
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Agenda Change Requests & Other Topics Webconference

Web Conference | November 17, 2022

Advisory Committee and Public Comment Index

Advisory Committee Comments

Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee AC01

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee AC02

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee AC03

Public Comments

Mike Bethers PC01

Aaron Bloomquist PC02

Einar Hassath PC03

Dave Leonard PC04

Harold Squartsoff PC05

Craig Vanarsdale PC06



REGARDING: ACR for Grizzly bear baiting for entirety of 20D

Dear BOG, here is our written comments from our ACR

The Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee is in support of this ACR to amend 5 AAC 92.044. The reason this was submitted as an ACR is that it could be implemented a year sooner if the Board of Game adopts it, as opposed to waiting for Region 3's normal board cycle.

REBUILDING UNGULATE POPULATIONS: The Delta AC agrees action is needed to help alleviate pressure on the ungulate population of 20D, especially the southern areas that were hit hardest by the winter ice in the snowpack. Surveys for caribou and bison reported the populations to be almost 50% of what they were the year prior. Bison, sheep, and caribou harvests are much lower than the previous year according to our local biologist. Surveys for moose have not been completed yet, but hunters across the landscape reported seeing way fewer animals this fall of 2022. If this was approved for the spring BOG meeting moose survey data will be available by then.

SUPPORTED BY DELTA AREA BIOLOGIST: Our Delta AC is working with our area biologists to make grizzly bear baiting achievable and sustainable while helping out our ungulate population. At the October Delta AC meeting our ADF&G Area Biologist reported that he felt this was a good time to open 20D South to hunting grizzly/brown bears over bait. It was his opinion that the local area has a surplus of grizzly/brown bears.

SUPPORTED BY DELTA AC: The Delta AC is in agreement and is in favor of taking grizzly/brown bears over bait in the entirety of 20D. The Delta AC has written and supported proposals of this nature in the past years.

Time is of the essence. This ACR is a small step focusing specifically on grizzly/brown bears. This ACR as written will simplify the current regulation book and help restore the health of our ungulate populations and get our harvestable surplus back.

Thanks

Delta Junction Advisory Committee



**Fairbanks
Fish & Game Advisory Committee**

**Interior Region
Fish & Game Advisory Committees**

John Siegfried
Chairman
3081 Monteverde Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta Junction	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

November 10, 2022

To: Board of Game

Re: Agenda Change Request Meeting Comments

The Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee met on November 9th, 2022 at our regularly scheduled meeting, and went over the Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) before the board at their upcoming November 17th meeting.

ACRs 1-4, regarding harvest tickets and reports, may not meet the criteria for acceptance, but we believe the issues raised by the proponent in these ACRs are something the Department should look into further and try to correct.

ACR 5, which asks to allow the take of grizzly bears over bait in all of Unit 20D, was supported unanimously based on criteria 3, that there is a threat to meeting objectives of the population.

ACR 12, which asks to limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C to draw permits with an allocation of up to 20 permits, was supported by a vote of 11-1-1, based on criteria 3 & 4, biological concerns for the sheep population and past and current restrictions to the subsistence take of sheep in Unit 19C.

Sincerely,

John Siegfried - Chairman



Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee
November 9, 2022
TCM Restoration

Alaska Board of Game – ACR			
ACR Number	ACR Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
1			
Support	12	0	Support: Harvest Tickets should be available on January 1 st for hunts that calendar year. This avoids any confusion, chances of wrong tags in field, etc.
2			
Oppose	3	8	Support: The requirement of a paper Harvest Ticket in the field is unnecessary and serves little purpose. Mandatory reporting would be required. Oppose: Harvest Ticket is enforcement tool in the field.
3			
Support	7	4	Support: Harvest Ticket is redundant when Locking Tag is required and need to carry both does not service purpose. Oppose: Harvest Ticket is enforcement tool in field. Shows date of harvest.
13			
Support	10	1	Support: Department allocation differed from proposal that Board of Game passed. Intention of proposal was to allow opportunity for Guided and 2 nd Degree of Kindred non-residents but Department’s allocation takes away all opportunity for Guided non-residents in some areas.

10/17/2022



PC01

Kristy Tibbles, Board of Game Executive Director
ADF&G
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Director Tibbles;

Attached is the proposal we discussed earlier. Would you please distribute it to the Board members for their consideration to include it in the Southeast Region Meeting Jan. 24, 2023.

Board Members,

I drafted the attached proposal with assistance from area management game biologists Steve Bethune and Roy Churchwell. The proposal was drafted in a timely manner and worked through the Gastineau Channel Fish and Game Advisory Committee (GCAC) of which I fill a sportfish /hunting/personal use seat.

