

# **Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15**

## **PROPOSAL 86**

### **5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.**

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 caribou drawing hunt DC001, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DC001 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DC001.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-068)  
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## **PROPOSAL 87**

### **5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.**

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15B caribou drawing hunt DC608, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DC608 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DC608.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by no-residents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-069)  
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**PROPOSAL 88**

**5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.**

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C caribou drawing hunt DC618, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DC618 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DC618.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-070)  
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**PROPOSAL 89**

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

Open an early season, archery only moose hunt in Unit 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Unit 7 remainder: One bull with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side by BOW AND ARROW ONLY -HT-

Aug. 22-29

\*open only to certified bowhunters

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

Most other units in Southcentral Alaska have implemented an early season archery only moose hunt. Directly bordering Unit 7, Unit 15 Remainder has an archery only moose season from August 22-29. From review of harvest statistics it appears that these archery hunts have had no adverse impact on the moose population or regular season hunter success rates but have increased hunting opportunity for all Alaska hunters willing to pick up a bow. This proposal would bring the same opportunity to Unit 7 Remainder.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward (OI-F25-205)  
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**PROPOSAL 90**

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

Change the bag limit for the general season moose hunts in Units 7 and 15 to include 10 legal antler points on at least one side, in addition to the current antler restrictions as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

In addition to the 50-inch, spike, or three brow tine restrictions, I propose that if a moose has an antler with 10 legal points total on one side it would be a legal moose to harvest.

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

Hunters often have difficulty discerning a legal moose under the current antler restriction regulations of 50-inch, spike, or three brow tines.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

I have spoken with several different hunters, previous wildlife troopers, and local biologists in these game management units concerning this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Halpin (OI-F25-014)  
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**PROPOSAL 91**

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

Shift the moose hunting season and the motorized vehicle restriction in Unit 15C from September to October as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Just move the moose season to Oct. 1 – Oct. 25 with the dates for restriction number three for Unit 15C also moved to Oct. 16-19 and Oct. 22-25 with the rest of the regulations for the season remaining the same.

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

Move open season for moose from [September 1- September 25] to October 1 to October 25.

Also from restriction number three for Unit 15C change dates for closed to anyone using a motorized vehicle restrictions from [Sept. 16-19 and Sept. 22-25] to October 16-19 and October 22-25.

This would move the open season for moose after the start of the rut. This would allow the dominant bulls to breed some of the cows before the season opens without any hunting pressure. That would pass on the best bulls’ genes which would improve the herd. The October season would also be cooler and most of the leaves would drop from the trees. This would increase visibility which would make identification of legal bulls easier which should minimize the shooting of illegal bulls. The cooler weather would also help with preserving and processing of the meat.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was developed from conversations with other hunters. Some expressed concerns about shooting bulls during the rut and the effect on the meat. My answer to that is that many of the bulls are currently shot during the rut and that problem may be more a result of how the meat is treated in the field and in the processing. Also, I attended two meetings of the Central Peninsula Advisory Committee. I was asked to give an overview of this proposal and answered some questions. After the presentation I was told to submit the proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Arnold Mason (OI-F25-016)  
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## **PROPOSAL 92**

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

Shift the moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B, from August 20–September 20 to September 1-25 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Change 5 AAC 85.045 (13) (A) Kalgin Island section to read: (bold text is changed language)

Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island

(Bag limit:) One moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only

(Season:) Residents and Nonresidents : **SEPTEMBER 1-25** [August 20- Sept. 20]

Explained in text, move the season forward on Kalgin Island to new dates of September 1- 25. This mirrors the season dates on the east side of the Inlet in the rest of Unit 15. The Board of Game made an identical change in 2015 via Proposal 157 with the same reasoning for the general bull season in Unit 15. Although weather has always been inconducive in August for moose hunting on Kalgin, now that due to board action the Island is part of Unit 15B, it is even more apparent that the season should shift forward and mirror the general season in the rest of Unit 15. It will tidy up the regulation book and ease enforcement questions. Cooler weather in September will greatly help bringing down the temperature of the hanging meat. The fly problem will lessen some, as it is beginning to frost at night in September. It will perhaps give those Kalgin hunters a bit of time to relax in camp, eating steak and enjoying the camp life, as they are investing significant personal gas or air/water taxi cost to get there. It is doubtful there is a risk to the herd of overharvest by allowing hunters later in September, because Kalgin is consistently over the population objective (latest population survey 11/29/2024 counted 103 moose, and 107 Registration permits were issued) and consistently under the harvest objective with a five-year average of 22 moose taken annually in this hunt. ADF&G has been trying to reduce this herd for years.

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

At issue are the poor conditions for meat care during the RM572 moose season on Kalgin Island, Unit 15B. Current season dates are August 20 - September 20. During the first half of this season, temperatures are routinely in the 60's or even higher. Rain has returned in force by then as well. These meteorological conditions of high heat and high humidity, coupled with the abundant blowfly numbers, create an extremely difficult, time and resource-consuming, and high-stress environment in which to properly care for 600 plus pounds of hanging moose meat. Hunters on Kalgin Island will also need time to transport by airplane or boat, then on the road system before they can get their meat to a controlled environment where it can be safely hung to age and subsequently butchered. Having an open season in August is, we believe, unethical. If nothing is done to correct this, much delicious wild meat will continue to be lost to heavy trimming or even outright spoilage.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal, conceived from comments by local hunters, was developed by the Homer Advisory Committee with input from ADF&G.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-043)  
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**PROPOSAL 93**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C moose drawing hunt DM549, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM549 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DM549.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-133)  
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**PROPOSAL 94**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 moose drawing hunt DM210, to “up to” TO 10% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM210 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DM210.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and nonguided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-120)  
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**PROPOSAL 95**

**5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows:		
...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
...		

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island’s carrying capacity and deteriorated habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to meet or exceed the management objective. Antlerless hunts, such as RM572, provide opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat at this time.

During the most recent moose survey (November 2024), department staff counted 103 moose on Kalgin Island. This count is larger than the population objective of 20–40 moose. In the last five years, an average of 109 permits were issued for this hunt, of which 78 permittees hunted, yielding an average annual harvest of 25 moose. Harvest tracks hunter effort, and although effort and harvest have declined in recent years, success rate has remained high with a 5-year average of 32%.

The any moose registration hunt is recommended to provide additional harvest opportunity on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will make over-harvest unlikely.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-034)  
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**PROPOSAL 96**

**5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer bench (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550).

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows:

...

Unit 15(C), that portion



from the mouth of Deep Creek easterly along the south bank of Deep Creek to N 59° 55.183', W 151° 8.155'; then southeasterly in a straight line to the unnamed creek at N 59° 54.342', W 151° 6.459'; and easterly down the south bank of this stream to Caribou Lake and easterly along the south shore to the outlet of Fox Creek, then south along the west bank of Fox Creek to the mouth of Fox Creek, and along the mean high tide line to the point of origin

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

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 in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

...

