitats in Southeast have been dramatically altered by timber production in the Tongass National Forest and changing forest conditions will likely continue to impact wildlife species in this region including deer and wolf populations. The long term

carrying capacity of forest habitat must be considered when making wildlife management decisions including regulating take of wolves in Southeast Alaska. Regulations must be put in place that seeks to maintain an ecological balance of both predators and prey in this unique system.

Wolves in Unit 2 in particular have a past history of heavy harvest which was thought to be excessive. Due to these concerns a harvest cap of 30 percent of the fall population was instituted by the BOG in 1997. The harvest cap was first reached in 1999 and harvest was halted. Since that time reported harvest has declined; thus, harvest data obtained by the Department does not accurately represent the entire harvest. Further, no recent population estimates are available for Unit 2 on which to determine whether the harvest cap has been achieved or surpassed.

A petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf under the Endangered Species Act was filed in 1993 and many of the issues affecting its conservation have not been resolved. Despite the harvest cap instituted in 1997, evidence suggests that excessive harvest continues to be of concern for the segment of the population in Unit 2, due in part to the high density of roads resulting in easy access to remote parts of the Unit.

By promoting the conservation of Alexander Archipelago wolf in Unit 2 the BOG would demonstrate that it is fulfilling its mission of managing big game and furbearers on a sustained yield basis using sound conservation principles. It would further demonstrate the BOG's concern for the conservation of rare and endemic species. It would demonstrate that wolves have value to hunters, trappers and other users and are not undesirable animals that need to be reduced.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If regulatory mechanisms meant to protect this segment of the subspecies are not put in place, over-harvest of the population will likely continue. Therefore, concern over the continued viability of the subspecies will continue to grow and the potential need for listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf under the Endangered Species Act will increase.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal aims to promote the long-term viability of an endemic and genetically isolated wolf population. Actions taken to support the long-term viability of wolves in Unit 2 will help insure that wolves in this Unit continue to be available for hunters, trappers and other user groups.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** None

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Defenders of Wildlife

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08161040

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**Petersburg – Unit 3**

**PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 92.510 (12) (a). Areas closed to hunting.** Modify the Southern Southeast Islands Controlled Use Area in Unit 3:

The Controlled Use Area closure (September 1-30) only applies to road systems with access to Alaska ferry service.

**ISSUE:** The Controlled Use Area Controlled use (area #6 in the hunting regulations) - use of motorized land vehicles for black bear (September 1-30) closure.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Road systems not served by the Alaska ferry service are not public roads. They are maintained and controlled by the U.S. Forest Service. Commercial use requires a USFS permit. Access to road systems only possible by private carrier.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Eliminating the CUA on road systems not serviced by an Alaska ferry allows dispersed hunting effort, reduces field conflicts, and reduces female and small bear harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Users of the road system not served by Alaska ferry service. Use is very minimal due to expensive and difficult access by sea to USFS road systems not serviced by Alaska ferry.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jimmie Rosenbruch

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131020

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**PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.** Lengthen the wolf hunting season in Unit 3:

...  
Unit 3            August 1- ~~May 31~~ [APRIL 30]  
...

**ISSUE:** Severely depressed deer populations in Unit 3, due to three consecutive winters of record snowfall. Record high population of wolves.



**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued severely depressed deer populations.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Record high wolf population may crash if prey species continue to decline. Allowing deer population recovery would stabilize the wolf population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All deer, moose, black bear and wolf hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jimmie Rosenbruch

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131021

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**Admiralty-Baranof-Chichagof Islands – Unit 4**

**PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 92.410. Taking game in defense of life or property.** Modify the department policy for setting allowable harvest for brown bear Unit 4:

Change the Department of Fish and Game policy to eliminate the annual Defense of Life and Property (DLP) brown bear numbers in Unit 4 when comparing bear harvest to the major island harvest caps.

**ISSUE:** DLP brown bear kills have increased significantly over the past several years. This is often a result of poor garbage management and has little or nothing to do with wildlife management related to sport hunting. DLP kills currently are figured into the harvest caps for the major island groups in Unit 4.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** DLP kills will continue to impact the harvest cap calculations and can inappropriately indicate concerns with over-harvest of brown bears by hunters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Hunt opportunity will be more in-line with actual hunting harvest information and will not be impacted in the future by localized garbage problems in the communities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All brown bear hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc.

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131025

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**Region-wide and Multiple Units**

**PROPOSAL 29 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer Trapping.** Change the opening date for beaver trapping from December 1 to November 1 in Units 1-5.

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

| <b>Species and Units</b>                                | <b>Open Season</b>                    | <b>Bag Limit</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| (1) Beaver  |                                       |                  |
| Units 1, 2, 3 (except Mitkof Island),<br>4 <b>and</b> 5 | <b>Nov. 1</b> - May 15<br>[ DEC. 1 ]  | No limit.        |
| Unit 3, Mitkof Island                                   | <b>Nov. 1</b> - Apr. 15<br>[ DEC. 1 ] | No limit.        |
| [UNITS 5 AND ]<br>14 (except Unit<br>14(C))             | Nov. 10 - May 15                      | No limit.        |

**ISSUE:** Lengthen the beaver trapping season by one month, by changing the beginning of the trapping season from December 1 to November 1.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Beaver populations are healthy throughout Southeast Alaska. In many places beavers are becoming nuisances by blocking culverts and flooding roads, necessitating the department to issue permits to remove beavers during times of year when the season is closed, and hides are not at high quality. This situation creates a burden for the department as well as homeowners or other persons/agencies needing to remove beavers. By starting the trapping season earlier, trappers would have a longer season and more opportunity to harvest beavers, which in turn would lessen the need to remove beavers with the use of nuisance permits. This change would benefit trappers as well as the department.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By having the season open earlier, trappers would have more time to harvest beavers during the season. This, in turn, will reduce the need to remove nuisance beavers during periods of the year when their hides are not at high value.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Trappers who want to have an additional month to harvest beavers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Also include last two weeks of October.

