

Southcentral Region

(Region II)

Proposal Index

(Note: Please review the “Regional and Multiple Units” section, which also affect regulations for other units).

Cordova Area – Unit 6

- 140 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.
- 141 Restrict the taking of goat for five years when a nanny is taken in Unit 6.

Kodiak Area – Unit 8

- 142 Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8.
- 143 Change bag limit restriction for brown bear in Unit 8.
- 144 Modify the resident and nonresident hunting regulations for Unit 8 to include Arctic fox.
- 145 Modify the resident and nonresident trapping regulations for Unit 8 to include Arctic fox.
- 146 Modify the resident and nonresident hunting regulations for Unit 8 to remove coyote and lynx.
- 147 Modify the resident and nonresident trapping regulations for Unit 8 to remove lynx and wolverine from current trapping regulations.

Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

- 148 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.
- 149 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.
- 150 Establish an antlerless moose drawing permit hunt for physically disabled residents in Kincaid Park, Unit 14C.

- 151 Change the any sheep bag limit for Unit 14C to any ram, for draw hunts DS140, DS141, DS240 and DS241.
- 152 Establish a resident only sheep hunt area in Chugach State Park, Unit 14C.
- 153 Limit the number of next of kin nonresident sheep tags in Unit 14C.
- 154 Increase the number of nonresident goat drawing permits on Unit 14C.
- 155 Add a drawing permit hunt for black bears within the JBER Management Area in Unit 14C.

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

- 156 Shorten the moose seasons in Unit 15.
- 157 Change the general bull moose season dates in Unit 15 to September 1-30.
- 158 Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C.
- 159 Open nonresident moose drawing hunt in Unit 15.
- 160 Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C or implement predator control.
- 161 Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15 to 50-inch antlers with three or more brow tines.
- 162 Eliminate all early and late season start dates for archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun hunts in Unit 15.
- 163 Eliminate the early archery season for moose in Units 15A and 15B.
- 164 Open seven day archery seasons for moose following the general seasons in Units 7 and 15
- 165 Open an archery moose season for residents and nonresidents in Unit 15C.
- 166 Change the resident, antlerless moose season in Unit 15C to November 1-30.
- 167 Issue resident moose permits for problem areas near roads during the winter in Unit 15C.
- 168 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.
- 169 Open a nine day, resident archery season in August for Dall sheep in Units 7, 14C and 15.

- 170 Modify of the harvest management strategy for Kenai Peninsula brown bears, Units 7 and 15.
- 171 Modify the brown bear harvest management strategy on the Kenai Peninsula, Units 7 and 15.
- 172 Lengthen the brown bear season in Units 7 and 15 and remove the meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait.
- 173 Remove meat salvage requirements for taking brown bear over bait in the Southcentral Region.
- 174 Remove meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Southcentral Region.
- 175 Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, north of Kachemak Bay and Fox River.
- 176 Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, north of Kachemak Bay and Fox River.
- 177 Shift to an earlier opening date for beaver trapping in Units 7 and 15.
- 178 Require trap identification in Units 7 and 15.
- 179 Establish a trapper identification numbering system for Units 7 and 15.
- 180 Restrict trapping in the Cooper Landing area.
- 181 Restrict trapping in the Seward and Moose Pass areas.
- 182 Prohibit the taking of big game from boats in Units 7 and 15 in coastal or estuarine waters, with an exception for persons with disabilities.
- 183 Create a management area for Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C.

Regional & Multiple Units

- 184 Begin resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons in the Southcentral Region.
- 185 Begin resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresidents in Units 7, 14, and 15.
- 186 Limit nonresident sheep hunts in the Southcentral Region with shorter seasons, drawing permits, or other methods.

- 187 Allow a maximum of 10% of nonresident sheep hunt participation for the Southcentral Region.
- 188 Limit sheep harvest by nonresidents to 10% of total harvest in Units 7, 14, and 15.
- 189 Limit allocation of nonresident sheep permits to 10% in the Southcentral Region Units.
- 190 Allocate 10% sheep harvest for nonresidents in Southcentral Region Units
- 191 Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Southcentral Region Units.
- 192 Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Southcentral Region Units.
- 193 Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in Southcentral Region Units.
- 194 Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, in Southcentral Region Units.
- 195 Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations in Southcentral Region Units.
- 196 Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents in the Southcentral Region.
- 197 Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Southcentral Region Units.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southcentral Region Meeting
(Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15)
March 13 – 17, 2015
UAA, Student Union
Anchorage, 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, March 13, 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)

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to 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.

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

Sunday, March 15 – Monday, March 16, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Concludes

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business
(Upon conclusion of deliberations)**

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 at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo 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.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- 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 December 26, 2014 to make any necessary arrangements.

Cordova Area – Unit 6

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 085.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

| Seasons and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| (4) ... | | |
| Unit 6(C) | | |
| 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued; or | Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only) | No open season. |
| 1 moose by registration permit only; ... | Nov. 1-Dec. 31 (General hunt only) | No open season. |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We recommend reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt. Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The population objective is 400-500 moose. A population estimate completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 600 moose, 25% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999-2000 season. However, if the available harvest is not taken under the federal system or there is a change in the management strategy (allocation between state and federal permits) this hunt will be needed. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to restrain the growth of this population beyond what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-336)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Restrict the taking of goat for five years when a nanny is taken in Unit 6, as follows:

Add language to the Unit 6 goat regulation for units and bag limits to read: "However, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for five regulatory years." We used similar language adopted by the board for Units 7 and 15 remainder. Options of less than five year prohibitions would be considered.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest of nannies (females) in Unit 6. Recent studies have shown the sensitivity of small goat populations to the harvesting of breeding-age females. Observed kid production in some subunits has been less than 20:100 kids to adults (K:A) in summer/fall surveys, with the average being 16K:100A. Harvest of females has been recorded in subunits as high as 50% over a ten-year period. Coastal goat populations are exposed to extremely challenging weather, and because of the lower elevations at which this occurs predation has a significant impact on population recovery. The mixture of the natural conditions and human manipulation will ultimately prove not sustainable if not addressed. The board took action by adopting exactly the same language in Units 7 and 15 remainder several years ago. Both units are coastal, having similar climates, but very different harvest patterns. Unit 6 goat harvest is split between nonresident guided hunters and local residents primarily. The subunits with the high nanny harvest are those targeted by local hunters, many of whom are habitually harvesting females.

Several hunting areas in Unit 6 have been closed down completely, or closed early by Emergency Order due to high level of female harvest. Hunters, wildlife viewers and, most importantly, the species are likely to benefit. The object is stable, long-term population growth.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee
(EG-C14-196)

Kodiak Area – Unit 8

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 as follows:

Unit 8, Kodiak Deer

Bag limit (nonresidents of Alaska): Two antlered deer

Season: August 1- December 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recently (winter 2011-12) there was a significant die off of deer on Kodiak Island. While the subsequent two winters have not been as harsh and the deer are starting to slowly recover, the population is still well below its normal levels. Elimination of all harvest of doe (antlerless deer) for a period of time would speed up the recovery of the population. However there is utilization of females for resident hunters' subsistence needs so this solution politically is not tenable. Reduction of the nonresident bag limit from three deer (bucks only before October 1) to two bucks should reduce some of the pressure on the deer herd and allow it to recover a little bit faster. The vast majority of nonresident hunters come for the experience of the hunt and to try to harvest a nice buck. Very few nonresidents of Alaska come because they want the meat. Allowing a bag limit of two bucks (only) probably will not result in any fewer nonresidents coming to Alaska to hunt deer, so it should not affect guide and air taxi business.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-C14-253)

PROPOSAL 143- 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Change the bag limit restriction for brown bear in Unit 8 as follows:

Two possible solutions, either one would be acceptable:

1) Simply eliminate the regulation that states in Unit 8, bear wounded by a hunter must count as the bag limit for the year.

or

2) Insert the word "mortally" in front of wounded in the regulation. Where mortally could be defined as "any big game animal hit with a hunting projectile which dies or is reasonably expected to die as a result of the wound."

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation which applies only to Units 1-5 and 8 that any bear showing any sign of being hit with a hunting projectile must be considered "taken" as part of a hunter's bag limit is not a good one. It is an attempt to legislate ethics and to assist guides who do not want to put maximum effort into a

hunt. It is very difficult to enforce. It discriminates against ethical hunters, who knowing the law will abide by it. It does not limit unethical hunters and guides who may continue to hunt after superficially wounding an animal because they know that their chances of being caught are very remote. There is no other state which has this regulation. Several dilemmas are created by this regulation:

- 1) If a hunter wounds an animal this year and counts it against his bag limit but the animal survives and that hunter kills the same animal in a subsequent year does he NOT need to count it against his bag limit since he already did in the first year?
- 2) If a hunter superficially wounds an animal and considers it taken, can he be charged with wanton waste because he was unable to salvage the meat?
- 3) Will a guide be tempted to tell a hunter to shoot a reasonable shot while a hunter wants to wait until he has a 100% certain shot? Thus being at odds with each other in their final goal and reducing the enjoyment of the hunt.
- 4) Will a guide allow a hunter who has superficially wounded an animal to keep hunting for only that animal and use every resource at his disposal to recover the wounded animal as is required by the guide regulations? Keeping in mind that every resource at his disposal may include bringing other assistant guides and their hunters in to help look for the wounded animal.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-297)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Modify the resident and nonresident hunting regulations for Unit 8 to include Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) as follows:

5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals (a) ...