1 moose by targeted permit only;

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

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 in combination with the resident drawing hunt

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

...

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose by targeted permit only

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

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

Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) recommends reauthorization of the Homer bench hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2026-27 hunting season.

In February 2023, a Geospatial Population Estimate (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 5,162 moose (95% CI: range 3,934–6,390), of which 22% (95% CI: 17–27) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately 4.4 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> in the census area and indicates the population has continued to grow since 2010. However, the spatial distribution of moose during winter is heavily skewed away from elevations > 1000 feet in Unit 15C. This creates high variance of moose abundance in grid cells and removal of a single high density grid cell from the GSPE census reduces the population estimate to 4,486 moose (95% CI: range 5,391–3581), of which 22% (95% CI: 14–28) were calves. Despite this variability in moose distribution influencing precision of GSPE censuses, the population appears to be at or above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective. Fall 2024 composition counts in core count areas provided a bull ratio of 30 bulls:100 cows. Antlerless hunts, such as DM549 and AM550, provide opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat at this time.

The lowlands in Unit 15C, south of Deep Creek and Caribou Lake, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contain high densities of moose when deep snow drives moose to lower elevations. The human population continues to grow in these areas, having doubled in size since the 1980s according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. In 2023, the hunt area was expanded to reduce hunter conflicts with private property owners. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans that occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around residences. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 25 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters to reduce moose and vehicle collisions. On average, 65 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The department will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. Targeted hunts are administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-035)  
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**PROPOSAL 97**

**5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.**

Eliminate the restriction on motorized vehicles for hunting moose in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Remove the restriction on motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area (Unit 15C). This change will ensure fair access for hunters, align with current moose population data, and improve regulatory clarity while maintaining responsible land use practices. Additionally, it will support conservation efforts by allowing for better-managed hunting practices that align with ecological sustainability and wildlife management goals.

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

The current regulation prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles (except aircraft and boats) for moose hunting in Unit 15C of the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area during specific dates in September is outdated, ineffective, and unnecessarily restrictive. The rule negatively impacts hunters by restricting access and contains unclear wording. Additionally, it does not effectively serve its intended purpose of protecting critical habitat.

- High Moose Populations: Surveys indicate that the moose population is either stable or increasing, suggesting that current restrictions may no longer be necessary. Including specific population data would further support this conclusion.
- Restricted Hunter Access: The prohibition makes it difficult for hunters, especially those with physical limitations, to access hunting areas and transport harvested moose.
- Ineffectiveness in Protecting Habitat: The seasonal restriction does not significantly contribute to habitat protection, as motorized use occurs outside the restricted dates.
- Unclear Wording: The regulation’s language regarding permitted roads is confusing and creates enforcement challenges.
- Easing of Administrative and Regulatory Burdens: Removing this rule will simplify enforcement and regulatory oversight, reducing the administrative burden on wildlife officials and eliminating confusion for hunters.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Yes, this proposal was written after a community comment forum with local hunters and wildlife stakeholders.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joshua Volland (OI-F25-007)  
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## **PROPOSAL 98**

### **5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.**

Clarify the types of roads motorized vehicles are allowed to drive within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area of Unit 15C during the moose season, and exclude the south side of Kachemak Bay as follows:

#### **What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Change the wording in the AAC as follows to reflect improved language regarding roads, and the exclusion of the south side Kachemak Bay communities.

5 AAC 92.540

(4) Unit 15

(B) The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C) **north of Kachemak Bay, Kachemak Creek, Bradley River, and Bradley Lake;**

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except an aircraft or boat for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose from September 16 through September 19 and September 22 through September 25; however this provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on **platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads** [A HIGHWAY MAINTAINED BY THE STATE OR BOROUGH OR ON THE GRAVEL PORTIONS OF OILWELL, BRODY, AND TUSTUMENA LAKE ROADS] or a driveway used for direct access to a primary residence or business.

(iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a moose hunter who travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt moose, including transporting moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose, or in any other manner initiate or participate in moose hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal moose hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system.

#### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

The current wording for the motorized vehicle closure in Unit 15C during moose hunting season is unclear and does not take into consideration the development of new roads over time. The wording is difficult for hunters to interpret and causes confusion with enforcement. In recent years, hunters have been cited while trying to act within the intentions of the regulation. Wording for the regulation needs to take into account the development of new roads, so that continued rewriting is not needed as development continues on the Peninsula. Additionally, this regulation was never intended to be applied to the south side of Kachemak Bay in the communities of Seldovia, Nanwalek, or Port Graham but as written currently applies in these communities as well, and were it to be enforced as written, restricts access for the Tier II subsistence moose hunt in Unit 15C.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was developed by the Homer AC in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and members of the communities of Homer and Seldovia. Two public meetings focused on this topic were held in Homer and one in Seldovia to receive input from the local communities. All were popular and filled the rooms, indicating great public interest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-046)  
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**PROPOSAL 99**

**5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.**

Allow motorized vehicles to hunt moose in the area south of Kachemak Bay and south of Fox River within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. “(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C); (ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except and aircraft or boat for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose from September 16 through September 19 and September 22 through September 25; however this provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on a highway maintained by the state or borough or on the gravel portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake Roads or a driveway used for direct access to a primary residence or business, and the area south of Kachemak Bay and south of Fox River. (iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a hunter who travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt moose, including transporting moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose, or in any other manner initiate or participate in moose hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal moose hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system”

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

This regulation has been in effect for many years without many who live on the south side of Kachemak Bay knowing. It has always been common practice to drive a vehicle or ATV to where you start your hunt. This proposal removes the south side of Kachemak Bay from this regulation and allows the communities to continue to harvest as they have for centuries.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

The local advisory committee agreed upon and put this proposal together. The AC worked with a local ADF&G wildlife biologist to learn more about the issue and develop the proposed wording.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seldovia Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-169)  
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## **PROPOSAL 100**

### **5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.**

Adjust the Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C to exclude the south side of Kachmak Bay. Additionally, clarify the types of roads motorized vehicles are allowed to be utilized during the moose season; restrict the use of motorized vehicles for all big game hunting; and restrict the use of aircraft to spot game as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

...

(4) Unit 15

...

(B) The lower Kenai Controlled Use Area

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C) **north of Kachemak Bay, Kachemak Creek, Bradley River, and Bradley Lake;**

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except a boat for **big game** hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of **big game** from September 16 through September 19 and September 22 through September 25; **an aircraft may not be used to spot game in this area during the period,** however this provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on **platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads.**

(iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a **big game** hunter who travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt, including transporting hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of **big game**, or in any other manner initiate or participate in **big game** hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal **big game** hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system.