**PROPOSED BY:** Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610E

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**PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer Trapping.** Open trapping season for fisher in Southeast Region Units:

Trapping season for Fisher in Game Management Units 1-5:

**December 1 to February 15.**

(Fisher must be sealed within 30 days of the close of the fisher season.)

**ISSUE:** Open trapping season for fisher in Units 1-5.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trappers who are fortunate enough to catch a fisher will continue to be required to needlessly surrender it to the Department of Fish and Game. These are non-indigenous species that compete directly with marten for food and habitat resources. Also, there is an open season for lynx and fox in these units yet fewer are caught than fisher.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. It puts a monetary, as well as a trophy value on the resource. This proposal will provide biological as well as anecdotal evidence to the department.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Trappers, as well as department personnel. Sealing compliance would be expected to be 100 percent.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Including fisher as deleterious wildlife, in direct competition with native marten for habitat and food sources. This reflects no value for fisher.

**PROPOSED BY:** Barry Brokken

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0715101

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**PROPOSAL 31- 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Prohibit the use of traps with an inside jaw spread of less than 5 7/8 inches when mink and marten trapping is closed.

**5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** (a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

...

**(x) taking wolf or wolverine with a steel trap having an inside jaw spread of less than five and seven - eighths inches during any closed mink and marten season in Units 1 – 5.**

**ISSUE:** This proposal would address concerns about trap sets that may take species for which seasons are closed. The use of smaller traps for wolf and wolverine sets could take mink and marten during periods when trapping is not open for those species. Adopting the proposed regulation for wolf and wolverine would mirror wording existing language for river otters, where the same concerns were addressed by limiting trap size.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some trappers will continue to make early marten and mink sets using small size traps. This leads to an unfair advantage for trappers who set traps early and catch the smaller furbearers before their seasons begin.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By closing the loophole that allows some trappers to take marten and mink before the legal season, other trappers will have a fair and equal opportunity to harvest these animals once the season opens.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All trappers who comply with trapping seasons.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those few trappers making sets prior to open season for marten and mink.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610F

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**PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.** Modify the hunting season date for waterfowl in the Southeast Region:

Allow waterfowl hunting to begin September 1st in Southeast Alaska.

**ISSUE:** Move the starting date for waterfowl in Southeast Alaska back to September 1st.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Opportunity to harvest Teal and Sandhill Cranes will be lost to residents of 1C.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, birds harvested in early September are much better for eating than those harvested in late December.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People who harvest and eat waterfowl in early September.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who have harvested nasty inedible birds in late December.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Break Southeast Alaska into subunits 1A, B, C, and D for a September 1st start and Units 2, 3, and 4 to a late December hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Calvin Casipit

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0730105

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**PROPOSAL33 - 5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game.** Prohibit black bear trapping and the sale of black bear meat, hides, skulls and other parts in the Southeast Region:

The new regulation would say "Not allow the sale of black bear meat, hides (tanned or untanned), skulls, gall bladder, claws, other body parts, or any black bear trophy including rugs, taken under a hunting license after sealing or trapping".

**ISSUE:** The problem is the change this year, noted on page 5 of the 2010-2011 Alaska Hunting Regulations, to allow the sale of black bear hides (tanned and untanned) and skulls taken under a hunting license after sealing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If the sale of black bear hides and skulls is allowed then more bears will be harvested further contributing to the decline in the bear population in southeast Alaska (source: Summer 2010 "Bear Trails" News for the Department) and damaging the significant revenue from bear viewing tours in southeast. For example, the Ketchikan tourist industry alone derives approximately \$35 million of revenue from the 25 local companies that take mostly cruise ship visitors on various flight seeing, boating or walking tours, all in the hope of seeing a bear in Alaska.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The bear population would not be further harmed and the tour companies and resultant economy in southeast would not suffer from loss of revenue. The more bears available to view the greater the opportunity for a stronger and diverse economy taking advantage of the unique opportunity that bear viewing in Alaska provides. For example, tourism is the number one industry in Ketchikan with approximately 900,000 cruise-ship visitors annually and even more visitors in Juneau.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The bear population will benefit and so too local residents and visitors who like to view bears, and the economy in southeast that has become dependent upon the tourism industry, the anchor industry in most southeast communities now that timber is not.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Black bear hunters who seek individual financial gain from the sale of black bear parts and those who would be tempted to harvest illegally for profit.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** The sale of black bear hides to crafters but this would lead to hunting-for-profit and the continued decline or decimation of bear populations especially since the Department does not have census data on bears in Southeast now so would not know how many, if any in some areas, were left until they were all gone. There is a unique value of bear viewing in Southeast that far exceeds any other use of this resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lesley Kamm

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131015

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**PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game.** Prohibit black bear trapping and the sale of black bear meat in the Southeast Region.

The new regulation would say "No black bear trapping season, nor the sale of black bear meat in Southeast Alaska".