The GCAC supported the proposal and it was to be submitted to the Department , under my name, with other materials submitted by the GCAC. However, somehow the proposal did not get submitted with the AC submission. I'm asking you to accept this proposal and include it in the Southeast Regional Meeting Jan 20-24, 2023.

The North shore of Tenakee Inlet has served as the southern boundary of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area (NCCUA) for many years and as such as been subject to conservative deer regulations developed for the extensive Hoonah road system in more northern areas of the NCCUA.

Mountains paralleling the north shore of Tenakee Inlet provide a natural drainage divide which separates the northern portions of the NCCUA from areas draining south into Tenakee Inlet. Fish and Game deer tagging data shows minimal movement of deer between northern area of the NCCUA and the areas south of the drainage divide. Thus, harvest in Tenakee would have minimal, if any impact on the northern areas of the NCCUA and vice versa. There are neither road system/high access issues or conservation concerns on the north shore of Tenakee Inlet and this area should be included in standard deer regulations for Unit 4.

Including the north shore of Tenakee Inlet in standard unit 4 deer regulations would provide additional hunting opportunity as during heavy winds, the north shore of Tenakee Inlet is about the only place we can access for hunting.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mike Bethune



ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM | 2022-2023 MEETING CYCLE
PROPOSAL DEADLINE: April 29, 2022

Send completed form to: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov; via fax to (907) 465-6094,
or mail to: PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526.

Proposals can also be submitted online at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS

Game Management Unit (GMU) 4

- Hunting Subsistence
- Trapping Other _____

Does the proposed change affect residents or nonresidents?

- Resident Nonresident

Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?

- Southcentral Region (GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14C & 15)
- Southeast Region (GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5

AAC: 92.540(1)(A)

Regulation Book Page No:

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

Drainages draining into the north shore of Tenakee Inlet are included (unnecessarily) in the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area (NCCUA) and subject to conservative deer hunting regulations designed to address conservation and access issues associated with the extensive Hoonah road system. These regulations apply to non federally qualified deer hunters on the NCCUA. Areas draining into the north shore of Tenakee Inlet should be excluded from the NCCUA it has none of the access/roadside issues of Hoonah and deer harvest in Tenakee has no impact on more northerly areas of the NCCUA.

The NCCUA was established to address conservation and access issues associated with the Hoonah road system which covers the northern and mid sections of the NCCUA. The road system is also connected to the Ak Marine Highways Ferry landing in Hoonah. Tenakee is not attached to the Hoonah road system and has no road issues or conservation concerns for deer.



3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)

Exclude drainages running south into the north shore of Tenakee Inlet from the NCCUA. This area is geographically separated from more northerly areas of the NCCUA by a range of mountains (drainage divide) which runs parallel to the north shore of Tenakee Inlet.

ADF&G deer tagging data shows there is minimal movement of deer between the north shore of Tenakee and areas north of the mountains (drainage divide). Consequently, harvest on the north shore of Tenakee would have no impact on hunting north of the divide, and vice versa. Because of this and the lack of deer conservation issues in Tenakee, the north shore of Tenakee should be excluded from the NCCUA. This would also provide increased hunting opportunity on the north shore of Tenakee Inlet when heavy north or easterly winds prevent crossing the inlet.

Drainages flowing north from the drainage divide would remain in the NCCUA and drainages running south from the divide into Tenakee Inlet would be subject to standard hunting regulations for Unit 4.

Submitted By: Michael Bethers
Individual or Group

Auke Bay, Ak 99821
Address **City, State** **ZIP Code**

Home Phone **Work Phone** **Email**



Submitted by: Aaron Bloomquist

Community of Residence: Palmer, AK

Comment:

I am the author of ACR's 1-4.

#1 should be a no-brainer to put the harvest tickets and locking tags for the current and upcoming regulatory year on the website at the same time, after Jan 1 so people can get their fall harvest tickets and locking tags.

#2&3 are both options for the same problem. It seems that #3 is the preferred option for most people that I have talked to. I would be fine with either.

#4 is probably the ideal system but it may not be technically correct. It follows the intent of the statute, in that it still charges the "tag fees" but it may not follow the letter of the statute because there would not be a physical tag. This is my preferred option but will need a legal opinion.

All of these could be determined to be justified to correct an error in regulation. They also address an unforeseen complication that was not anticipated when the regulations were written. I have heard that they are not an emergency (not necessary for an ACR), but I would argue that they absolutely are an emergency for hunters that get caught with the wrong harvest tickets or even without one 200 miles from the nearest vendor or internet service. The consequences can be very expensive and very stressful.