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| (2) Arctic fox (including white and blue phases) | | |
| <u>Unit 8</u> | <u>Sept. 1 - Feb. 15</u> | <u>Sept. 1 - Feb. 15</u> |
| <u>2 foxes</u> | | |

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) and/or Arctic fox hybrids exist in harvestable numbers in certain areas within Unit 8, specifically on Chirikof Island. ADF&G would like to add Arctic fox to the hunting regulations to provide hunters a harvest opportunity. We recommend a season identical to the season for red fox in Unit 8 which extends from September 1 to February 15 and a bag limit of two for residents and nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-326)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Modify the resident and nonresident trapping regulations for Unit 8 to include Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) as follows:

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Trapping seasons and bag limits for furbearers are as follows:

| Species and Units | Open Season | Bag Limit |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (3) Fox, arctic, white, or blue | | |
| <u>Unit 8</u> | <u>Nov. 10 – Mar. 31</u> | <u>No limit.</u> |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) and/or Arctic fox hybrids exist in harvestable numbers in certain areas within Unit 8, specifically on Chirikof Island. ADF&G would like to add Arctic fox to the trapping regulations to provide trappers a harvest opportunity. We recommend a season identical to that for red fox in Unit 8 which extends from November 10 to March 31 with no bag limit for residents and nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-330)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Modify the resident and nonresident hunting regulations for Unit 8 to remove coyote (*Canis latrans*) and lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) from current hunting regulations as follows:

Unit 8 would not be referenced under coyote or lynx in the hunting regulations.

5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals (a) ...

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| (1) Coyote | | |
| ... | | |

Units **6, 7, 9 – 17**, [6 – 17], 19, 20, 21, July 1 – June 30 July 1 – June 30
 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

No limit

(4) Lynx

Units 1 - 5, [8,] and 10 No open season. No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove coyote (*Canis latrans*) and lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) from current hunting regulations. Neither coyote nor lynx exists within Unit 8.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-327)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Modify the resident and nonresident trapping regulations for Unit 8 to remove lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) from current trapping regulations as follows:

Unit 8 would not be referenced under lynx or wolverine in the trapping regulations.

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Trapping seasons and bag limits for furbearers are as follows:

| Species and Units | Open Season | Bag Limit |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| (5) Lynx | | |
| <u>Unit 10</u> [UNITS 8 AND 10] | No open season. | |
| (14) Wolverine | | |
| Units 6, 7 [6 - 8], 9(A), 9(C), 9(D), 9(E), 15, and 16(B) | Nov. 10 - Last day of Feb. | No limit |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) from current trapping regulations. Neither lynx nor wolverine exists within Unit 8.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-329)

Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| (12) | | |
| ... Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area 1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued | Day after Labor Day —Mar 31 (General hunt only) | Day after Labor Day —Mar 31 |
| Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area 1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only) | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 |
| Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued | Day after Labor Day —Nov. 30 (General hunt only) | No open season |
| Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area | | |

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only) | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 |
| 1 bull by registration permit only | Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only) | Oct. 1—Nov. 30 |
| ... | | |
| Remainder of Unit 14(C) | | |
| 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: | | |
| 1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only) | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 |
| 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or | Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only) | No open season |
| 1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued | Oct. 20—Nov. 15 | No open season |

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the low end of the population objective (1,500 moose). At this population level there will be reductions in over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. In addition, the moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500-1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90-270 moose. In 2013, we estimated a moose population of approximately 1,533 moose. At this population level, we have experienced a dramatic decline in human-moose conflicts and decreased winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing adequate harvest opportunity.

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. During summer, an estimated 200-300 moose inhabit the Anchorage metropolitan area. This number can increase up to 700-1,000 moose during the winter, when moose move into the metropolitan area from the surrounding mountain valleys. As a result, high moose densities cause severe over-browsing in some areas and lead to an increased incidence of moose-vehicle collisions and conflicts with humans. The number of antlerless permits we issue depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality (Table 1).

Table 1.

| Regulatory Year | Either Sex Permits | Antlerless Permits | Cows Harvested |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2003 | 55 | 60 | 32 |
| 2004 | 57 | 80 | 20 |
| 2005 | 100 | 46 | 33 |
| 2006 | 110 | 46 | 33 |
| 2007 | 110 | 40 | 37 |
| 2008 | 110 | 35 | 36 |
| 2009 | 110 | 25 | 29 |
| 2010 | 110 | 23 | 31 |
| 2011 | 67 | 23 | 25 |
| 2012 | 58 | 23 | 18 |
| 2013 | 58 | 23 | 25 |

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-339)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits (5) | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|

...
 Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued

Aug. 20—Oct. 10
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts

Aug. 20—Oct. 10

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. A November 2013 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 155 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 23 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 27 calves per 100 cows. This population has a history of rapid increase following mild winters; consequently, in 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. Thirty antlerless permits were issued for 2009, 2010, and 2011, and twenty antlerless permits were issued for 2012 and 2013. Harvests for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 were 25 bulls and 17 cows, 15 bulls and 15 cows, 19 bulls and 8 cows, 12 bulls and 7 cows, and 10 bulls and 7 cows respectively.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-340)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish an antlerless moose drawing permit hunt for physically disabled residents in Kincaid Park, Unit 14C as follows:

The solution is an annual drawing hunt for up to ten antlerless moose during the month of October (lowest amount of park use). Eligible hunters will be those with a physical disability of 70% or greater as noted under AS 16.05.940(25), and require a wheelchair or other mobility device, who have taken a valid hunter's education course and passed a hunt orientation and marksmanship test provided by ADF&G. The intent of this hunt is to aid in increasing public safety among recreational users and to give mobility impaired individuals an option to participate in the Alaskan tradition of hunting. Legal means will be a shotgun or muzzleloading firearm. The entire moose will be removed from the kill site. The disabled hunter will be allowed to shoot from the trail from a motorized vehicle. ADF&G may require that another licensed hunter with valid hunter's education accompany the permitted hunter. A safety orange vest provided by ADF&G will be worn at all times by all hunt participants.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With increased facility development and corresponding increased year-round use of Kincaid Park in west Anchorage, there has been a significant increase of negative human-moose interactions in the park. Many of these conflicts have ended with human injuries and property damage as a result. Youth ski and bicycle groups have been charged and attacked recently. This is causing a public safety concern for the many recreational users of the park. ADF&G has the ability to issue more antlerless moose permits in the Anchorage management unit.

PROPOSED BY: Ira Edwards (EG-C14-291)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the any sheep bag limit for Unit 14C to any ram, for draw hunts DS140, DS141, DS240 and DS241 as follows:

Change the current language to read: A legal ram is, any ram.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the current any sheep bag limit rule for Unit 14C to any ram, on draw hunts DS140, DS141, DS240 and DS241. The Anchorage Advisory Committee is opposed to the taking of ewes. With the current ongoing declining sheep population, we need every lamb-producing ewe to stay on the mountain

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-316)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a resident only sheep hunt area in Chugach State Park, Unit 14C as follows:

Unit 14C: Resident only sheep hunting, with the exception of one Governor's tag hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a resident only sheep hunt area in Chugach State Park, Unit 14C, with the exception of one Governor's tag hunt. This area is one of the few in the state that residents have easy and affordable access to hunt Dall sheep. I would like to see the Board of Game set aside an area for residents only to hunt Dall sheep. With Unit 14C falling within the boundaries of Chugach State Park lands, it is a logical choice.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Neumann (EG-C14-315)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit the number of next of kin nonresident sheep tags in Unit 14C as follows:

The allocation of one nonresident rifle sheep tag and one nonresident archery sheep tag to next of kin. These hunts would have a separate DS permit numbers and would rotate between the rifle and archery sheep hunts within Unit 14C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The increase in the percentage of nonresident sheep permits that are being drawn by next of kin nonresidents within the drawing areas. The increase in the Alaskan population has put a much larger number of next of kin nonresidents drawing sheep permits over the guided nonresident sheep hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-C14-222)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Increase the number of nonresident goat drawing permits in Unit 14C as follows:

I propose one additional guided nonresident drawing permit in the following Unit 14C drawing goat hunt permit areas: DG852, DG854, and DG858. These hunts would have a separate DG number and would only be eligible to hunters who are guided by a licensed guide for Unit 14C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The hunter participation and success in Unit 14C drawing goat hunts is low. These hunts are very physical and the country that the goats live in is very inaccessible to the average permit holder.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-C14-224)

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Add a drawing permit hunt for black bears within the JBER Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| (3) ... | | |
| <u>Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area</u> | | |
| <u>1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; by shotgun only; up to 25 permits may be issued</u> | <u>April 15-June 15 (General hunt only)</u> | <u>April 15 – June 15</u> |
| Unit 14(C), <u>remainder</u> | No closed season | No closed season |
| 1 bear ... | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The majority of Unit 14C is open to black bear hunting, either by harvest ticket or by registration permit, with a bag limit of one bear per year. Black bear hunting in Chugach State Park is restricted to the day after Labor Day to June 15 to avoid potential conflicts with other park users, while the Remainder of Unit 14C has no closed season. Areas closed to bear hunting include the densely populated areas of the Anchorage Bowl and Eagle River. While the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) Management Area is open to big game hunting by permit only, no bear hunting has been permitted on the military lands to date. Since hunting is prohibited in city parks by municipal regulation, the remaining large portion of bear habitat that is currently not being utilized for hunting opportunity is located on JBER. We propose to create a shotgun only drawing permit hunt for black bears in the JBER Management Area of Unit 14C.