**ISSUE:** The problem is the change this year in the hunting regulations re-classifying black bears as furbearers and thus, according to page 5 of the hunting regulations, "the sale of black bear meat will be allowed for bears taken under trapping once seasons have been established".

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not solved there will be 1.) a further decline in an already declining black bear population in Southeast Alaska (as per the Department of Fish and Game summer 2010 "Bear Trails" News) and 2.) A loss of revenue to the dozens of tour companies who take visitors to see bears in one way or another, flying, boating, walking, etc. and the resultant damage to the local economies in Southeast Alaska.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of the resource would be improved by: 1.) Leaving the bears to re-populate. In 20 years of flying in Southeast Alaska I see less and less bears. 2.) Being sensitive to the ethics of the humane treatment of large animals. (Trapping is indiscriminate in choosing mother, cubs, small, large, brown bear or how the animal is caught - by the leg to die a slow death, etc.) 3.) Allowing the bears to stay in the field to be viewed by the hundreds of thousands of locals and visitors alike, thus making a vast contribution to the local economies of Southeast Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** 1.) The bear population will have a chance to bounce back. 2.) The State of Alaska will not have a tarnished image by allowing trapping of black bears and the sale of their meat. Keep in mind that most of the influx of cruise ship visitors in Southeast Alaska pay a lot of money for the thrill of seeing a bear. Ketchikan alone gets app. 900,000 visitors per summer spending approximately \$35 million to glimpse a bear. 3. The local residents who rely on the health of our economy for everyday living. Tourism has replaced timber as the main industry throughout SE Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one since there is not an established black bear trapping season in Southeast Alaska nor has it been legal to sell black bear meat.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Seal

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131016

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**PROPOSAL 35 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Reduce resident black bear bag limit from 2 to 1 bear per year in Units 1-3 and 5.

**ISSUE:** The department has concerns about black bear populations in some parts of region (e.g., Units 2, 3, and parts of 1C). Allowing a two-bear bag limit for resident hunters is contrary to addressing these concerns. While concerns are focused on only some parts of the region, we believe it is necessary to adopt this regulation region-wide or face the possibility of having hunters shift pressure to areas with a two-bear bag limit, creating conservation concerns in these other areas as well.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Present harvest may not be sustainable in some areas.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By adopting this regulatory change, the lower bag limit may help us maintain sustainable bear populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** As populations recover, hunters and non-consumptive users will benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those resident hunters who would like to take 2 bears in a regulatory year.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Close fall black bear hunting season for non-residents, 2) close June black bear hunting season for non-residents, 3) have alternate year open seasons, with alternate year closed seasons for black bear for non-residents, 4) extend the Controlled Use Area in Units 2 and 3 through October, 5) require a draw permit for nonresident black bear hunters, 6) establish black bear harvest caps for all geographical areas. Some of these other solutions have been submitted for consideration as well.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610G

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**PROPOSAL 36– 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Consider making one or more of the following changes to the black bears seasons in Units 1-3, and 5;

- implement a draw hunt for non-residents
- close the fall (Sept. 1 - Dec. 31) hunting season for non-residents
- close the June portion of the spring hunting season for non-residents
- extend the Controlled Use Area for Units 2 and 3 through October
- close bear baiting in Units 1A, 1B, 2, and 3 (there is no baiting in 1C)

**ISSUE:** Black bear harvest levels need to be reduced in the region. To accomplish this, we have identified the 5 management options listed in preferential order of implementation based on discussions about how best to meet our objectives: (1) implement a draw hunt for non-residents, (2) close the fall hunting season for non-residents, (3) close the June portion of the spring hunting season for non-residents, (4) extend the Controlled Use Area for Units 2 and 3 through October, and 5) close bear baiting in Units 1A, 1B, 2, and 3..

We recognize that each of these actions is allocative in nature. Therefore, we are including these ideas in a single proposal, with the intent of discussing the pros and cons of each in front of the Board of Game and the public. We believe the 5 proposed actions provide an avenue for reducing harvest levels to sustainable levels, and we believe they are presented in order of the highest likelihood for success.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Higher than sustainable black bear harvest will continue, and the long-term sustainability of the bear populations may be compromised.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By limiting the non-resident harvest and decreasing the overall bear harvest, we can protect bear populations from excessive mortality and ensure long-term conservation and sustainability.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people interested in having sustainable bear populations, whether hunters or non-consumptive users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Because of the allocative nature of these proposed ideas, different segments of the public may be impacted disproportionately depending on which solution is chosen.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Establish black bear harvest caps for all geographical areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610A

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**PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Open a nonresident permit hunt for black bear in for Units 1, 2, 3 and 5:

Implement a drawing permit program for unguided, nonresident black bear hunters in Southeast Alaska that will control their harvest level at a conservation based basis. The drawing permit program should have the flexibility for the Department of Fish and Game to effectively address certain geographical areas of concern as well as numbers of spring or fall hunters. The successful drawing permit applicants should be given a good educational brief about defining male from female bears in the field and how to reduce wounding loss as well as a better definition of the wounding loss law.