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

The current regulations for the non motorized dates of moose hunting in Unit 15C of September 16-19 and September 22-25 has several areas that are being exploited. Hunters are utilizing the excuse of bear hunting during these periods to travel in this area during the non motorized period. I believe restricting the use of motorized vehicles for all big game hunting during this period would make it easier for the enforcement of the regulation. Another aspect of this period is the use of aircraft to spot moose during the closure. On several occasions I have had aircraft circle over an area I was hunting during this period. The language to include no aircraft may be used to spot or locate big game in the lower Kenai Controlled Use Area during this period would help truly make it a non motorized hunt that the regulation intends to achieve. The new language proposed by the

Homer AC defining roads and removing the south side of Kachemak Bay are also a great improvement to this regulation.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was developed in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and members of the communities of Homer and Seldovia. Two public meetings focused on this topic were held in Homer and one in Seldovia to receive input from the local communities. The Homer Advisory Committee did not fully support this proposal, instead they adopted a version only better defining the roads and removing the restrictions from the south side of Kachemak Bay.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Miotke (OI-F25-061)  
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**PROPOSAL 101**

**5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.**

Allow motorized vehicles to hunt moose in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

No restrictions on motor vehicle use, other than those already adopted for all other hunting activities. This includes both public and private land.

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

I would like to see the restriction on the use of motorized vehicles during the last two weeks of moose season lifted. I have not found any such restrictions in any other part of the state. It basically closes off access to land for most people. It definitely closes hunting for the older hunters or those who can't walk far during the best part of the season. Not even landowners or those with access to private ground can drive a motor vehicle or atv as transport so packing an animal out very far from a legal jump off point restricts, severely, the options available for going afield for moose. Again the disabled and aged can't go out to hunt because they can't retrieve the animal if they were successful.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

I have talked to numerous individuals with some hunting public ground and some on private ground. I've talked to wildlife troopers also and none, so far, can explain this restriction especially on private lands. No one seems to know why this was ever put in place or why it restricts such access on the last two weeks of the season, arguably the best time to get out.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Bumbalough (OI-F25-026)  
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**PROPOSAL 102**

**5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.**

Remove the motorized vehicle restriction for hunting moose within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

I want to recommend that this restriction be removed in its entirety. Having hunted this area for several years I have observed that this restriction is no longer useful.

The new regulation would remain the same except for the removal of the non-motorized restriction language.

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

I would like to address the non-motorized restrictions in Unit 15 that occur during two separate periods during the last two weeks of moose season.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Mathis (OI-F25-013)  
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**PROPOSAL 103**

**5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.**

Allow the use of motorized vehicles to hunt moose on the weekends only, after the first week of the season within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area - Unit 15C is closed to anyone using motorized vehicle (except an aircraft or boat)for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their gear, and/ or parts of moose, **after the first week in September after moose hunting is opened. Motorized vehicle usage will not be allowed during the weekdays, motorized vehicle will be allowed on the weekends (Saturday & Sunday) through the open moose hunting season.** However, this does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on state or borough maintained highway or on graveled portions of Oil well, Brody and Tustumena Lake roads, or driveways used for direct access to primary residence or business.

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

The proposal I would like to submit is - that after the first week that moose hunting is open to the general hunt, to restrict the use of motorized vehicle, in Unit 15C to just weekend travel. Motorized vehicle usage to Saturday and Sunday only.



This proposal will give hunters the opportunity to get into the hunting area and establish their camps during the first week of hunting, and would afford the hunters time to hunt, and then on Saturday and Sunday to transport any meat that was harvested during the hunt.

There has been studies on the the damage to the terrain in Unit 15c (which is the head waters too many salmon streams). If we do not become proactive, about limiting the amount of motorized vehicle damage to the environment it could be possible that we lose access to this hunting area.

We have some game cameras and we see motorized vehicle all day, and throughout the night, even during times that it is closed to motorized vehicle.

This would also give hunters, quiet time.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Arn Johnson (OI-F25-148)  
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**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.**

Allow the use motorized vehicles for moose hunting from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. during September 16-19 and 22-25, in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Unit 15C is closed to motorized vehicles (except for aircraft or boat) for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of moose, from September 16-19 and 22-25. However this does not apply to the use of motorized vehicles in the night hours of 10 p.m. - 5 a.m. or use on borough maintained highway or gravel portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena lake roads or driveways uses for direct access to primary residence or business.

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

I'd like to address the motorized vehicle closure days for moose hunting in Unit 15C.

My proposal is, make it legal or allowable to use motorized vehicles from the hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on the days of September 16-19 and 22-25.

It will give the hunters that don't have a safe/permanent camp, access at night to their hunting areas. (Without disturbing those that choose to stay in camp for the full four days.)

Those that decide to stay at their permanent camps will have the luxury of transporting their meat back to camp from the kill site on those night hours.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

I talked to local hunters that agreed to this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Basargin (OI-F25-012)

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**PROPOSAL 105**

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

Close Dall sheep hunting on the Kenai Peninsula in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

5 AAC 85.055 should be amended so as to delete those parts of 5 AAC 85.055 which provide for any hunting of Dall Sheep in Units 7 and 15.

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

The hunting of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula should be closed so that a sustainable population of Dall Sheep will be preserved on the Kenai Peninsula for future generations of Alaskans who wish to view these magnificent animals on the Kenai Peninsula. Department comments provided to the Board in 2023 indicated that the average harvest of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula, including Federal subsistence harvest, was six sheep per year and that the Round Mountain and Crescent Lake areas had not been open to harvest in recent years because of lack of legal rams. Department comments also indicated that the population of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula had declined by 80% since the 1960's. Nevertheless, the Department authorized continued hunting of the remnant populations of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula justifying its recommendation on the theory that hunting regulated by full curl management negated any concerns that hunting and harvest might negatively impact sheep population levels. The Department's theory is only a theory and it has not worked to restore the populations of these animals. It is time to try something new, namely no hunting or harvest. Hunters disturb these animals by hunting them. Hunters take the largest and strongest rams from the population. Dall Sheep hunting is trophy hunting, and many more Alaskans treasure these animals for viewing than Alaskans who harvest these animals on the Kenai Peninsula.

When and only if the populations of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula recover to numbers similar to those seen historically, hunting could be authorized at future Board meetings. It's time to see if the elimination of hunting will have a positive effect.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-055)

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## **PROPOSAL 106**

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

Change the general season sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to registration hunts with hunt areas set by ADF&G as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

#### **5 AAC 85.055**

...