Black bear hunting is a popular activity within Unit 14C, and black bear harvest has increased in the last 20 years. Total annual mortality, including hunter harvest, as well as defense of life and property and road kills, averaged 70 bears per year from 2008 to 2012. In 2013 overall mortality of black bears declined to 36 bears, which included six road kills, five defense of life and property kills, and 25 harvested bears.

Overall in Unit 14C, the percent of females in the harvest has shown an increasing trend since 1994. In the last three years, the percentage of females in the harvest was 41% in both 2011 and 2012 and 52% in 2013. Regardless of the somewhat high take of female bears recently in Unit 14C, we do not believe that creating a drawing permit hunt on JBER will have a dramatic impact on overall bear harvest or contribute to a population decline in black bears in Unit 14C. It is probable that any harvest on JBER will be compensatory to current mortality, as bears on JBER also use areas of Unit 14C that are currently open to bear hunting. The intent of this proposal is to create a hunting opportunity where there is currently none. In addition, harvesting a limited number of black bears on JBER may address some human-bear conflicts on base and in adjacent Anchorage and Eagle River/Chugiak neighborhoods.

The management of this hunt will be a joint effort between ADF&G and JBER Natural Resources personnel and operated using the same process for base moose hunters. In addition to Basic Hunter Education certification, hunters will be required to attend an orientation, pass a proficiency test with the weapon with which they intend to hunt, and check in and out daily using the base recreational access system.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-332)

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Shorten the moose seasons in Unit 15 as follows:

Go back to a September season, with the archery season starting on September 1, running for one week with a two week rifle season following.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose hunting starts too early. The weather is too warm. Antler restrictions due to lack of bulls. Shorten the season. Three weeks rather than six is plenty of moose hunting opportunity considering the lack of mature bulls. There will be better meat and less spoilage. Antlers are still growing in archery season. Hunters will need to butcher moose the day they are harvested.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Ross (EG-C14-193)

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the general bull moose season dates in Unit 15 to September 1-30 as follows:

Move the season forward ten days, changing the Unit 15 general bull moose harvest dates to September 1-30, so a much higher percentage of harvested meat will make it back to hunters' homes to be good table fare.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue is the preservation of moose meat in Unit 15. It is so warm and humid during the season that moose harvests can turn into monumental struggles to properly care for fresh meat. The culprits are heat, moisture, and flies, each singularly able to ruin a harvest in a matter of a day or two. Current season dates are August 20-September 20. Historical weather data from the Kenai Peninsula in August shows temperatures in the 50-60 degree range with plenty of rain. Most hunters are in the field, far from the controlled environments of freezers and fly-proof hanging areas of their homes. Even with ATVs or horses, it can take a couple of days to move a moose from the areas that most people hunt. This is a travesty and is the intent of neither the hunter nor the game managers.

In September the weather tends to be cooler and sometimes drier, which in turn lowers the fly count. The temperature is lower, even starting to frost at night then, which does a world of good in cooling the 800 pounds of meat from a moose. The frost kills the flies also. During the same time, it tends to be a bit drier as well, also a great help in averting moisture spoilage in meat under field care. Hunters will be able to more easily and safely care for the meat in the field and transport it home, leaving more energy to deal with other inherent travails such as the sheer mass of a large moose, or the birds, or of course bears.

If nothing is changed in the regulations, much meat will continue to be unfairly wasted due to environmental conditions.

In defense of potential overharvest due to this season date change proposal: Some would say that allowing hunters in the field during the last week of September would give unfair advantage to hunters, as the bulls are closer to rut and therefore more active. I feel that the current ADF&G regulations specifying antler size and configuration in the general bull hunt, and the opportunity limit of 50 for the drawing cow hunt DM549, positively and correctly identify and limit that class of animals that are targeted by ADF&G for the harvest. Most other units have their moose season in September. The brush is much thicker and taller in Unit 15, no shortage of moose cover. There will be no more or less moose harvested by this season shift.

Considered was the idea instead to shorten the season to September 1-20. It was rejected due to hunter opportunity loss. Remember how thick the brush is and how inclement the weather can be. Note that years ago, the season dates in Unit 15 were September 1-30, same as most of the state.

Please consider the above date change to the Unit 15 moose hunt. Peninsula meat hunters thank you.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone (EG-C14-241)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15C Nonresidents:

1 bull 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side;

September 1-20 (General hunt only).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently Unit 15C is closed to nonresident moose hunters. Unit 15C has been closed to nonresident moose hunting since intensive management was put in place in 2011. Current population levels (2013 estimate 3,204) are within population objectives of 2,500-3,500 moose. Bull to cow ratios have increased significantly and are currently within objectives of 15 to 20 bulls:100 cows. Nonresident hunters took an average of 4% of the harvest before the closure during the general moose season. Moose harvest in Unit 15C during 2013 was 98 animals; this would equate to an additional four bulls being harvested by nonresident hunters at past harvest levels. Currently, several other management units under intensive management are open to nonresident hunting such as Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Willard (EG-C14-103)

PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a nonresident moose drawing hunt in Unit 15 as follows:

Before opening the hunt to a spike/fork in Unit 15, consider making it a drawing for nonresidents for 50-inch bulls, similar to areas in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased pressure on moose numbers, not enough mature bulls. More bulls make it to maturity, I would have a chance to hunt around my house with family or friends from out of state. All hunters would have a chance at bigger bulls and nonresidents could hunt and make some money for the state by applying.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Casey EG031213737

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C or implement predator control as follows:

We recommend to either implement predator control, which is why nonresident moose hunting has been stopped, or open nonresident moose hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closing of nonresident moose hunting in Unit 15C due to the implementation of predator control as a result of the declined moose population. ADF&G has estimated the moose population at 3,200 last year and the population objective is 2,500 to 3,500. The moose harvest last year was between 80 to 90 moose with a 200 to 350 moose objective. Please reinstate the nonresident moose hunting for Unit 15C. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Derek and Bunny Alexander (EG-C14-216)

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15 to 50-inch antlers with three or more brow tines as follows:

No spike hunting for bull moose. Legal bull to be 50-inches wide and at least three brow tines on one antler. Keep wolf and brown bear regulations in place

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The low numbers of moose on the Kenai Peninsula, especially the low number of mature bull moose, and lost hunter opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas and Helen Netschert EG-C14-313)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 85.XXX. Hunting seasons and bag limits. Eliminate all early and late season start dates for archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun hunts in Unit 15 as follows:

Eliminate all special privilege seasons in Unit 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Special pre- or post-season bowhunting, muzzleloader and shotgun hunts. If you choose to hunt with a bow and arrow, that's fine with me but you shouldn't be given special time to do so. With today's antler restrictions, to

be a responsible hunter you need to stalk and get close to an animal to be sure it is legal, therefore you shouldn't be penalized for hunting with a rifle.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Garcia (EG-C14-245)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the early archery season for moose in Units 15A and 15B as follows:

Remove the early archery only season for moose from August 10-17 in Units 15A and 15B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The early archery only season (August 10-17) for moose in Units 15A and 15B. There is no justification for this early season. This would align the moose seasons in Units 15A, 15B, and 15C, simplifying regulations for the hunting community.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-208)

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open seven day archery seasons for moose following the general seasons in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

In each of the units listed for moose hunts where only a harvest ticket is required there would be a separate season "by bow and arrow only" starting the day following the general season and extending for an additional seven days. These hunts would have the same antler restrictions as currently listed for each unit. They would be limited to IBEP certified bowhunters only. (Note that starting in July 2016 anyone hunting big game anywhere in Alaska will be required to be IBEP certified.) This would apply for units 7 and 15.

(This proposal was also submitted for the February 2015 Central/Southwest Region meeting.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We request additional hunting opportunity for moose for IBEP certified bowhunters. We would like to see seven days added to the end of the general moose season with a season for bowhunting only. This would be for moose hunts in these units currently available by harvest ticket and would not include areas open only by drawing permit. In the case of Units 15A and 15B which have seven day, mid-August archery moose seasons, we would recommend elimination of those seasons in return for an archery season at the end of the regulatory moose season.