**ISSUE:** Black bear conservation concerns have become an important consideration within Southeast Alaska in recent years. Changes in habitat, possible predation, fish returns and human harvest factors all play into this concern for Southeast Alaska black bears. The human harvest factors have shown over a period of time that resident harvest and nonresident guided harvest have had fairly flat annual harvest levels of approximately seven percent or thirty percent respectfully. Guided black bear hunting within Southeast is primarily allocated through a set allocation per guide by the U.S. Forest Service. There is no cap or allocation for the unguided nonresident hunter and the annual harvest percentage has grown substantially over the years as this great resource in a great location presents a fairly inexpensive and outstanding hunting opportunity for unguided nonresident hunters. Conservation based concerns come with this window of opportunity due to the high level of opportunity and subsequent harvest of bears. Harvest of female bears by nonguided, nonresident hunters adds to the conservation concern as they often do not have the experience needed to differentiate boars from sows. As well, due to the shoreline and associated estuary habitats with densely wooded perimeters, the wounding loss of bears by unguided nonresident hunters is very high and may be well over fifty percent. Even though there is a wounding constitutes harvest law, in many cases the hunter will continue to hunt until a bear is harvested that is retrieved. This provides substantial additional conservation based concern for this resource. Law enforcement in the field is very hard due to lack of enforcement officers, hunter accountability and the broad spectrum of remote geography associated within this region. Professionally guided hunts provide a long term flat based annual harvest of black bears in Southeast Alaska through Forest Service allocation of hunts, defined enforcement and accountability of what commercial services are being used and where they operate, education of hunters regarding sexing of bears and limiting wounding loss due to have a professional guide accompanying the hunter.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued serious concern for black bear conservation in Southeast Alaska due to unlimited, unguided nonresident hunter effort and harvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Very much so by: 1. Providing conservation based harvest strategy. 2. Reducing and stopping existing high annual and unlimited harvest. 3. By reducing female bear harvest. 4. By reducing wounding loss and subsequent additional harvest. 5. By providing better enforcement of illegal activities and operators.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All black bear hunters who choose to hunt in Southeast Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The unguided nonresident black bear hunter who does not draw a conservation based drawing permit and any non-sustainable commercial services they may have chose to secure.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** 1. Registration hunt. This was rejected for a number of reasons including less finite control by the department, accountability of hunters, enforcement, competition for permits, spring harvest impacting fall harvest opportunity etc. 2. Reducing resident harvest to one bear from two. Rejected for minimal results. 3. Drawing permit for all nonresidents. Rejected because professionally guided nonresident hunting already has a long term known conservation based flat harvest, has high accountability, has good enforcement, has excellent hunter education, provides high quality of experience and brings maximum benefit to Alaska for the sustainable harvest of a renewable natural resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc.

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131024

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**PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 92.044(12). Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Require GPS coordinates for bear baiting stations in Units 1 -5:

In Game Management Units 1-5 a person may not establish a black bear baiting station or place bait at a baiting station without first providing the GPS location of the baiting station on a form provided by the Department of Fish and Game. The GPS position will be provided to the department at the time of site registration and must be provided to the department before bait is placed at the site.

**ISSUE:** Enforcement of black bear bait sites is difficult. In Units 1-5, heavy timber and thick brush make it difficult for enforcement to locate established bait sites and check for compliance. The requirement to list the GPS location of bear bait sites would allow enforcement to locate the sites much easier and make sure they comply with all the regulations, including clean-up of sites at the end of the season. Currently, there is inconsistency with the requirement to provide a GPS location within the department. Some area biologists have included the GPS requirement as a permit condition. Others do not require GPS locations on the permits.

There is a high percentage of violations with bear bait sites. Some years, nearly 75 percent of sites located by Wildlife Troopers are in violation of some regulation. The most common violations are establishing sites too close to houses and roads, not posting the sites and failing to clean up the sites at the end of the season. Requiring a GPS position of the sites would allow Wildlife Troopers to visit the sites during and after the season to determine if these permit conditions have been met. Wildlife Troopers sometimes walk around in the areas of established sites for hours trying to locate them. This is poor use of the Troopers time and wastes state resources.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not resolved, it will remain difficult for enforcement to find bear baiting sites and check for compliance. Further, high rates of violations with bear baiting could result in additional negative sentiment about bear baiting.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Bear baiting can sometimes be considered a controversial hunting practice. By making sure bear bait sites are in compliance, hunters will avoid possibly losing this practice in the future.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone will benefit because of public perception, public safety, and protection of legal bear baiters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Persons likely to suffer are bear baiters who do not comply with the current regulations and are caught through detection of bait sites by enforcement.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Other solutions include a hunter drawing a position on a map. This has sometimes worked in the past, but leaves a large area for Troopers to search when trying to check sites for compliance. Troopers sometimes walk around for hours in an effort to locate bait sites.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0812109

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**PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 92.044(12). Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Disallow the hunting of black bear over bait.

No bear baiting in Units 1, 2, and 3.

**ISSUE:** Bear baiting in Southeast Alaska is not needed to hunt bears and should be done away with. Black bear in these units are trophy animals and not a predator to be done away with. The word bear "hunting" should be put back into place. We have grass in the spring and fish in the fall to hunt over; not a bag of doughnuts.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** We will be teaching our kids and the people of Southeast Alaska how to take short cuts in harvesting animals. No longer do you need to hunt, now you can put out a bag of doughnut and wait. We teach the bears to eat people food and the hunters how to be lazy.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** I believe we would put the word "hunt" back in hunting. Bear would no longer be trained to come to a barrel full of people food. Fair chase would be back.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** True hunters who love to hunt wild animals in wild conditions and not over a barrel

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who want to shoot a bear but cannot walk.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Bear baiting for Alaska certified archers only and not with people food but natural bait only. Rejected because fall hunts for black bear are ideal for archers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Marlin Benedict

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08201044

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**PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat and furs.** Modify the salvage requirement for black bear in Southeast Region Units:

The "hide, skull and meat must be salvaged and removed from the field".

