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Board of Game Comments
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Proposal #43: SUPPORT

I support adding the use of snowmachine(s) to the exceptions from unlawful methods of taking game to position and harvest brown bear in Unit 23.

Amend Proposal #43: I request the BOG amends Proposal #43 to include Unit 22. Proposal #43 includes adding both brown bear and furbearers to the list of exceptions from the unlawful methods of taking game (5 AAC 92.080 (4-5)).

This requested amendment to add GMU 22 limits the species to be included in the exceptions to brown bear and wolf for GMU22.

Limiting the species requested to brown bear and wolf be added to the exceptions list is due to the fact that there is likely to be strong concern expressed for possible effects on wolverine management.

Overview: Proposal #43 was submitted by the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee. It is supported by the Northern Seward Peninsula A/C, Kotzebue Sound A/C and the Upper Kobuk A/C, with no opposition of record.

Unit 22 is so similar, as to be almost identical, in that the most common method to hunt brown bear and wolf is by snowmachine during winter and early spring months. In fact, the use of snowmachines for access and hunting bear and wolf is the only practical and overwhelmingly popular method of transport for 7 months of the year. This use of snowmachines coincides with the bulk of the open hunting season for both these species.

The use of snowmachines allows for realistic access to remote areas, better shot placement on individual animals, and minimizes situations for wounding and subsequent loss of an animal. In the case of brown bear in particular, aside from the potential for waste of the resource, in the event of a wounded animal being lost, serious public safety issues can arise.

Support: Virtually all brown bear and wolf hunting during months with snow present are currently hunted with the use of snowmachines already in GMU 22. Adding bear and wolf to the exceptions list would simply clarify and codify this method of hunting.

Conservation: GMU22 has very liberal brown bear and wolf seasons and bag limits already. This amendment only seeks for the BOG to adopt proposal #43 for GMU 23 and add GMU 22 to clarify and codify methods already in widespread use. There would be no increase to the overall harvest of brown bear and wolf due to the adoption of this

proposal.

Summary: Adopting the amended Proposal #43 would not face local opposition and not increase existing harvests, as it simply clarifies the existing main method used to hunt both brown bear and wolf in both GMU 23 and GMU 22 during months with snow present.

Sincerely,
Brian Simpson