The primary reason for this request is to increase hunter opportunity at a time when the bulls are moving more because of the rut and meat care is easier because of cooler weather. The early archery season in Unit 15 has had very low participation and success because of dense foliage, limited moose movement and warm temperatures which make meat salvage difficult. We believe that this would result in a slightly higher harvest rate but would still be easily within the biologic surplus of animals available to be harvested without affecting the overall moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C14-242)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open an archery moose season for residents and nonresidents in Unit 15C as follows:

Add Unit 15C to the archery season August 10-17, in Units 15A and 15B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Biologists tell me there are more moose in Unit 15C. Spread the archers out over a wider area to reduce congestion, making it safer to hunt. Just include Unit 15C in the same regulation as Units 15A and 15B.

PROPOSED BY: David Hanrahan (EG-C14-195)

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the resident, antlerless moose season in Unit 15C to November 1-30 as follows:

Unit 15C: 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued; November 1-30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Troopers in Unit 15C are often called to investigate cow moose killed legally under DM549 permits during the general hunting season. This impedes their ability to pursue true hunting violations at a crucial time of year. The Homer antlerless hunt was originally in November; we would like to move it back. It is a meat hunt, and November is a better month in which to hunt for ease of meat preservation.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-209)

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Issue resident moose permits for problem areas near roads during the winter in Unit 15C as follows:

I recommend that the ADF&G be authorized to issue a limited number of permit tags for problem areas for winter harvest of moose near roadways. Hunts will be opened at the discretion of ADF&G.

Unit 15C: 1 cow or calf moose within one mile of the Sterling Highway by permit only; by shotgun or muzzleloader; November 15-February 28. Up to 100 permits may be issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An average of 247 moose die each year by vehicle collision in Unit 15 (25% of which occur in subunit 15C). Additionally, approximately 71 moose are hit annually by vehicles that are not recovered. This equals 318 moose dying each year by vehicle collision or 25% more than are taken by hunters. These vehicle/moose collisions represent a serious concern for human safety, property damage, and loss of hunting opportunity. Although the salvageable portion of these animals is currently distributed

through a “roadkill list”, a large portion of each moose is often unsalvageable for human consumption. We believe that the dangers and other negative effects of vehicle/moose collision can be lessened by having targeted roadside hunts in problem areas. Other actions have been taken in the past to try to reduce moose vehicle collisions including raising driver awareness through better signage, increasing right of way visibility through vegetation clearing, and reducing speed limits. Even with these measures in place, the number of collisions per year remains high. If no action is taken life and property damage will continue to occur at high rates, hunters will continue to loose opportunity, and our wildlife resources will continue to be wasted.

According to recent surveys, population levels (2013: 3,204±650) in Unit 15C are currently at the upper end of management objectives (2,500-3,500) for moose. Should population levels continue to increase moose numbers may soon exceed carrying capacity leading to a population decline as wintering habitat becomes over-browsed.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Hagberg (EG-C14-249)

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| (13) ... Unit 15C, that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay | Aug. 20—Sept. 20 (General Hunt only) | No open season |
| 1 bull with spike antlers or 50-inch antlers or with 4 or more brow tines on one side | Aug. 20—Sept. 20 | Aug. 20-Sept. 20 |
| 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompa- nied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C often holds high moose

densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, a high number of moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2013, 1,218 moose were counted during a population survey in the northern portion of Unit 15C, of which 13.7% were calves (19 calves:100 cows). November 2013 composition counts for the area affected by this hunt provided ratios of 19 bulls:100 cows and 44 calves:100 cows. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 11 years resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows per year. We recommend reauthorization of the antlerless hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-341)

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a nine day, resident archery season in August for Dall sheep in Units 7, 14C and 15 as follows:

Create a new resident hunting season for bow and arrow only for Dall sheep from August 1-9, in Units 7, 14C, & 15, that currently have general sheep hunts by harvest ticket only.

These seasons would be for full curl, broomed both tips or 8+ year old rams only. Twenty years of bowhunting harvest statistics from Unit 14C indicate that only 1.7% of bowhunters are successful at taking full curl rams. IBEP certification would be required (it will be required for all bowhunting after July 2016 anyway).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Overcrowding and limitation of opportunity for hunting Dall sheep. We suggest a method to increase hunting opportunity, spread out participation and reduce crowding with minimal impact on the species.

By creating a new hunt by bow and arrow only before the regular sheep season it would reduce crowding that occurs August 10th at the opening of the general sheep season. Hunters choosing to use bow and arrow would gain an advantage of being first into the mountains. They would be enjoying a higher quality sheep hunting experience because of less crowding. At the same time they would be markedly limiting their chances of actually killing a ram because of the need to get so much closer to their quarry than if using a rifle. There is no biologic reason to wait until August 10th to open sheep season as sheep seasons in Canada open as early as July 15th.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C14-243)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the current harvest management strategy for Kenai Peninsula brown bears, Units 7 and 15 as follows:

This proposal calls for a modification of the current harvest management strategy for Kenai brown bears by: 1) establishing an annual cap on human-caused mortalities (HCMs) of reproductive age female bears (preliminary modeling indicates an annual cap of 12 HCMs of adult female bears) on the Kenai Peninsula; 2) amending current hunting season dates to decrease both the overall number and the proportion of adult female sows in the harvest; and 3) delineating "front country" and "back country" areas of the Kenai Peninsula and applying differential season dates and in-season management using HCM caps for adult female bears in these areas.

Season dates for the "back country" would be October 15 to November 30 and April 1 to April 30. Season dates for the "front country" would be September 1 to November 30 and April 1 to May 31.

Annual caps on human-caused mortalities would be four adult females in the "back country", at which point the hunting season in this area would be administratively closed; and 8 adult females for the front country, at which point the hunting season in this area would be administratively closed.

Proposed modifications of the harvest management strategy for Kenai brown bears involving establishment of HCM caps for adult female bears, in-season management, and delineation of front and back country areas could be accomplished under discretionary authority of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Amendment of season dates would require regulatory change.

Harvest management efforts to reduce negative-human bear interactions would be augmented through expanded educational and enforcement efforts aimed at reducing human-generated attractants in communities and on public lands. Educational efforts to help hunters identify and differentiate adult male and female bears in the field should be initiated. Harvest of brown bears over bait will continue to be disallowed by federal regulation on the Refuge.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue being addressed in this proposal is the impact of recent high levels of human caused-mortality on the Kenai Peninsula brown bear population. The purpose of this proposal is to ensure the long-term conservation of a healthy brown bear population on the Kenai Peninsula in a manner which provides for public interests, protects public safety, and which best meets the missions and legal mandates of the several state and federal agencies with management responsibilities in the region. Recognizing the complexities of managing the free-ranging Kenai brown bear population, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is committed to working toward a strategic and coordinated approach with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Game, other federal agencies and affected publics in meeting these goals.

Beginning with the 2012-13 hunting season, the Alaska Board of Game liberalized hunting regulations for Kenai brown bears. The current regulations allow for a 9-month season (September 1- May 31) with a bag limit of one bear every regulatory year.

In 2013, 70 total known human-caused mortalities of brown bears occurred on the Kenai Peninsula; estimates of unreported mortality generated from radio-collared bears totaled an additional 28 bears. Of known mortalities, 34 (50%) were females, and 24 were adult reproductive-age females. Radio telemetry data suggest that 17% of the adult sows in the Kenai brown bear population were killed by humans in 2013; demographic data (stable age distribution analysis) indicated an 18% decline in the number of adult females in the population due to the 2013 kill (Alaska Department of Fish and Game data).

These levels of mortality, especially of reproductive-age female bears, resulted in an immediate decline in the Kenai brown bear population. Even when considered as a one-time event, modeling indicates this high loss of adult females, in combination with high overall mortality, will continue to impact the population in coming years. The potential for continued high mortality levels under the current harvest management strategy, particularly of adult females, is high and is of concern, as are resulting population level impacts.

The Refuge is considered core brown bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula, and provides for a substantial proportion of the brown bear hunting opportunity in the region. Of the 70 total known 2013 human-caused mortalities, 44 bears were taken during the fall hunt. Of these 44, 31 (70%) were taken on federal lands, including 20 brown bears taken on the Refuge (45% of harvested bears), and 11 bears (25%) taken on Chugach National Forest.

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is legally mandated to conserve all fish, wildlife and habitats on the Refuge in their natural diversity, as well as to provide for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife resources in a manner consistent with meeting its other establishment purposes. Sport hunting of brown bears on the Refuge must be administered in manner compatible with its establishment purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In meeting this mandate, our current goal is to maintain brown bear densities on the Refuge at levels estimated in 2010 (approximately 42 bears per 1000 km², US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service data).