I also support ACR#13. This one is a classic example of why the ACR system exists. The Department did not follow the proposal passed by the Board and allocated outside of their authority.

I support ACRS 10&11 from the Department (at least I support accepting them to be considered).

I oppose the rest of the ACR's because they do not come close to meeting the Board's ACR criteria.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted by: Einar Hassath

Community of Residence: Wrangell

Comment:

Attached is a proposal for the Southeast Region meeting. I was not aware the deadline was in the spring; I had been told it was late November.

Thank you for your consideration.



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BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS

Game Management Unit (GMU) 1B

- Hunting Subsistence
- Trapping Other _____

Does the proposed change affect residents or nonresidents?

- Resident Nonresident

Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?

- Southcentral Region (GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14C & 15)
- Southeast Region (GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5
AAC:92.085 (8)

Regulation Book Page No:

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

For years, there have been low flying aircraft along the Stikine River prior to and during the moose hunt season. These flights are used for the purpose of spotting moose; they are disruptive to moose and have become a hindrance to hunters on the ground. Aircraft operators often harass moose by circling them multiple times. When a legal moose is spotted the aircraft operator could relay its location to specific hunters on the ground, thus, giving them an unfair advantage over other hunters.



3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)

The enactment of a regulation to restrict the use of aircraft on the Stikine River during the moose hunt season. This regulation would be similar to regulations already in place for Dall Sheep hunting. "...A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season..." The no fly regulations for sheep were put in place "to stop the practice of buzzing sheep to judge them thus affecting other hunters and not being ethical under fair chase". (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov>)

Submitted By: EINAR HAASETH
 Individual or Group

WRANGELL ALASKA 99929
 Address City, State ZIP Code

Home Phone Work Phone Email



Submitted by: Dave Leonard

Community of Residence: Bettles Field, AK

Comment:

My name is Dave Leonard. I'm a longtime guide, as well as resident hunter.

I am representing myself, although I have spoken with other guides as well as resident hunters, whom are in agreement with me, that we all have a common problem with the dwindling sheep numbers. Mostly of which, were caused by icing and poor winter feed conditions. And in some cases, disease.

It is my understanding that Dall Sheep populations and seasons statewide, will be addressed at this upcoming meeting.

Due to the present situation with which we are faced,

I propose the Board of Game, in addition to an already existing regulation, adds language to our statewide sheep regulations,," One Full Curl Ram every 4 Regulatory years for ALL HUNTERS ".

This would include Resident Alaskan hunters.

Non- Resident hunters have been under this regulation quite a few years now.

This measure would keep consistent with current regulations already in place.

With Sheep numbers being in a slump all over the State at this time, there is a need to take an intermediary step before going to a Registration Permit or worse yet, a statewide drawing permit system. This is a problem for all Sheep hunters and we need to work together to do our best to make positive adjustments we can control, since we can't control the trending inclement winter/spring, weather conditions.

I thank the BOG for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully Yours In Good Sound Game Management,

Dave Leonard

Master Guide & Outfitter #81



Submitted by: Harold Squartsoff

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the intent of my proposal #199. I would especially like to thank the Board Chair for the opportunity.

The intended purpose of my proposal 199 is to make available 16 permits, (8 Ouzinkie and 8 Port Lions) to be distributed on a first-come first-served basis to anyone. We did not intend that the permits would be issued to a particular village, just wanted them distributed in those villages.

It was also never my intent to propose a hunt that would restrict eligibility based on residence. We thought we were proposing a hunt similar to the Nelson Island Musk-Ox hunt. RX070 & RX071.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the intent of our proposal.



Submitted by: Craig Vanarsdale

Community of Residence: Soldotna,AK

Comment:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Mr. [REDACTED]'s proposal to close sheep hunting in unit 19C. I thought the Fish and Game department did a great job of putting together a really good presentation for the board and the public on the Oct 19th Dall Sheep Update. There is no scientific data to support that closing the hunt to the harvest of full curl rams is causing the population declines across the state. Lamb survival is cyclical with large weather events and the data supports this in both hunted and non hunted populations. The fact that Mr [REDACTED] was so quick to jump to submitting a closure without even further thought and discussion with Sheep biologists and to jump to the most severe of options is worrisome.

We all love the sheep and want to see them flourish again and I'm confident that in fact they will as the data suggests but making quick irrational decisions is not going to help.

Please oppose this closure or any other considerations to close sheep hunting in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Craig