**ISSUE:** The problem is salvage of black bear meat in June. The regulation has no apparent basis in logic as few bear are on fish in June, and have been on a diet comprised of mostly vegetation since emerging from winter dens. By not requiring meat salvage in June, the hunt attracts some hunters who prefer to be not bothered by having to salvage meat and aren't that concerned by degradation of hide quality. This also wastes a source of meat for people who run out of deer meat in June. Most hunters find the meat of black bear harvested in June and October to be superior to bear meat harvested immediately out of hibernation or on salmon streams.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The continued loss of a state and local resource, continued confusion as to the intent of the salvage regulation. Why would a bear harvested in April, having not eaten in 6 months, be considered good meat, but a June bear on two months of fresh green growth be considered bad meat?

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would not increase the quality of the resource, but would be more respectful to the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All will benefit from good utilization of the resource, and good utilization will be less offensive to non-hunters who find bear carcasses on beaches, roads and boat ramps.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Ravens and eagles would lose some carcasses.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Raymond Slayton

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131022

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**PROPOSAL 41– 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.** Replace the deer hunter survey with deer harvest reports in Units 1-5.

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(f) For deer, a person may not hunt deer, except in a permit hunt, unless the person has in possession a deer harvest ticket **and has obtained a harvest report in Units 1-5 (issued with the harvest ticket)**. In Units 1 - 6, and 8, a person must

- (1) have in possession that person’s unused deer harvest tickets while hunting deer; and
- (2) validate the deer harvest tickets in sequential order, beginning with harvest ticket number one.

**ISSUE:** Since 1980 the department has used a deer hunter survey to estimate deer harvest in Southeast Alaska. The harvest survey is a stratified random sampling survey that is sent to approximately 33% of those people who obtain harvest tickets. Approximately 60% of these are returned by hunters. When the hunter survey was first initiated, it was far cheaper than harvest ticket reports, and was considered superior in acquiring reliable harvest data. However, with modern technology that allows hunters to obtain their harvest tickets via the internet, as well as report via the internet, the cost is much lower than in the past, and the reporting level is much higher. Based on harvest ticket reporting on other species, we would expect 50% of hunters to return their hunt report initially and another 25% after a reminder letter. Modeling the data of those who responded to the reminder letter (along with certain assumptions) will allow estimation of total harvest in a reasonable manner. Therefore, we believe the harvest report will be comparable to the harvest survey in helping us assess the deer harvest throughout Southeast Alaska. Additionally, by going to a harvest report the following benefits will also be realized:

- It will allow us to integrate the deer database with other species. At present that is not possible.
- It will allow us to store all deer harvest data statewide in the same location.
- It will reduce the laborious manual processing that we require for the deer survey.

Although this proposal is specific to Southeast Alaska, the remainder of the state plans to sponsor this same proposal for other areas where deer occur and are managed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue to assess deer harvest with the hunter survey even though a better method (harvest report) is available. This may come at a cost of personnel time as well as more easily accessible statewide deer harvest data.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By going to a harvest report, we will be getting harvest data which will

benefit our management of deer and enable deer managers to more easily access, manipulate, and analyze harvest data for specific needs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people interested in having better harvest information to be used in managing deer populations in Southeast Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status Quo.

**PROPOSED BY:** Department of Fish and Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610C

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**PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Modify the moose antler restriction for residents in Units 1B, 1C, and 3:

Units 1B, 1C South of Hobart, and Unit 3:

No harvest of spike-fork bulls or a harvest quota and close the season for spike-forks when quota is reached. Could have a quota for first two weeks and another quota for second two weeks.

**ISSUE:** Identifying a legal spike-fork bull moose. A damaged, broken or altered antler is not considered a spike-fork.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A spike-fork moose may look like a spike-fork even though it may have a damaged or broken antler. If you believe in the saying "Don't shoot until you are sure" spike-forks cannot be harvested. If a point is not there it cannot be seen.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes-When a bull is shot that looks legal, but is not, the moose is confiscated and the hunter is fined.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Any hunter that shoots a spike-fork bull that has a defect that can't be seen until it is laying on the ground.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Any person that is lucky enough to find a spike-fork bull without any damage.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Get rid of hunting spike-fork bulls. Let them grow up before harvesting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Otis Marsh

**LOG NUMBER:** EG0729102

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**PROPOSAL43 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.** Modify the season dates for wolf hunting in Units 1, 3, 4 & 5:

Change the wolf hunting season dates in Game Management Units 1, 3, 4 and 5 to open on September 1 and close on March 31.

**ISSUE:** The Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) is a subspecies of gray wolf that is genetically distinct from interior Alaskan wolf populations and lives in geographically and genetically isolated island populations in Southeast Alaska. Forest habitats in Southeast have been dramatically altered by timber production in the Tongass National Forest and changing forest conditions will likely continue to impact wildlife species. Biologists expect to see a decline in deer populations throughout the region due to changes in forest habitat quantity and quality. Deer are the main prey of wolves in the Tongass and any decline in deer will trigger a decline in wolf populations. Thus concern over the continued long-term viability of this genetically distinct wolf population will continue to grow.

Wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1, 3, 4 and 5 are excessively long and begin in the summer (August 1) when pups are still totally dependent on adults for food and protection and hides are not prime. Seasons extend late into the spring (April 30) when females are pregnant, dens are being established and fur quality is poor. There is no evidence that opening wolf hunting seasons early and closing them late is beneficial for deer or mountain goat numbers, nor is there evidence that predation is limiting these populations. Any rationale for having excessively long seasons in order to benefit prey populations is therefore invalid and seasons can be shortened to better manage wolves as big game animals and furbearers rather than as predators we need to reduce. Predator and prey populations must be managed as a complete system; managing for high deer populations at the expense of viable wolf populations in the Tongass is not feasible and neither ecologically sustainable nor acceptable.