The specific objectives of this proposal are to: 1) manage brown bear harvests and limit overall human-caused mortality of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula to levels which will maintain a healthy and relatively stable brown bear population; 2) provide consistent, long-term opportunities for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of this important wildlife resource; and 3) to the degree possible and consistent with sound conservation practices, increase harvest opportunities proximal to communities as part of an overall strategic approach to decreasing the potential for negative human-bear interactions.

PROPOSED BY: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
(EG-C14-305)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bears. Modify the brown bear harvest management strategy on the Kenai Peninsula, Units 7 and 15, as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| (6) | | |
| Unit 7 | | |
| 1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only | Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only) | Sept. 1 – May 31 |
| (14) | | |
| Unit 15 | | |
| 1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only | Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only) | Sept. 1 – May 31 |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this proposal is to ensure public input on brown bear harvest management strategies on the Kenai Peninsula. ADF&G is proposing two significant changes that do not require change in regulation and can be done under permit conditions. These include managing two portions of the peninsula with different season lengths and different caps on the amount of allowable human cause mortality of adult females.

Management strategies regarding hunting opportunities for Kenai Peninsula brown bears have been controversial for decades. During the 1990’s, conservative regulations were adopted due to concerns for the long term viability of the Kenai Peninsula brown bear population. These actions led to reduced hunting opportunity and coincided with a period of time where reported Defense of Life or Property (DLP) killings of brown bears increased. This was also a period of time when the human population continued to increase on the Kenai. Consequently, the construction of residences and seasonal cabins expanded into areas previously unoccupied by man-made structures as did the human generated food attractants for brown bears.

During recent years, brown bear hunting opportunities have been liberalized. The current regulations allow for a nine month season (September 1 – May 31) and a bag limit of one brown bear per regulatory year (RY, July 1 – June 30). The hunt is administered through a registration permit and the number of permits available is unlimited. The board also stipulated that the three year running average of human caused mortality of brown bears, not exceed 70 total bears based on a calendar year, and the “cap” of 70 bears apply to the entire Kenai Peninsula. During the fall (September 1 – December 31) of the first year of hunting opportunity under these new

regulations, hunters reported killing 43 brown bear, of which 14 were adult females. When spring 2013 harvests and reported non-hunting human caused mortalities are added, we have documentation for 70 human caused brown bear mortalities (including 24 adult females). In 2014, ADF&G informed the board that it will institute an annual total human caused mortality cap of 17 adult female bears given concerned about the rate of total adult female mortality.

Another concern for ADF&G is the number of DLP killings, the majority of which occur near residences. In order to address this concern, ADF&G will continue its' efforts to provide information to the public regarding methods available to minimize bear attractants in residential areas. ADF&G also proposes an alternative harvest strategy in an attempt to focus harvest near human settlements. This strategy involves more conservative regulations in the "back country" (areas away from human settlement) and more liberal regulations in the "front country" (within 5 miles of significant human settlement). This strategy provides a "refugia" approach intended to provide flexibility in reducing bear-human conflicts while ensuring appropriate levels of harvest from the population.

For the "front country" we propose season dates of September 1 – May 31. This area will have a bag limit of one brown bear per regulatory year and be administered using a registration permit system. ADF&G will close this season by emergency order if 12 adult female, human caused mortalities (from all causes) occur during a regulatory year.

For the "back country" ADF&G will close this season by emergency order if five adult female, human caused mortalities (from all causes) occur during a regulatory year.

As now, ADF&G will close the season if human caused mortality exceeds 70 bears on the peninsula. All of these changes can be accomplished under discretionary authority and do not require regulatory change. Given the allocative implications of this management approach, ADF&G is seeking input from the public and direction from the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-331)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs and hides. Lengthen the brown bear season in Units 7 and 15 and remove the meat salvage requirement for brown bear taken over bait as follows:

Bag limit - One bear every regulatory year;

Season - September 1-June 30, and may be taken over black bear bait station (April 15-June 30, no salvage of meat required.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Units 7 and 15 brown bear population explosion. Brown bear predation on moose is not sustainable. Management has been constantly delaying any harvest and doing everything it can to halt any harvest.

Brown bear history on the Kenai has always been a small number and only elevated by ADF&G efforts or mismanagement. History; native kills, miners, homesteaders (the original defense of

life and property) and market hunters hunting hides for profit kept the brown bear numbers down. Moose do need better habitat but don't have much of a chance against wolves all winter and adding brown bear come spring until hibernation.

PROPOSED BY: Robert White (EG-C14-19)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Remove meat salvage requirements for taking brown bear over bait in the Southcentral Region as follows:

Remove all meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait for the Southcentral Region.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear salvage requirements that force hunters to salvage meat that may be inedible. Why force hunters to salvage meat that may not be fit to eat?

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-317)

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Remove meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Southcentral Region.

Align salvage requirements for brown bear with black bear, for bears taken over a bait station for Southcentral.

(This proposal was also submitted for the February 2015 Central/Southwest Region meeting.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Salvage of brown bear meat taken over bait. Remove salvage requirement.

PROPOSED BY: Joel Doner (EG-C14-314)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan north of Kachemak Bay and Fox River, in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River, August 10-February 1, five birds per day, 20 in possession, resident and nonresident. The remainder of Unit 15C, August 10-March 31, ten birds per day, 20 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A significant decline in ptarmigan numbers has occurred in Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay compared to historic levels. This decline appears to be associated with ease of access, increased hunting pressure, and limited habitat. The majority of the access and increased hunting pressure is via snowmobile.

Extensive trails now cover this entire region and human population density has increased significantly. To reduce pressure I suggest shortening the season dates to August 10 - February 1.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Willard (EG-C14-112)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, north of Kachemak Bay and Fox River, as follows:

Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River, August 10-March 31, five birds per day, 20 in possession, resident and nonresident.

The remainder of Unit 15C, August 10 - March 31, ten birds per day, 20 in possession, resident and nonresident.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue is a serious decline in the ptarmigan population in Unit 15C, due to limited habitat and easy access to that habitat.

I propose to lower the daily bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, from the northern boundary with Unit 15B south to Fox River and Kachemak Bay from ten/day to five/day, with possession limits remaining at 20. The habitat that is suitable for these birds within this area consists of only Ptarmigan Head, the Boxcar Hills, and to some degree Bald Mountain. Ptarmigan have not been observed in any numbers for many years on other seemingly suitable habitat areas of Lookout, Epperson, Ohlsen Mountains or the Ninilchik Domes. I believe this is largely due to proximity to large population of hunters enjoying easy access via snogo. We can help the ptarmigan population in Unit 15C by lowering the daily limit, while still providing plenty of hunter opportunity in the area, as well as keeping the larger daily limit in areas that are both flush with birds and involve more difficult access, namely the Kenai Range.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone (EG-C14-239)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits. Shift to an earlier opening date for beaver trapping in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Beaver trapping opens October 20 and closes March 31 in Units 7 and 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current opening date for beaver trapping is currently too late for dependable open water sets. The current season opening date for beaver should begin October 20 rather than November 10. The season also currently runs too late as pelts are coming out of prime and severely rubbed in April and travel on water ways is often becoming unpredictable and dangerous. Trappers will continue to be unable to reliably trap beavers in open water and the season will continue to be open when conditions are more dangerous for trapping. By having an earlier open date, snowmachine trappers who trap only on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Lands and must wait for appropriate snow conditions to

access trapping areas will benefit. Beaver seasons currently open in many other units across the state as early as September 25.

PROPOSED BY: John Dahman (EG12172729)

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Require trap identification in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Adopt the wording on page 21 of the 2013-2014 trapping regulations that dictates trapper ID requirements in Units 1-5. "Trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number, or is set within 50 yards of a sign that lists the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number; if a trapper chooses to place a sign at a snaring site rather than tagging individual snares, the sign must be at least three inches by five inches in size, be clearly visible and have numbers and letters that are at least one-half inch high and one-eighth inch wide in a color that contrasts with the color of the sign."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to the popularity of trapping and increased user conflict as well as the illegal removal of legal traps, a trap identification requirement such as currently exists in Units 1-5 should be adopted for trapper use in Units 7 and 15.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-205)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Establish a trapper identification numbering system for Units 7 and 15 as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game will issue an ID number much like a hunter ID or archery certification number to any trapper requesting one. This would fulfill any trapper ID requirement for trappers who wish to identify their traps, but prefer not to use their name. This would also alleviate the issue of trappers that do not have a current driver's license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A method for trappers to anonymously identify and register traps with ADF&G and law enforcement agencies is needed.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-204)

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Restrict trapping in the Cooper Landing area as follows:

Proposal for Trapping Restrictions in Cooper Landing as enumerated by roads, multi-use trails and campgrounds, and specific special area closures.

Road Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of any roads that lead to public or private property, and the boundaries of all private property, in the Cooper Landing Area, as defined below:

The Cooper Landing Area is defined as public roads that serve as arteries to private properties and public use areas from the Sterling Highway mile 37 to the Sterling Highway mile 55, inclusive.