(4)

Remainder of Unit 7 and Unit 15

Resident Hunters:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **per lifetime of a hunter**, by youth hunt **registration permit**; Aug. 1-Aug. 5

or

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **by registration permit only**; Aug. 10-Sept. 20

Nonresident Hunters:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **per lifetime of a hunter**, by youth hunt registration permit; Aug. 1-Aug. 5

or

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years, **by registration permit only** Aug. 10-Sept. 20

**With registration permit boundaries to be set by ADF&G**

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

Given the significant decline in the Kenai population of sheep, I believe it is critical to transition from a general harvest ticket hunt to a registration hunt system to better manage and protect the remaining animals. Historically, the maximum sheep count peaked at 2,191 in 1968; however, today the count has plummeted to just 351. Harvest data reflects this troubling trend: the average annual harvest has decreased from 31 sheep between 1985–2004, to 12 sheep from 2005–2014, and now only 7 sheep from 2015–2024. Despite increasingly restrictive regulations — evolving from a  $\frac{3}{4}$  curl ram in 1960 to a full curl ram by 1989 — the population has continued to decline. Given these alarming numbers and the clear trajectory of population loss, a registration hunt structure would allow for tighter, more responsive management practices by allowing managers to close certain sub districts/subpopulations with low abundance, ensuring harvest levels are sustainable and aligned with conservation goals to better manage this population.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was developed with information ADF&G staff provided to the Homer Advisory Committee. The AC had other proposals that were being worked on and this did not make it on the agenda. I still think this is an important issue and should be considered by the board.

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Mitke (OI-F25-166)  
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**PROPOSAL 107**

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

Change the Dall sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to drawing hunts with season dates of August 10-September 20 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Change Unit 7 and 15 to a draw only hunt unitwide for Dall sheep due to decades long declines with a season from August 10-September 20 until a unit wide survey and information and planning can be provided on the rehabilitation efforts from the recent forest fire and 1970 ADF&G Sheep cull.

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

Dall Sheep in Units 7 and 15 have some of the steepest declines in the Country. I ask the board to decrease hunting opportunities, request a region wide survey and get information on the effects of the 1970 ADF&G sheep culling that effectively removed large portions of sheep from several mountains and permanently changed the way sheep are surveyed on the Kenai.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin (OI-F25-162)  
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**PROPOSAL 108**

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

Change all or some of the general season sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to archery only hunts as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Unit 7 Remainder: **One ram** with full-curl horn or larger by **Bow and Arrow** \*only

**AND/OR**

Unit 15\* Remainder: **One ram** with full-curl horn or larger by **Bow and Arrow\*** only

\*This could also be done for any particular subunit of Unit 15

\*Certified Bowhunters only

### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

For many years the general season Unit 7 and 15 Remainder sheep harvest was around 20 rams per year but due to permanent and ever worsening habitat changes, the harvest, particularly in Unit 7 has been in the very low single digits. The Kenai sheep population is obviously in decline. Accordingly, hunter interest has generally dropped off as well with few hunters going into the Kenai Mountains each year because they know the chance of finding a legal ram there is quite low especially considering that some of the areas are relatively close to population centers and that rams will often be killed shortly after reaching legal status. Throughout the state various management strategies have been implemented when populations are in decline. In Unit 14 to the north, almost all sheep hunting has been reduced to draw permit only. In Unit 19C we've seen an array of closures proposed and passed in recent years. Sadly, it appears that more such regulation might be on the horizon for other parts of the state and the Kenai sheep population is likely to be one of those areas.

This proposal offers a novel strategy that could both revitalize interest in hunting these areas, maintaining the same hunter opportunity we have now while further reducing actual harvest through the utilization of a weapons restricted hunt. There is strong precedent for this in British Columbia and Alberta where registration/OTC archery only sheep hunts have proven very popular and sustainable. There is a growing interest in the challenge of archery hunting for sheep and I believe strongly that transitioning the sheep hunting in Units 7 and 15 remainder HT hunts to archery only there will be a revival in sheep hunting interest in these areas. After a few years of this management style it's likely that some mature rams who would not have survived a rifle season will grow older and larger, thereby even further increasing the interest and opportunity in this area.

There is essentially no downside to this proposal for sheep hunters because, unlike a draw hunt or a closure, everyone can still hunt every season. They just have to accept a little more challenge in the actual stalk once a legal ram is found (and it's likely that after a few years of this strategy there will be more legal rams on that landscape!)

Those who may claim that this hunt caters to a special interest group of bowhunters are simply wrong. Essentially any person physically capable of sheep hunting can easily learn to shoot a modern bow in just a little more time than it takes to become proficient with a hunting rifle. (For those with medical issues that prevent use of archery equipment the ADF&G regulations already contains provisions allowing them to hunt with alternative means.) No one would be excluded from this hunt and I believe ultimately it will garner attention from around the world as a place to pursue mature rams with archery equipment.

With an already greatly waning interest in hunting this area (single digit hunters have pursued the HT remainder hunt in Unit 15 remainder in recent years and the numbers hunting in Unit 7 remainder has decreased from well over a hundred 20 years ago to the 20's or 30's per year now) creating an exciting new hunt that fosters more mature ram and the challenge of a fair chase archery hunt could revitalize interest in the area during a time when sheep hunting is generally in decline while at the same time reducing the actual harvest. This is a win-win for everyone, especially the sheep.

Based on current surveys, Board of Game discretion and ADF&G input this could be implemented for all of the Units 7 and 15 remainder HT areas or it could be targeted at just one unit or subunit as a proof of concept.

**In short, we should change all or some of the harvest ticket hunts in Units 7 and 15 to archery only to increase opportunity/enthusiasm while simultaneously decreasing actual harvest/population impact.**

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward (OI-F25-211)  
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**PROPOSAL 109**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the DS150 sheep drawing hunt in Units 7 and 15A. to to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DS150 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DS150.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-134)  
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**PROPOSAL 110**

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

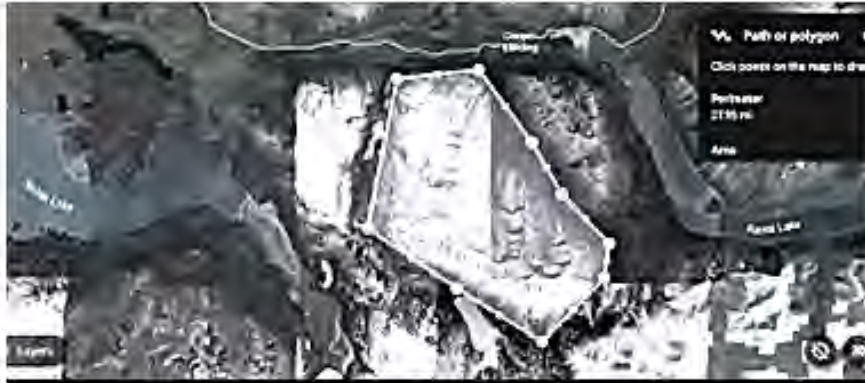
Open a drawing permit hunt for goat in an area of Unit 7, east of the Russian River, south of Kenai River and West of Copper River as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

I would like to see an additional goat tag for the mountains east of the Russian River, south of the Kenai River, west of Cooper River.