Wolves play an important role in buffering prey species against dramatic population fluctuations and maintaining overall ecosystem health. We encourage the Board of Game (board) to help protect the integrity of this complex forest system and the viability of each segment of the Alexander Archipelago wolf population by regulating the harvest so as not to exacerbate population declines.

Background and justification

The Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) is a subspecies of gray wolf that is genetically distinct from interior Alaskan wolves. These populations are endemic to Southeast, isolated from the mainland, and isolated from each other by large bodies of water. Forest habitats in Southeast have been dramatically altered by timber production in the Tongass National Forest and changing forest conditions will continue to impact all wildlife species in this region. The



issue of forest management and long term carrying capacity of forest habitat need to be considered when making wildlife management decisions and regulations for Southeast Alaska.

Prior to statehood, wolves throughout Alaska were managed as predators – undesirable animals that should be reduced or eliminated. During the 1950s, federal efforts to eliminate wolves over vast areas employed poison, aerial shooting, trapping, cyanide guns, bounties, and denning. After statehood, aerial shooting and bounties continued until 1972. Wolves were eventually classified as big game animals and furbearers and managed like other species with hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits to protect populations from over-harvesting.

By the 1970s there were calls for wolf control as ungulate populations declined and hunter demand increased. The board complied and authorized Alaska Department of Fish and Game (the department) biologists to shoot wolves from helicopters in several areas. About 1,300 wolves were taken during 1975-1983 at a cost of \$824,000.

In 1994, the Intensive Management statute (IM) passed the legislature. This mandated that depleted ungulate populations found important for human harvest be restored to former levels of abundance. The primary intensive management tool is predator control. Since the IM law passed the board has adopted various intensive management programs. These have allowed private pilots to shoot wolves from the air and on the ground. In addition, the board of game lengthened wolf hunting and trapping seasons and increased bag limits over virtually the entire state. The board's rationale was that taking these actions might increase wolf harvests, reduce wolf numbers and increase ungulate prey. In essence, this is de facto wolf control.

Wolf hunting seasons in Units 1, 3, 4, and 5 now open on August 1 and close on April 30. On August 1 wolf pups are only about half grown and are totally dependent on adults for food and protection from predators including bears. In August, wolf hides are nearly worthless on the fur market and make very poor trophies. Hides are not in prime condition until several months later.

According to the department most wolf hunting and trapping that occurs in Southeast is recreational and viewed by many as simply a means of controlling wolf populations to improve deer and moose populations. While wolf hunting seasons such as those currently in effect might be justified if de facto wolf control was necessary and the regulations accomplished the goal of reducing wolf numbers and increasing prey, there is no evidence that any of these conditions apply. The board has issued no written findings indicating deer populations in southeast Alaska currently require predator control to increase deer numbers – in fact the bag limit for deer in Units 1, 3, and 4 is at least 2 and up to 4 animals in Unit's 1, 3, and 4 and all units remain open to non-resident hunters.

Accordingly, we find that there is no rationale for de facto wolf control in Southeast Alaska and the excessively long hunting seasons designed to provide de facto wolf control are not justified. In late April, female wolves are pregnant and nearly at full term. Shooting them is inhumane and not sound management for a subspecies of conservation concern, or one with big game and furbearer values. Hides in late April are often badly rubbed and have much reduced value on the fur market. They make poor quality trophies for recreational hunters. We propose shortening the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1, 3, 4 and 5 in order to humanely protect pups still dependent on

adults in summer and pregnant females in late April, and to provide hides for hunters that have better fur value, either in the commercial market or as trophies.

In the fall of 2002 the board voted to close hunting in the months of August and April due to concerns over early and late season pelt quality and harvesting during denning. However, this decision was rescinded in the fall of 2004. We believe this decision was an oversight as the concerns that led the board to shorten the hunting season in 2002 still apply.

A petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf under the Endangered Species Act was filed in 1993 and many of the issues affecting its conservation have not been resolved. Shortening the hunting season for the Alexander Archipelago wolf would demonstrate that the board is fulfilling its mission of managing big game and furbearers on a sustained yield basis using sound conservation principles and that the board has concern for the conservation of rare and endemic species. It would also demonstrate that wolves have value to hunters, trappers and other users and are not still undesirable animals that need to be reduced everywhere, all the time.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Orphaned wolf pups in summer and early fall will continue to starve and die inhumanely. Pregnant, full-term female wolves will be shot in April. Hunters will continue to take wolves with less than prime fur, a waste of a valuable, renewable resource. Hunters will continue to take poor quality trophies. Unnecessary de facto wolf control programs will continue. A unique and endemic subspecies of wolf will continue to be unnecessarily targeted for population reduction thus increasing conservation concern over this sub-species. Wolves will continue to be unnecessarily managed as predators rather than as big game animals and furbearers of considerable value. The public will continue to view the board as managing wolves only as predators to be reduced by any means available.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of harvested wolf hides would increase. Hides in late April are often badly rubbed and have much reduced value on the fur market. They make poor quality trophies for hunters. Similarly, wolf hides taken in August are not prime. The resource will continue to be available to user groups in the future.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters will benefit by taking wolves during times when pelt quality is higher. Such hides have greater commercial and trophy values than those taken in August or April. Those who value the conservation of rare and endemic species purely for their ecosystem value will also benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, with the possible exception of a small number of hunters who wish wolves to be taken during times when fur quality is poor or those who believe predator numbers need to be continually reduced.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Defenders of Wildlife