Multi-Use Trail and Campground Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of specific multi-use trails, their trailheads, and campgrounds, as defined below:

Resurrection Pass Trail (Cooper Landing to Hope)

Lower Russian Lake Trail to Barber Cabin and to Russian River Falls

Crescent Creek Trail (Trailhead at Quartz Creek Road to bridge over Crescent Creek at outlet of Crescent Lake)

Crescent Creek Campground

Russian River Campground

Old Sterling Highway (Quartz Creek Road to Tern Lake)

Quartz Creek Campground

Bean Creek Trail (from Slaughter Ridge Road to where the Bean Creek Trail intersects the Resurrection Pass Trail).

Sunrise East Track Trail that starts 50 feet up Russian Gap Road from where Russian Gap Road intersects the Sterling Highway, to the end of the Sunrise East Track Trail. (Sunrise East Track Trail travels from its intersection with Russian Gap Road, directly behind the Russian Gap Subdivision, and continues easterly for about four miles along the Bench below Russian Gap).

West Juneau Creek Road. This gated Chugach National Forest Service Road starts near the broad parking lot that fronts the Cooper Landing Trailhead for the Resurrection Pass Trail, along the Sterling Highway. It travels north and easterly, on Juneau Creek Bench, for about three miles.

Stetson Creek Trail to the Stetson Creek Falls.

Special Area Closures

1) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. South side of Kenai Lake, from Snug Harbor Road/Sterling Highway intersection, to mile 6.5 of Snug Harbor Road. The area from the north side and west side of Snug Harbor Road on the Cecil Rhode Mountain side – the right hand side of the road when traveling towards Cooper Lake - to Kenai Lake inclusive of the shoreline is closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

2) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. North side of Kenai Lake, from the bridge at Kenai Lake, along the Sterling Highway, to the Sterling Highway/Quartz Creek Road intersection. The area from the south side of the Sterling Highway to Kenai Lake inclusive of the shoreline is closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

3) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. North side of Kenai Lake, from the Quartz Creek/ Sterling Highway intersection, to the end of Williams road. The area from the north side of the above named roads to Kenai Lake inclusive of the shoreline is closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

4) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. North side of Kenai Lake, from the end of Williams Road, heading south east along the shore line of Kenai Lake, will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten), for 2 miles within 250 feet of Kenai Lake.

5) Cooper Landing “Organic Dump/ Old Borough Gravel Pit” Closure. The Cooper Landing Organic Dump, which is located in an old KPB gravel pit located at approximately mile 2.5 of Snug Harbor Road (just prior to where the large power line crosses over Kenai Lake), is closed to trapping (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), 250 feet outside of the perimeter of the old KPB gravel pit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Purpose of our proposal: The community of Cooper Landing is the location of many of the most important, heavily used trailheads and jumping off points into the Chugach National Forest and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge on the Central Kenai Peninsula. It is also the home to a number of populated neighborhoods spread throughout the length and breadth of the community. As such, it is a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds including resident and visiting hikers, bikers, skiers, snowshoe-ers, ski joure-ers, mushers, berry pickers, birders, dog walkers, fishermen, hunters and trappers. Conflicts between trappers and other user groups have led to the formation of a cross-community group we call the “Safe Public Lands Coalition” to put forth the following regulatory proposal.

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure equitable access, during the trapping season, to trails and other areas where the presence of physically dangerous traps and snares endangers pets and small children and discourages other users from accessing these areas. Specifically, worries about trapping hazards in key, multi-use areas around our community severely restricts the ability of bird hunters to hunt with their dogs, of responsible dog owners to safely walk with their dogs even when leashed, of ski joure-ers and mushers to ski and sled with their dogs, and of families with small children to use trails without the worry of injury, as traps may, at present, be legally set in and directly adjacent to these multi-use areas. Beside resident trappers, who typically support the ethical principles of the Alaska Trappers Association and who work to trap in a manner that is cooperative with other user groups, our community sees many trappers arriving from distant communities and setting traps directly along roads, in and along trails, and not checking their sets on a regular basis. The danger created by unethically set traps has prompted the need for this regulatory proposal. Our proposal is aimed at minimizing or ending the risk of injury, mutilation and death to pet animals, notably dogs and puppies, and to small children.

Clearly definable, easily recognizable, coherent, reasonable and not excessive regulations are needed. Our objective is to make these regulations for the Cooper Landing area obvious enough to satisfy the stipulation of being "enforceable" areas. This simply means that a wildlife trooper would recognize that there are boundaries and trappers, pet owners and family groups would

know without uncertainty where all users can go and avoid run ins with set traps. Our concept is to include exceptions for possible small size (to be determined) non-lethal leg hold traps and game management special concerns in specific areas that affect residents of Cooper Landing.

We submit our proposal with the understanding that it is amendable and can be adjusted before the Board of Game meeting to include our concerns and those of trappers and game managers that we may have overlooked. We haven't considered any other options for solving this trapping issue to be realistic, but we have rejected offers to make informal agreements with the Alaska Trappers Association. We believe we need formal arrangements as based on our proposal. Unless we establish our proposal, we see that user conflicts will continue and become more frequent as the dynamics of our rural Cooper Landing community change and a greater number younger people settle and families grow.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Green (EG-C14-252)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Restrict trapping in the Seward and Moose Pass areas as follows:

Proposal for trapping restrictions in Seward and Moose Pass areas as enumerated by roads, multi-use trails and campgrounds, and specific special area closures.

(For the purpose of this proposal, the Seward and Moose Pass area is defined as the corridor from Tern Lake to Tonsina Creek including a portion of the Resurrection River Valley.)

Road Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of any roads (public roads that serve as arteries to private properties and public use areas from the junction of the Seward Highway and the Sterling Highway south to mile zero in Seward) that lead to public or private property, and the boundaries of all private property, in the Seward and Moose Pass areas.

Multi-Use Trail and Campground Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of specific multi-use trails, their trailheads, and campgrounds, as defined below:

- The mile 12/divide ski area
- Tonsina Trail from the Lowell Point State Recreational Site upper parking lot to the southern stream of Tonsina Creek within Caines Head State Recreation Area
- Spruce Creek drainage from the junction with Resurrection Bay upstream for 1/2 mile
- Grouse Lake
- Iditarod trail corridor from Nash Road to Vagt Lake
- Alaska Railroad corridor from Seward to the ARR bridge over Trail Creek
- City of Seward powerline beginning at Grouse Lake to Moose Pass
- Chugach Electric Association powerline beginning at Moose Pass to Tern Lake
- From the north end of Rainforest Circle upstream in unnamed creek for 1/2 mile

Lost Creek Trail
Resurrection River Trail
Mount Alice Trail
From the north end of Spruce Drive upstream in unnamed creek for 1/2 mile
Bear Lake
Lost Lake Trail
Troop Lake Trail
Grayling Lake Trail
Meridian Lake Trail
Primrose Campground
Primrose Trail
Victor Creek Trail
Ptarmigan Campground
Ptarmigan Lake Trail
Trail River Campground
Lower Trail Lake
Upper Trail Lake
Vagt Lake Trail
Grant Lake Trail (Trail to Case Mine)
Grant Lake Portage Trail
Johnson Pass Trail
Carter and Crescent Lakes Trail
Crescent Creek Trail
Tern Lake Day Use Area
Tern Lake

Special Area Closures

1. Herman Leirer Road to NPS Boundary Closure. North side of the Herman Leirer Road to the north edge of the Resurrection River Valley will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).
2. Box Canyon Drainage Closure. Entire drainage as defined as from the bridge on the Herman Leirer Road over Box Canyon Creek upstream for 1.5 miles will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).
3. South of Bear Lake Closure. The area south of the south shore of Bear Lake to the north side of Glacier Creek will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).
4. Afognak Beach (local name) Closure. The shoreline of the northeast corner of Resurrection Bay will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

5. A portion of the Shoreline of Resurrection Bay. The shoreline of Resurrection Bay restricted by the south end of Fourth of July drainage and the north end of the Spring Creek drainage will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

6. Fourth of July Drainage Closure. From the junction of Fourth of July Creek with the shoreline of Resurrection Bay 2 miles upstream will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

7. Head of Resurrection Bay Closure. The area bounded by Nash Road on the north and east to the shoreline of Resurrection Bay on the south, the DOT Seward airport and a portion of the Seward Highway on the west will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

8. A portion of the Shoreline of Kenai Lake. The shoreline of Kenai Lake from the Primrose Campground south, east and then north to Schilter Creek will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Purpose of our proposal: The communities of Seward and Moose Pass enjoy access to many heavily used trailheads of the Chugach National Forest and lands owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska. Enthusiasts of all kinds including resident and visiting hikers, bikers, skiers, snowshoers, skijoreers, mushers, berry pickers, birders, dog walkers, fishermen, hunters and trappers enjoy easy access to the outdoors. Conflicts between trappers and other user groups have led to the formation of a cross-community group we call the “Safe Public Lands Coalition” to put forth the following regulatory proposal.