One goat by permit, Aug. 10 – Oct. 15th.

Map shown below for mountain goats.



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

There is a population of goats within this mountain range that has no tag. I would like to see a draw tag for one goat for this area.

One goat by permit, Aug. 10–Oct, 15th.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

(HQ-F25-004)

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**PROPOSAL 111**

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

Create a new registration, archery only hunt for goat in Unit 7 Remainder as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Create a new registration hunt for mountain goat by bow and arrow only in Unit 7, Remainder as follows:

Hunt Number: RGXXX

Season Dates: August 16 - 31

Hunt Type: Registration

Species: Mountain Goat

Legal Animal: Either sex, taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; however, if you harvest a nanny you will be prohibited from taking a goat in Units 7 and 15 for five regulatory years.

Open to: Residents and Nonresidents by bow and arrow only

Quota to be set based on latest population data and extrapolated to comparable local draw areas.

Sealing would be required at the local ADF&G office.

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

Allowing a short, early archery season for mountain goats would afford more hunting opportunity while at the same time limiting harvest. The nature of this being a registration hunt would alleviate any conservation concern as the department would be fully monitoring the take. The early Lake George goat hunt is a great example of an added opportunity limited to archery equipment.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Combined Board of the Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association (OI-F25-203)

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**PROPOSAL 112**

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

Create a registration archery only hunt for goat in Units 7 and 15, prior to general registration hunts as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

RG\*\*\* 1 goat by Bow and Arrow only, by permit available in Anchorage, Palmer or online

October 25-October 31 may be announced



Alternative date could be November 1-7 which would shift the general registration hunts to November 8-15.

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

I would like to see the Board of Game increase archery goat hunting opportunity by allowing for an archery registration hunt prior to the general registration hunt in situations where registration hunts following the draw hunts are deemed appropriate.

It’s my understanding that if the harvest numbers in DG331-352, DG364, DG365 and DG352-363 are low enough in a given hunt area, corresponding RG hunt(s) will be opened. The DG hunts have an open season from August 10 through October 15 and the RG hunts, if opened, start November 1. The 15 day window between the DG and RG hunts likely allows ADF&G to receive hunt reports (10 day reporting requirement if successful).

This proposal supports creating a short archery-only registration goat hunt between the closure of the DG and the opening of any RG hunts that are deemed appropriate. This could be any time window that ADF&G feels is appropriate but November 1-7 might be a good option that would essentially split the existing registration hunt. Another option, if feasible would be to have it from October 25th until November 1.

Either way, this is similar to how the registration archery hunts in unit 14 precede the registration general hunt. This proposal would follow that precedent by increasing hunter opportunity. At the same time, based on very low archery success rates in existing registration hunts, these archery hunts are very unlikely to have any meaningful impact on goat populations or on the hunting opportunity of the following general season hunt.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward (OI-F25-210)  
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**PROPOSAL 113**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG332, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG332 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG332.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-088)  
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**PROPOSAL 114**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG334 to UP TO 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG334 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG334.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-089)  
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**PROPOSAL 115**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG338, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG338 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG338.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-090)  
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**PROPOSAL 116**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG339, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG339 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG339.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-091)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 117**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG342 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG342 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG342.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-092)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 118**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG343 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG343 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least give permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG343.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-093)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 119**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG344 to “up to”20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG344 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG344.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-094)  
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**PROPOSAL 120**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG345 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG345 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG345.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-095)  
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**PROPOSAL 121**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG346 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG346 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG346.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-096)  
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**PROPOSAL 122**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG347 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG347 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG347.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-097)  
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**PROPOSAL 123**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG351 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG351 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG351.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-098)  
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**PROPOSAL 124**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG352 to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG352 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG352.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-099)  
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**PROPOSAL 125**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG354, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG354 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG354.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-111)  
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**PROPOSAL 126**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG356, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG356 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG356.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-112)  
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**PROPOSAL 127**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG357, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG357 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG357.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-113)  
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**PROPOSAL 128**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG358, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG358 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG358.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-114)  
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**PROPOSAL 129**

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG359, to "up to" 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG359 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG359.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by no-residents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-115)  
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**PROPOSAL 130**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG360, to “up to”20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG360 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG360.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-116)  
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**PROPOSAL 131**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG361, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG361 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG361.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-117)  
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**PROPOSAL 132**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG362, to “up to”20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG362 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG362.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-118)  
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**PROPOSAL 133**

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG363, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG363 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG363.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-119)  
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**PROPOSAL 134**

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

Shorten the resident hunting season, reduce the bag limit from three to one, and require registration permits for hunting black bear in a portion of Units 7 and 15. Additionally, close the nonresident season as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

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

(a) In this section, the phrase "General hunt only" means that there is a general hunt for residents, but no subsistence hunt, during the relevant open season. For those units or portions of units within non-subsistence areas established by the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game (5 AAC 99.015), there is a general hunt only. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear are as follows:

Units and Bag Limits

Resident

Open Season

(Subsistence and

General Hunts)

Nonresident

Open Season

(3) Unit 7, that portion south of the city limits of Seward at 60° 04' 58" N. lat., and Unit 15, that portion south of Kachemak Creek, Bradley River, and Bradley

**RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued**

**Sept. 1 - June 30** [3 bears No closed season.]

(General Hunt Only) **NONRESIDENT HUNTER: No open season** [1 bear No closed season.]

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

Nonresident and some resident hunters have been coming from outside of the Unit 15C south of Kachemak Bay area, trespassing on private land, Native Allotment land, and Village Corporation land to hunt for black bears. An excessive amount of black bears are taken every year by nonresidents and residents that live outside of the area. There is an adequate black bear population to hunt in the Kenai Peninsula in Units 15 and 7 outside of hunt in Unit 15C south of Bradley River, Bradley Lake, and Kachemak Creek. The hunt should be reserved for residents only, and the hunt should be reduced to one bear every regulatory year by permit. Resident hunters usually harvest one bear a year and see that as an adequate hunt, and the proposal will reflect that.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was developed with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC).

**PROPOSED BY:** Quentin McMullen (OI-F25-154)

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**PROPOSAL 135**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

**Board of Game Finding #2015-211-BOG: Recommendation to ADF&G Provided during the Southcentral Region meeting.**

Change the 2015 Board of Game findings to manage the mortality cap in Units 7 and 15 from a calendar year to a regulatory year or split the mortality cap into spring and fall caps as follows.