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08161041

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**PROPOSAL 44 – 5AAC 92.050 (A)(4)(ii).** Permits, permit procedures, and permit conditions. Modify the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of kindred approval procedures for nonresidents in Southeast Region Units:

A nonresident must apply to the Department of Fish and Game in advance of his hunt to pre-approve the 2nd degree relative that will accompany him for brown bear, sheep or goats. To qualify the relative must be 19 years or older, must have hunted in Alaska for big game for the past 5 years, and must agree to personally accompany the nonresident hunter at all times that the hunter is in the field.

**ISSUE:** Nonresident hunters may currently be accompanied in the field by an Alaska resident 19 years age or older that is within 2nd degree of kindred for brown bear, sheep and mountain goat. This provision is being abused.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some non-residents will continue to abuse the 2nd degree of kindred hunting provision.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Proposal will reduce abuses of the 2nd degree relative provision for non-resident hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The resource and other hunters. 2nd degree relatives will be more appropriately qualified to accompany their relatives on hunts for brown bear, sheet, or goats, resulting in a potentially safer hunt, better quality of animal harvested, and reduced wounding loss.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Any nonresident hunter who would otherwise abuse the 2nd degree relative provision currently in the hunting regulations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Brad Dennison

**LOG NUMBER:** EG08131036

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**PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.** Review and potentially repeal or modify discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts in the Southeast Region.

**5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.** The department may apply any or all of the following additional conditions to a permit hunt, when necessary for management of the species hunted:

- (1) a permittee shall register at a designated station before entering, and upon leaving, the field; except as authorized under AS 16.05.405, a person may not hold more than one permit for the same species in a hunt area at one time;
- (2) a permittee shall demonstrate
  - (A) the ability to identify the species hunted;
  - (B) the ability to identify the permit hunt area;
  - (C) a knowledge of weapon safety and use;
- (3) a permittee shall attend an orientation course;
- (4) a permittee shall carry an operative radio while in the field;
- (5) a permittee who takes an animal under a permit shall deliver specified biological specimens to a check station or to the nearest department office within a time set by the department; the trophy value of an animal taken under a subsistence permit may be nullified by the department;
- (6) a permittee must be accompanied by a department representative;
- (7) only a specified number of permittees may hunt during the same time period, and a permittee may hunt only in a specified subdivision within the permit hunt area;
- (8) a permittee may not use specified mechanized vehicles for hunting big game or for transporting meat from the hunting area;
- (9) a permittee who cancels his or her plan to hunt shall notify the department at an office, and within a time limit, specified by the department;
- (10) a permittee may use only weapons and ammunition specified by the department;
- (11) before receiving a permit, the permittee shall acknowledge in writing that he or she has read, understands, and will abide by, the conditions specified for the hunt;
- (12) a permittee may hunt only during specified time periods;
- (13) a permit applicant must be at least 10 years old;
- (14) a permittee shall submit, on a form supplied by the department, information requested by the department about the hunt; the permittee shall submit this form to the department within the time limit set by the department;
- (15) the permit applicant must hold a valid Alaska hunting license; however, this does not apply to a resident under the age of 16; an applicant's hunting license number must be entered on the permit application; a resident under the age of 16 shall enter his or her age instead of a license number;
- (16) a hunter participating in a permit hunt that allows only the use of a bow and arrow must have completed a department - approved bowhunter education course;
- (17) a permittee may take only an animal of a sex specified by the department;
- (18) a person with physical disabilities, as defined in AS 16.05.940 , with a special permit to hunt with a motorized vehicle, must be accompanied by another hunter who has a valid hunting license and is capable of assisting the permittee in retrieving game taken by the permittee;
- (19) a person may be limited to one big game registration permit at a time in Units 1, 17, 20(E), 22 and 23;
- (20) the number of registration permits that may be issued per household for a specified big game hunt may be limited;
- (21) the permit hunt area authorized by the Board of Game may be subdivided into smaller permit hunt areas;

(22) a permittee may transfer the permittee's Unit 13 subsistence permit to a resident member of the permittee's family, within the second degree of kinship; a person may not receive remuneration for the transfer of a permit under this paragraph;

(23) except as otherwise provided, if a drawing permit hunt is undersubscribed, surplus permits may be made available at the division of wildlife conservation office responsible for management of the applicable hunt. Surplus permits are not subject to the limitations in 5 AAC 92.050(2) and (4)(F).

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game has requested a complete review of the discretionary conditions the department currently applies to all permit hunts in Region I. Discretionary conditions are delegated authority from the Board to the department that allows the department to manage hunts to provide for maximum opportunity, and still provide protection of the resource.

There are 29 permit hunts in Region I. The specific conditions that apply to each of these hunts are available on the Boards Support website <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gcal.php> . Public comments may be specific to a particular hunt or to an authority delegated to the department under this regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue to use discretionary authority as deemed necessary to manage game populations that are managed with permit hunts.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Loss of some of the authority may result in more conservative management and seasons because it will be more difficult to change conditions through the Board process.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters that believe the department should not have discretionary authority to manage game populations or prefer to have more management decisions made by the Board of Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters that believe it is important for the department to have discretionary authorities to adjust some elements of harvest management to properly manage game populations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Members of the public can bring specific proposals to the Board when there are concerns about the discretionary authorities used by the department.