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure equitable access, during the trapping season, to trails and other areas where the presence of physically dangerous traps and snares endangers pets and small children and discourages other users from accessing these areas. Specifically, worries about trapping hazards in key, multi-use areas around our communities severely restrict the ability of responsible dog owners to safely walk with their dogs even when leashed, of skijoreers and mushers to ski and sled with their dogs, and of families with small children to use trails without the worry of injury or witnessing pets caught in traps, as traps may, at present, be legally set in and directly adjacent to these multi-use areas. The danger created by unethically set traps has prompted the need for this regulatory proposal. Our proposal is aimed at minimizing or ending the risk of injury, mutilation and death to pet animals, notably dogs, and to small children.

Clearly definable, easily recognizable, coherent, reasonable and not excessive regulations are needed. Our objective is to make these regulations for the Seward and Moose Pass areas obvious enough to satisfy the stipulation of being "enforceable" areas. This simply means that a wildlife trooper would recognize that there are boundaries and trappers, pet owners and family groups would know without uncertainty where all users can go and avoid set traps. Our concept is to include exceptions for possible small size (to be determined) non-lethal leg-hold traps and game management special concerns in specific areas that affect residents of Seward and Moose Pass.

We submit our proposal with the understanding that it is amendable and can be adjusted before the Board of Game meeting to include our concerns and those of trappers and game managers that we may have overlooked. We haven't considered any other options for solving this trapping issue to be realistic, but we have rejected offers to make informal agreements with the Alaska Trappers Association. We believe we need formal arrangements as based on our proposal. Unless this proposal is established, we anticipate that user conflicts will continue.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Luttrell (EG-C14-271)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Prohibit the taking of big game from boats in Units 7 and 15 in coastal or estuarine waters, with an exception for persons with disabilities as follows:

The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080: from a boat **in coastal or estuarine waters in Units 7 and 15; however a person with physical disabilities as defined in AS 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Black bear harvest in Unit 15C is at the upper end of sustainable limits and big game, particularly mountain goats and black bear in Units 7 and 15, are being shot at from boats and animals are being wounded and lost.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-206)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Create a management area for Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

(1)The Kachemak Bay Management Area:

(A) the area consists of the land as designated as the Kachemak Bay State Park

(B) the area is open to hunting under regulations governing Unit 15(C), except as follows:

i. Restrictions will be considered under an open public process and submitted to the board to be included in this Special Management Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is a place holder to create a special management area consisting of the statutory boundaries designated as the Kachemak Bay State Park 41.21.131. This proposal creates a special management area to create consistent long range guidance to assist involved agencies in cooperatively managing the area of overlap of their legislative mandated responsibilities within the Kachemak Bay State Park (KBSP) AS 41.21.130-143 and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (KBCHA) AS 16.20.590.

This special management area will be designed to address and promote the significance of this accessible habitat with its wildlife and resources; to uphold the goals and policies pertaining to management, activities, biological considerations and the importance of wildlife in these parks from both management plans of the KBSP and KBCHA and; and for the safety of the tens of thousands of multiple users who visit this Park each year.

Recent surveys by the ADF&G quantified wildlife's economic importance to Alaska and the United States citizens. These surveys produced data to measure direct and indirect spending, jobs, and associated economic activity of wildlife participants who contribute to our economic health. Strong healthy wildlife populations are economic generators to local municipalities and state coffers spent by all citizens who share the wildlife resource. This area has unique essential significance to the State of Alaska requiring management under the guidance and cooperation of a special management area.

PROPOSED BY: Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory Board (EG-C14-289)

Regional & Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Begin resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons in the Southcentral Region as follows:

Sheep hunting dates for all Units in the Southcentral Region:

Residents: August 3-September 20

Nonresidents: August 10-September 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses overcrowding, lack of opportunity, a stressed legal ram population, and a diminished hunting experience for Alaska residents. All of these issues can be addressed by reducing the number of hunters in the field at the same time.

Alaska residents have an approximate success rate of 23%. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska, which is an allocation that no other state would tolerate. Most states allocate a maximum of 10% of the tags to nonresidents, which is less than 10% of the harvested resource.

If sheep seasons started seven days earlier for residents, much of the overcrowding in the field would be eliminated. Air traffic would be spread out over a longer period and many of the residents would be returning from their hunt when the nonresidents were heading out. This will not reduce stress on the sheep population but it will create opportunity for residents and give them a better hunting experience. The Board of Game needs to limit nonresident participation but this will help in the Southcentral Region until we have a statewide meeting in 2016.

The only other solution considered would be to limit nonresident sheep season to 14 days (August 10-August 24) and resident sheep season would be August 10-September 20.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal (EG-C14-261)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Begin resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons in Units 7, 14, and 15 as follows:

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3 to September 20. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10 to September 20. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with nonresidents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides. If this problem is not addressed, Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

An earlier start for residents would have several benefits: Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less, quality rams.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-292)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit nonresident sheep hunting in the Southcentral Region with shorter seasons, drawing permits, or other methods.

Nonresident hunting should be reduced with either shorter season, draw permit only, or some other method which limits their numbers.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident hunters do not have adequate access to sheep hunting opportunities. With the increased pressure from guides and nonresident hunters, chances for a successful hunt for a resident are slim to none. Nonresident hunting should be reduced with either shorter seasons, draw permit only, or some other method which limits their numbers. The guide industry shouldn't suffer, because economic forces will prevail and they will charge more per hunt to ensure an enjoyable Alaskan quality experience.

PROPOSED BY: Keenan Zerkel

(EG-C14-307)

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Allow a maximum of 10% of nonresident sheep hunt participation for the Southcentral Region as follows:

A maximum of 10% (10% is not guaranteed) nonresident participation in all sheep hunts for all of the Southcentral Region. This includes guided general and permit hunts and next of kin hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses overcrowding, lack of opportunity, a stressed legal ram population, and a diminished hunting experience for Alaska residents. All of these issues can be addressed by reducing the number of hunters in the field and that must start by reducing nonresident participation.

Alaska residents have an approximate success rate of 23%. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska, which is an allocation that no other state would tolerate. Most states allocate a maximum of 10% of the tags to nonresidents, which is less than 10% of the harvested resource.

Much of the sheep hunting in the Southcentral Region is regulated by permit hunts and nonresident participation should be reduced to a maximum of 10% (10% is not guaranteed whether guided or next of kin). The 10% number for nonresidents permits should be calculated from the entire the Southcentral Region and not micro managed with each subunit. General hunts should have a maximum of 10% nonresident participation, which would be taken from a five year average of nonresident license applications.

The only other solution considered should be the elimination of nonresidents sheep tags until the Board of Game addresses this issue on a statewide basis and creates a better experience for Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

(EG-C14-259)

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit sheep harvest by nonresidents to 10% of total harvest in Units 7, 14, and 15 as follows:

Nonresident harvest of legal sheep, whether by draw or general harvest tag, will only be 10% of the total harvest. (Empirical data exists to determine the limitation of both draw hunts and general harvest hunts to determine the actual number of tags that should be allowed to ensure that total harvest by nonresidents does not exceed 10%.)

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents and the disparity of success between resident and nonresident hunters. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. 40% of legal rams harvested are by nonresidents. While residents may harvest the other 60%, less than one in four resident hunters are actually successful. Understand that fact--over 75% of resident hunters are unsuccessful every year. Nonresident hunters are significantly more successful than resident hunters because of their guides who can spend tens of thousands of dollars locating rams in the offseason by fixed wing aircraft. Most residents can't afford a plane to locate rams, much less the fuel. The current structure has sheep hunting--with success--becoming a rich man's sport. That's not right and by not limiting nonresident tags (draw and general), the board has created a very sad state of affairs with our sheep population, and especially our population of legal rams.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-295)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit allocation of nonresident sheep permits to 10% in the Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Limit nonresident permit sheep hunts to 10%. Once drawn, one cannot apply again for that specific draw permit (both residents and nonresidents).

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal addresses the lack of preference and opportunity given to residents for sheep hunting draw permits. Residents on average are only 20-25% successful in harvesting a legal ram whereas nonresidents, who harvest > 40% of all the rams annually in the state, are much more successful. A nonresident has an equal chance of being drawn for a permit sheep hunt as does a resident in our state. In most every western state, nonresidents are limited to 5-15% of permits awarded for big game hunting opportunities. Also, many big game permits out of state are "once in a lifetime" hunts, not to be applied for again by either resident or nonresident. This allows for greater opportunity in subsequent years for those not initially drawn.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Ferucci (EG-C14-254)

Note: The board does not have authority to place restrictions on the transportation of hunters.

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 10% sheep harvest for nonresidents in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Allow nonresidents only 10% maximum of harvest. This should include second degree of kindred.