**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

**Change the RB300 brown bear registration hunt to a regulatory year framework.**

The 2015-211-BOG Finding (below) directs the Department to manage the RB300 brown bear hunt and mortality caps on a calendar year framework. With the extension of the spring brown bear baiting season, this likely guarantees that the season will close by emergency order prior to June 30th, as it did last year, resulting in a complete loss of fall season hunting opportunity.

Changing the RB300 hunt to a regulatory year framework would start us off on July 1st every year in which mortality caps come into play. This ensures a fall season will take place.

The spring season will likely still be closed by emergency order at some point if the season remains the same due to mortality caps being reached, but moving to a regulatory year framework allows hunting opportunity for both the spring and fall seasons.

We considered recommending shortening the spring season to end on June 15th but believe this is a better option than shortening the spring season as it may allow the spring season to continue beyond June 15th.

Based on discussions with Department biologists, we do not support increasing the mortality caps.

Recommended changes to the Findings for the Alaska Board of Game

New Text **underlined** [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

2015-211-BOG

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the Department take the following management action:

Establish a maximum human-caused mortality quota of no more than 50-60 brown

bears, with no more than 8-12 of these adult (at least 5 years old) sows, [PER CALENDAR YEAR] **per regulatory year** beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15.

**Other Options**

Another option the board could consider is breaking up the mortality caps into separate spring and fall season caps. For example: the spring season could close by EO if eight sows are taken, to include both hunting caused mortality and non-hunting mortality. That leaves four sows left on the cap for the fall season. The total bear harvest cap could also be similarly separated out.

Unit 7 and 15 could also have separate mortality caps.

**Again, the primary goal of this proposal is to ensure there is some guaranteed fall brown bear hunting opportunity.**

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

**Loss of fall RB300 brown bear hunting opportunity in Units 7 and 15.**

At the previous 2023 Region II meeting, the board passed Proposal 134, which extended the RB300 brown bear spring season 30 days and opened the fall season 20 days earlier. The RB300 brown bear season is currently August 10 – June 30.

These are the Department’s comments on Proposal 134: *“The proposed increased season length, which will allow hunters to harvest brown bears over bait, will likely increase spring brown bear harvest and adult female harvest based on previous harvest trends. This additional harvest in the spring will likely result in seasons closing by Emergency Order when mortality caps are reached, which will reduce fall harvest opportunities.”*

The extension of the spring baiting season by 30 days led to exactly what the Department said in their comments would likely happen: brown bear harvests overall increased and the sow mortality cap was reached, resulting in the RB300 hunt being closed by emergency order on June 27, 2024. While the spring 2025 harvest is yet unknown, it seems likely the longer RB300 spring season will continue to result in an emergency order to close the hunt down due to either reaching the maximum human caused mortality of brown bears or the maximum human caused mortality of sows.

Below is a chart from ADF&G showing the hunting mortality and non-hunting human caused mortality of all brown bears in Units 7 & 15 for calendar years 2023 and 2024:

Table 1. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2023	41	7	48
2024	56	9	65

As you can see, more bears overall were taken by hunting after the season was extended in 2023.

The next chart below includes only sows, showing that more sows were taken by hunting after the season was extended in 2023.

Table 2. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of adult female brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2023	7	3	10
2024	10	4	14

The next chart below shows sow hunting harvest dates in Units 7 and 15 for the 2024 spring season, showing that 60% of the sow harvest occurred during the June extension of the spring season:

Table 3. Date of Kill and bait usage of adult female brown bears harvested in Game Manager Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

DOK	Bait
5/9/2024	Y
5/13/2024	N
5/16/2024	Y
5/23/2024	Y
6/15/2024	Y
6/17/2024	Y
6/21/2024	Y
6/21/2024	Y
6/24/2024	Y
6/25/2024	N

The goal of this proposal is to ensure that there is an opportunity to harvest a brown bear under the RB300 registration hunt during the fall season in Units 7 and 15.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

RHAK always contacts department biologists when working on proposals. Thanks to department staff for answering questions and providing harvest information!

**PROPOSED BY:** Resident Hunters of Alaska (OI-F25-186)

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**PROPOSAL 136**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Change the management of the RB300 brown bear mortality cap in Units 7 and 15 from a calendar year to a regulatory year as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

“In Units 15 and 7 change the management year for brown bear from the calendar year to the regulatory year.”

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

The current management year for brown bears in Units 7 and 15 is the calendar year, whereas all other big game is managed by regulatory year.

Changing the management plan to regulatory year would simplify the regulations and improve predictability of open season for hunters hoping to harvest brown bears during moose season in the fall.

This should be considered as housekeeping.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Discussed with regional area biologist.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dave Lyon (OI-F25-185)

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**PROPOSAL 137**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Remove the current harvest cap for the RB300 hunt in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Remove the current quota on Kenai bears unless there is conservation concern.

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

Currently, there is no conservation concern with Kenai brown bears and the majority of the bears are in hard to reach and in accessible or unhuntable places by federal regulation. Survey data shows the large majority of Kenai bears are in Unit 15B and only accessed by two major lakes, covered by federal management and restrictions to access. Over regulation of this hunt is limiting opportunity when no unit-wide survey having been done in over a decade. Even the previous surveys were done on the protected refuge after two plus months of baiting was done out of the area leading to a lower population survey. Hunters can currently hunt a very low portion of the bear habitat on the Kenai and a fraction of the area can be hunted over bait. The point being now matter how many bears are taken in huntable areas, hunters with currently federap regulations couldn't hunt out the Kenai bear.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin (OI-F25-161)

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**PROPOSAL 138**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Reduce the brown bear hunting season in Units 7 and 15 by 15 days as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Units 7 and 15 One bear every regulatory year by RB300 permit.

Resident and Nonresident season: August 10 to **June 15** [June 30]

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

Reduce the season length for brown bear hunting by 15 days.

When Board of Game adopted a proposal to extend brown bear hunting season from September 1 through May 31st to August 10th to June 30th in Units 7 and 15, some hunters and biologists believed the longer spring season would result in exceeding the quota and a closure of the fall season. Since this extended season has only been in place since RY24, only one year of complete is available. Fish and Game data reveals 10 females, five years old or older, were reported during spring of 2024. Chronology of harvest indicates five were taken from May 9th to June 15th (50%) and five from June 17th to June 25th (50%).

Allowable harvest of brown bear in Units 7 and 15 is managed on a quota system to assure a sustainable level of annual harvest is not exceeded. Fifty to sixty brown bear can be taken, from all causes of mortality, or 8-12 females five years old or older. Prior to the extended season, that has been in place since 2014, the season has only been closed one time by the state in late October, after fall hunting was essentially over. Following the harvest of 10 adult females during the spring 2024 season plus four non-hunting adult female mortalities, the 2024 fall season was closed in Units 7 and 15 because the 14 adult females taken exceeded the quota of 8-12.