**PROPOSED BY:** Board of Game

**LOG NUMBER:** ADFG081610C

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**Statewide**

**PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunting conditions and procedures.**  
Re-adopt regulations establishing a bonus point system for some drawing hunts.

(4) permit issuance:

(A) the department shall issue registration permits in the order applications are received and drawing permits on a lottery basis: **the department may issue drawing permits on a bonus point system as follows:**

1. **An applicant for a bonus drawing hunt must have a current license to apply for the hunt and complete the appropriate drawing application. Since the application period will be Nov. - Dec. the dept will implement a requirement to purchase the next year's license.**
2. **An applicant must use consistent hunter identification each year when applying for a hunt. This permanent customer ID will be provided by the department the first time the applicant applies.**
3. **Applications and accompanying fees, that include nonresidents, shall only be made online.**
4. **The applicant will accumulate 1 point for the first year that he/she is unsuccessful in obtaining a permit for that species when included in the draw; after the first year of inclusion in the bonus point pool, points will be doubled each year thereafter : year 1 = 1 point, year 2 = 2 points, year 3 = 4 points, year 4 = 8 points, etc.**
5. **An applicant may choose to not apply for a species-specific bonus point system for two consecutive years and not lose her/his bonus points. All bonus points will be lost if the applicant fails to apply for each species-specific bonus point system after a two-year grace period.**
6. **An applicant may submit an application and accompanying fee and choose to not hunt for a species-specific bonus point system for a given year. The application and fee shall allow the applicant to accrue points for that year without being part of the draw.**
7. **Once an applicant receives a permit to hunt a species that he/she has been applying for under a bonus point system, his/her total points return to zero and they must start over to accumulate new points.**
8. **Drawings under the bonus point system:**

**(A) Available permits for the specific hunt will be allocated on a 50%/50% basis..**

- 1) 50% shall be available for everyone who applies for the hunt
- 2) 50% shall be allocated to those who choose to participate in the species-specific bonus point system.
- 3) Points accrue for each bonus point species and cannot be interchanged between species.
- 4) If the applicant has bonus points for a species, those available points are added to each hunt the applicant chooses.
- B. Party hunt applications under the bonus point system shall only be allowed for Dall sheep
  - 1) For party hunts, the average (.5 rounded up), of all points among applicants shall be used as the number of bonus points in the pool.
- C. Points are accumulated by the individual and cannot be transferred.
- D. The department will apply the bonus point system to the following hunts:
  - (i) All bison drawing permits.
  - (ii) All Dall sheep drawing permits.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game adopted the regulatory language above at the Spring, 2009 board meeting to establish a bonus point drawing system. The Department of Fish and Game informed the board that the regulations would not be filed with the Lt. Governor because legislation is required to establish a fee structure for the system. The public notice for the adopted regulations is valid for only one year and would now be deemed “stale” by the regulations attorney with the Department of Law. Knowing this, the Board of Game requested at a prior meeting that this proposal be included in the Southeast Region proposal book.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The regulations will go away and the board will need to take action at a future date to adopt regulations for the bonus point system.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** If implemented, a bonus system will have no change on the resources, only the odds of certain hunters in obtaining a drawing permit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who participate in certain hunts annually and maintain their drawing hunt records according to the rules of the program.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters who fail to participate annually and who fail to carefully follow the application rules. If a bonus point hunt is cancelled or changed after a few years some hunters might suffer if they are previously “invested” in that particular hunt with a number of bonus points.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Status quo.

**PROPOSED BY:** Board of Game

**LOG NUMBER:** BOG1

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**PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions:**

Restrict the use of certain traps near residential and recreational use areas in Unit 5:

We would like to see the following rules implemented. No use of 330 conibear traps or snares within these boundaries: 500 yards of a permanent resident within the city limits of Yakutat, 50 yards on either side of the Train Trail, 150 yards on either side of Cannon Beach Road, and a section of Cannon Beach Recreational area from the Coast Guard Beach to the barge, and 500 yards back from the mean high-tide line.

**ISSUE:** We would like to see a safety area put in place around key local common use areas to protect recreational users and pet owners from possible harm from 330 conibears and /or wolf snares. We would also like to see all other areas outside of these areas listed, permanently recognized and designated as known trapping areas. The hope is that these designations and restrictions will help avoid the accidental entrapment of pets or people.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be a continued potential risk of harm to recreational users.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Recreational users in the areas described and their pets.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. The proposed areas for closure to 330 conibears and wolf snares are generally not thought of as places where you would expect to harvest big game predators. This proposal may help a trapper avoid an unpleasant situation.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** We considered including other types of traps, and we considered closing a variety different areas but found these to be too restrictive.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

**LOG NUMBER:** HQ-10F-G-022

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**PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.** Extend the hunting season for wolves in Unit 5:

We would like to see the current hunting season for wolves in the Yakutat areas of Units 5A and 5B extended until May 31st for both resident, and non-resident hunters.

**ISSUE:** We feel that currently we are underutilizing our potential to harvest wolves by means of hunting in the Yakutat area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued loss of potential hunting



opportunity, possible over population of wolves in the Yakutat area possibly causing a further decline in our moose populations.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Wolf hunters, guides, air-taxi pilots, local area businesses, and possibly subsistence and sport moose hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

**LOG NUMBER:** HQ-10F-G-023

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