Also restrict the number of drop off hunts that air charters can perform. Stacking hunters is not good for anybody.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is in regards to overcrowding. Residents only harvest about 23% of the total harvest per year, while nonresidents harvest 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska. This is total that is totally out of control. The board needs to follow the Alaska constitution. It is clearly stated that the Alaskan residents come first.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Gossen (EG-C14-270)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

People hunting in Alaska can legally wear whatever they want while pursuing game, including their choice of foot wear and/or any other personal protective equipment that they deem will make their hunt more safe.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game's (board) ban on wearing felt soles while hunting, making wading and rafting while hunting unsafe and dangerous for people. Anyone who has spent much time in the field—or worse, had unexpected “swims”—knows how dangerous our cold waters are and how quickly one could lose their life. Even a quick dunk can be unforgiving and have dire consequences. The difference between wearing felt and wearing rubber or caulked boots is like night and day. Unfortunately, there are no alternatives, regardless of what you are told. If you personally are unaware of this fact, then you have little experience wading rivers or streams and need to better educate yourself on the issue. Safety wise, it is the same as driving without a seat belt, or running a chainsaw without a pair of chaps. Sure you may get by without them, but do you want to get into an accident without your seat belt on? In essence, that's what the board's (and the Board of Fisheries) ban does. The ban states loud and clear that our safety, our lives and that of our children and loved ones, is unimportant.

If you do not lift this ban, people will die, drown and perish while hunting, due to our cold water temperatures. It's as simple as that. While the attempt to thwart the spread of invasive plants and animals is noteworthy, the board's lack of adequate analysis of the scientific data on this subject is both troubling and reckless. Can felt soles transport invasive plants and animals? Unfortunately, yes they can. But please look at the research—which is extremely limited at best. This small amount of research, much which has not been peer reviewed, has indicated that felt soles can spread such invasive species as Didymo (rock snot), possibly whirling disease, and one

New Zealand mudsnail was proven to be transported by a felt boot. One! Research has also proven that these invasive species can be carried and transported to other waters on shoelaces, socks, inside the wading boots themselves, on the wading material itself and even on rubber wading boots. Furthermore, research has also proven invasive species can be transported from one water body to another by boat trailers and through bilge water of boats and float planes traveling to and from different water bodies. Even Darwin wrote many years ago, about migrating waterfowl transporting plants and animals from one water body to another, both internally and externally. Why not ban all of these vectors then?

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-298)

PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

For more accurate data, create a harvest ticket with opportunity of reporting harvest by species for migratory birds to gain information presently limited to ADF&G.

Use the system already in place for other species like deer, moose etc.

If reported electronically:

- Once filed online a certified receipt for your report will be returned by email. This receipt is proof that report has been filed.
- Harvest tickets and registration permits are good for a regulatory year, not a calendar year. For example, a harvest ticket for 2013 would be valid from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.
- If ADF&G does not receive a hunt report, hunters will not be eligible for future hunts. Online reporting allows hunters to determine which reports have filed and which you have not.

If reported by mail:

Hunt reports will come with harvest tickets attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field but must be completed and returned within 15 days of the close of the season even if you did not hunt or did not take an animal. Reports of personal harvest location are confidential.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Electronic online or mail in harvest tickets and reporting required for migratory birds by species.

PROPOSED BY: Sea Ducks Unlimited (EG-C14-235)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in the Southcentral Region as follows:

All hunters pursuing big game with a crossbow in the Southcentral Region must have passed a certification course presented by ADF&G and carry their certification card in the field. This regulation to be effective starting July 2016.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game passed a regulation stating that all hunters hunting with bow and arrow for big game must pass the IBEP certification and carry their certification card while hunting starting in July 2016. The board did not include hunters who hunt with a crossbow in this regulation. There are safety issues involved with use of a crossbow which are unique to crossbows and do not apply to regular archery equipment or firearms. A crossbow is a different implement than bow and arrow but kills in the same fashion with sharp cutting of vital structures rather than shock as with a firearm. Firearms hunters who pick up a crossbow need to learn the limitations of the weapon, acceptable shot angles and target anatomy. In addition they need to learn appropriate follow-up and recovery techniques which may differ significantly from their experience with firearms. Crossbow hunters who wound animals may leave a visible projectile in the animal which can reflect poorly on not only crossbow hunters but also on bowhunters and impact on all hunters. I believe that ALL hunters who use a crossbow for hunting big game in Alaska should be required to pass a crossbow certification course developed and presented by ADF&G and should be required to carry their certification card while hunting big game with crossbow. The course should include a field day in which the student demonstrates knowledge of safe use of the crossbow and a minimum level of shooting proficiency.

Nothing in this should be interpreted to imply that crossbows are the same as archery equipment. the course must be separate from the IBEP certification and taught by instructors knowledgeable in use of crossbows and certified to teach the course. Also, nothing in this proposal should imply that crossbows are acceptable for use in special archery only areas or hunts.

This proposal is to cover all regions open for proposals for consideration by the Board of Game during their 2015 meetings. It is my intention to make the same proposal next year to apply to the Interior and Arctic/Western Region. This proposal is to be effective starting in July 2016 which would align it statewide with the recently passed regulation for bowhunters and would also give ADF&G time to implement the education programs.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-293)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for the Southcentral Region as follows:

Add a new line to 5 AAC 92.080

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(X). Use of a hunting dog after October 31 for the taking of upland game birds in the Southcentral Region.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting dogs being caught in lawful traps, (during trapping season) while they are being used for hunting upland game birds.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-C14-269)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations in the Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Eliminate the requirement to "remove all contaminated soil" from a bear bait site at the conclusion of the baiting season.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At bear bait stations the requirement to remove all soil contaminated by the baiting at the end of the season is an excessive nuisance and is perceived by hunters to be a form of harassment by regulators who may be personally opposed to baiting bear in spite of the fact that bear baiting is a legal and accepted means of hunting bear and is often the only practical means of hunting bear in certain areas. This combined with the requirement to provide accurate GPS locations before a permit is obtained sends a message to hunters that they are potentially subject to prosecution if an enforcement officer comes into the bait site with a trowel and samples some dirt which may have an increased sugar or fat content by lab analysis. From a practical perspective it is virtually impossible to remove all contaminated soil. Anything that is used for bait is biodegradable and will rapidly be removed by organisms from bacteria to bears. Anything not removed will go to fertilize the soil. There is no guidance with what should be done with the "contaminated soil". Alternatives would be to spread it out, carry it any given distance and throw it out, transport it back to town, and take it to a public dump.

Nothing in this discussion should be interpreted as wanting to change the regulation requiring removal of all trash, litter, bait barrels and other artificial structures at the end of the baiting season.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-C14-299)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents for the Southcentral Region as follows:

For the benefit of all Alaska residents change current regulations in all Southcentral units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regard to all hunting opportunities.

For all harvest ticket hunts: Allow state residents to start the hunting seasons five days early or allow state residents to hunt for five additional days after the season has closed for nonresident hunters.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

For drawing hunts: change allocation systems to ensure Alaskan residents have been allocated to receive 75% of any drawing hunt opportunity. If state residents do not use that percentage of the pool, then the unallocated portion may be used by nonresident hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the benefit of all Alaskan residents change current regulations in all Units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regards to all hunting opportunities.

I am hopeful that the board will address the inequalities in resident hunter preference. For many years a significant portion of the large game species has been taken by nonresidents. This is due to several factors, as managers of a state resource, the board should be morally and ethically obligated to ensure that resident hunting opportunities and resident hunting preference are a priority.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Secor

(EG-C14-227)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Southcentral Region Units as follows:

I'd like to see the Board of Game adopt a new allocation schedule for all big game draw permits in the Southcentral Region: 90% to residents and the remainder plus any undersubscribed to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue is allocation of big game draw permits. Currently a nonresident hunter has equal chance in the lottery as resident

meat hunters. Nonresidents, albeit supporting the guide industry, have historically much better success rates no doubt due to the work of their guides. The end result is that more of the real harvest goes to nonresidents, many of whom don't even want the meat; rather than Alaskans who will respect the harvested animal all year long every tasty bite of the way. This is in direct contradiction to our mandate by Alaska's Constitution Article 8 section 3 stating that meat belongs to the residents. Most other states currently allocate only 10% of their draw permits to nonresidents, and guiding is still big business there. A real tragedy to the continuation of hunting tradition will befall us as our kids potentially will lose future opportunities to hunt this great land.

Considered was action to establish a point/preference system like most states to more directly and effectively tackle the issue, but this appears to be a legislative issue and would also take many years to implement. Also considered was a shorter season for nonresidents, but to be fair especially to mountain hunters, an equal number of weather windows should be provided for both. This would also promote mad-dash boating and bush flying, a dangerous and disrespectful practice. If nothing is done about this issue, meat will continue to be mis-allocated, Alaskan youth may see future opportunities lost, and game resources will decline.

Thank you for considering this 90/10 draw permit allocation, Alaskans appreciate it.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone

(EG-C14-240)