Since few brown bear are taken during the fall, a reduction of 15 days in June will likely reduce adult female harvest and allow for a fall season. After last fall's closure, there was widespread complaining, primarily from moose hunters, that they could not hunt for brown bear. This sentiment added to the conflict between bear hunters using bait sites and those that didn't use the method.

If adopted, this will be a reduction in hunting opportunity by 15 days in the spring. However, it will still allow two months of hunting using bait in the spring and hopefully avoid the closure of the fall season.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Yes with many local hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ted Spraker (OI-F25-031)  
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**PROPOSAL 139**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Shorten the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 7 and 15, and divide the RB300 hunt into spring and fall hunts, with each having separate caps as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

I suggest to provide for both fall and spring opportunities. We reset the dates to October 1 which was originally used to prevent incidental take during moose season and a spring date of June 15. Then break RB300 into two separate hunts including a RB301 hunt for Unit 7. Then each having their own quota of 10 breeding age sows in a calendar which includes DLP and roadside incidents.

I would support the board using discretion on a change on the quota numbers here based on recent department data, but only if it doesn't decrease below 10 for both units

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

RB300 brown bear hunt. In 2024, the hunt closed just a few days early in the spring and closed entirely for the fall. This was due to the sow limit of ten bears based on data that is over 15 years old.

The problem with this hunt is that one quota is used for two entire game units and the survey data used did not include the majority of the areas currently baited but rather in the refuge areas, this survey also was done after bears were baited out of the area for the three previous months at a time when food sources were low. We are currently treating two entire game units as one population of animals, when the bears of the Hope and Girdwood are not traveling to Homer. The best bear habitat on the Kenai is around Russian River to Tustamena and a large part of this area is inaccessible or very difficult to spot and stalk. Which is why 80 percent of the baits in the State are in these units.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

I have spoken with many hunters, biologists and subject matter experts on this.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin (OI-F25-004)  
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**PROPOSAL 140**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Restrict hunters who take a sow brown bear in Units 7 and 15 from hunting RB300 for two to four years as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

My solution to the harvest of sow brown bears in Uunits 7 and 15 would be to make whoever harvest a brown bear sow ineligible to register for the RB300 tag for two – four years

This would perhaps make it like mountain goats where very minor consequence for failing to ID bear but enough to catch people attention and might make people be more picky and target male bears thus making our seasons stay open longer with the lower number of sows getting shot overall.

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

The harvesting of too many sow brown bears on the peninsula and closure of seasons due to going over the quota of sows

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

I'm a new guide myself but have hunting this area for a few years now but after listening and experiencing season closures seeing people not care about identifying bears or just not knowing there's a quota on sows I and others I've talked to feel that we either need to get rid of the quotas all together or as get people to pay attention alittle more so our season may be open longer for everyone.

**PROPOSED BY:** Garrett Becker (OI-F25-063)  
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**PROPOSAL 141**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

When the lynx trapping season is open in Units 7 and 15, season dates will be December 15 through the last day of February as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Change the wording/add language in 5 AAC 84.270 (5) as follows: (Bold text is addition)

5 AAC 84.270 (5) Lynx; Units 7 and 15: **Dec 15** [NOV 10] through the last day of February, Season may be closed by Emergency Order, **Season dates shall not change by Emergency Order**

Other possible solutions: Other dates giving a longer season, such as Dec. 1- end Feb., or Jan. 1- March 15.

If the Board of Game is unwilling to add the bolded text, perhaps consider directing the Department to offer a longer season.

Another idea would involve a seasonal limit per trapper in conjunction with longer season.

This change will provide fair opportunity for Unit 7 and 15 trappers, and provide a little breathing room to just pull traps during poor weather weeks and re-set when conditions improve, without having to rush around during the current six week season, shortened by EO annually. We will be better able to closely follow the Trappers Code of Ethics with regard to proper humane methods, loss prevention, fur care, concentrating in abundant areas only (cant see tracks on ice crust or rain wash), all promoting sound management and good ethics.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

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

I'd like to address the limited opportunity for lynx trapping in Units 7 and 15. The regulation booklet states the season runs from January 1 through February 15, which has been done by Emergency Order (EO) annually for 20 plus years. The codified language reads differently: 5 AAC 84.270 states November 10 - end February, unless closed by EO. It seems the Department is using this EO authority to shorten the season every year, even during high abundance. This gives only a six week season for trapping lynx in Units 7 and 15. Most of the state offers a several month season, even in Southeast where lynx are scarce.

Hares and lynx are both plentiful in cycle on the Kenai Peninsula. Lynx trapping involves many miles of travel and much distance between sets as they are solitary animals. The Kenai Peninsula is subject to extended freeze/thaw and heavy snow/rain cycles, making it difficult to maintain viable sets and to keep checking in a timely fashion in these typical weather conditions. Most trappers in this area are, while numerous, are casual in nature or “hobby trappers.” Lynx fur primes up here in early December and remains good through early March.

It is noted that the lynx- hare cycle is the most cited and reliable predator- prey cycle in nature. I fully support the season closure during a few years of low abundance at the bottom of the lynx population cycle, but I’d like to see more opportunity when plentiful, like the rest of the state.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

To address these two problems of minimal opportunity and annual management by EO, I offer the the solution which has been vetted extensively with the Homer Advisory Committee, local trappers, and ADF&G, along with some alternative ideas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Douglas Malone (OI-F25-190)  
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**PROPOSAL 142**

**5 AAC 84.270 (5). Furbearer trapping.**

**5 AAC 85.060. Seasons and bag limits for fur animals.**

Lengthen the trapping and hunting seasons for lynx in Units 15 and 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

5 AAC 84.270 (5) Lynx. Trapping and Hunting seasons for Lynx

Lengthen season for trapping and hunting lynx in Unit 15 and 7 as follows:

**December 15** [JANUARY 1] through February 15.

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

Currently lynx trapping seasons in Units 7 and 15 are January 1-February 15 opened by emergency order. The season is managed to coincide with the snowshoe hare cycle only opened in times of abundance. The current season is very restrictive compared to the rest of the state. With the season closed in times of low abundance over-harvest of the resource is not a concern. In times of abundance the management strategy is to harvest from the larger population, with this strategy a slightly lengthen season would optimize sustained yield practices. With time getting gear in the field and sometimes harsh weather conditions some sets only operate for 2-3 weeks. I propose a December 15- February 15 trapping season for lynx in times of abundance. It would allow a greater utilization of the resource in times of significant spikes in lynx numbers.



**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Spoke with other trappers and wildlife biologists about the proposed changes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Nelson (OI-F25-062)

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**PROPOSAL 143**

**5 AAC 84.270(5). Furbearer trapping.**

Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Lynx Trapping Units 7 and 15

Open Season: December 1<sup>st</sup> - February 15th

Limit: No Limit

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

Lynx trapping season is currently out of alignment with wolf and coyote trapping seasons in Units 7 and 15. Lynx caught incidentally in wolf and coyote sets prior to season opening need to be turned over to the state. I'm hesitant to set traps for wolf and coyote prior to lynx season opening to avoid incidental take of lynx. I feel this is a handicap. I also feel it should be up to the trapper to determine when they would like to start targeting lynx based on pelt primness. Southeast Units currently open December 1st and I do not believe lynx in that area become prime prior to those on the Kenai Peninsula. I believe lynx are being caught prior to the season and not being reported. The agency would get more information on harvested cats if the season was open earlier.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** John and Debbie Dahman (OI-F25-015)

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**PROPOSAL 144**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 7 and 15 to align with Units 6 and 14C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

Lynx Units 7 and 15.....Nov 10 - Feb 28th .....No limit

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

Increase season dates for lynx to in Unit 7 and 15 to match Units 6 and 14C, Nov. 10 – Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

The trapping data for reported harvest shows increased harvest, which indicates increase population: Region 2: 2018- 15, 2019- 15, 2020- 49, 2021- 141, 2022- 233, 2023- 250

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

With an increase in Lynx numbers on the kenai, please increase the trapping dates to be more liberal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins (HQ-F25-006)  
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**PROPOSAL 145**

**5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping and snaring buffers along specific roads and pullouts in and around Cooper Landing in Unit 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap and snare setback of 100-yards on both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed, unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed roads and pull-outs if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed roads and pullouts, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the trail.

- Quartz Creek Road - Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5
- Quartz Creek Road - From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5 (used in winter for skiing)
- East Quartz Creek and Williams Road - Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road
- Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road) - Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area
- Snug Harbor Road - The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station

- Bean Creek Road - The entire distance from the Sterling Highway to the end.
- West Juneau Bench Road/Chunkwood Rd - Pullout at mile 53.25 Sterling Highway to its intersection with Resurrection Trail.
- All DOT designated vehicle pullouts along 18 miles of the Sterling Highway, from Tern Lake to the Russian River Ferry and Boat Launch

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for nine trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez’s trapping ordinance, confirming the city’s authority to regulate trapping within home rule municipality for safety reasons. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200-yard setback for a popular trail. Juneau has trap setbacks of 1/4 mile. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, and other areas in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

Unit	Road or Pullout Name:	Description	Winter Uses
7	Quartz Creek Road	Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5. Borough maintained.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Quartz Creek Road	From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5; winter groomed by Cooper Landing Nordic Ski Club	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, and access to backcountry skiing
7	East Quartz Creek and Williams Road	Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking,

7	Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road)	Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area	Cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, skijoring, snowmachining
7	Snug Harbor Road	The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Bean Creek Road	The entire distance. This road is mainly surrounded by private property, but traps can be set unless posted.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Russian Gap Road	The entire distance. This road is mainly surrounded by private property, but traps can be set unless posted.	Walking, hiking, and fat-tire biking
7	All DOT designated vehicle pullouts along 18 miles of the Sterling Highway	Pullouts along the Sterling Highway from its junction with the Seward Highway at Tern Lake to the entrance of the Russian River Ferry and Boat Launch	People use these pullouts to let their animals and children take bathroom breaks, stretch their legs, take in the views, and gear up for backcountry activities
7	West Juneau Bench Road/Chunkwood Rd.  USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the Sterling Highway pullout at mile 53.25 just west of the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead, continuing to its intersection with the Resurrection Trail.	Skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, fat tire biking, snowmachining walking, new access to parcel 395, cabin access

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

We are requesting that the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish a 100-yard trapping and buffers along both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed and described in the table provided, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed areas if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under

ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed areas, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the roads or pullouts.

The purpose of this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational land use and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when using the most popular roads and pullouts in the Cooper Landing area. Reports of dangerous encounters are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents, and there is no database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and respond to strict voice commands. However, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have expressed concerns about the safety of their dogs during emergency missions. Incidents of abandoned or “ghost traps” found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community’s fear of risk.

### **Why should this regulation be amended?**

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100- yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi- use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

The community of Cooper Landing supports trap and snare setbacks to create a safe buffer in and around popular areas utilized for winter recreation. A 2021 survey by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee resulted in 90% support for trap setbacks. Many respondents requested setbacks of ¼ to 1 mile. This was an increase from 83% in 2015, which favored setbacks from a similar survey. Many commented on the emotional stress and fear when taking their families, children and pets to favorite recreational places due to the danger of encountering a trap. This safety concern grows as Cooper Landing residents' demographics change to a younger, more outdoor enthusiast-oriented population.

This proposal targets several roads and pullouts in our area used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs. Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing’s economy. Cooper Landing’s primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, year-round recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass highway completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family- friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback benefits business owners who market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

### **What other support do you have for developing your proposal?**

- The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.

- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback is not significant enough to limit a trapper’s opportunity to trap near roads and pullouts. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used roads and pullouts* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper’s Code of Ethics’ third tenet to “promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals,” presumably set traps back from heavily used roads and pullouts.
- A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setbacks do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.
- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the “Our Values Statement” set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for “*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*”
- The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game’s ability to manage wildlife along the listed roads and pullouts, though trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary.
- The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks; in 2021, a similar survey was conducted of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing, and the results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary.
- As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 to 3,500, meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population is actively trapping. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

*Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook) .*

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion, we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer along roads and pullouts will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-018)  
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**PROPOSAL 146**

**5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping and snaring buffers along specified trails and trailheads in and around the Cooper Landing Area in Unit 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap and snare setbacks of 100 yards on both sides of the trails and trailheads listed unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed trails if they are elevated three feet above hard ground, enclosed, underwater, or under ice**

- Crescent Creek Trail
- Lower Russian Lake Trail
- Bean Creek Trail
- Russian Gap//Historic Quartz Creek/Coyote Notch Trail System
- Resurrection Trail, South End
- Devil’s Pass Ski Loops
- Stetson Trail parking area and the first 400 yards

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for 9 new trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez’s trapping ordinance confirming the city’s authority to regulate trapping within city limits. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200yd. setback for a popular trail. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six other trails, and surrounding all schoolyards in the Matanuska Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state-managed trails in deference to

the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

Unit	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	<p>Crescent Creek Trail</p> <p>USGS Map Seward B7, C7 and C8</p> <p>USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Crescent Creek Trail</p>	<p>Begins at Crescent Creek Trailhead parking area at mile 3.5 of Quartz Creek Road and ascends 6.5 miles to the Crescent Lake Cabin at the west end of the lake.</p>	<p>Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, backpacking, fat tire biking, and access to public-use cabins</p>
7	<p>Lower Russian Lake Trail</p> <p>USGS Map Seward B8, Kenai B1</p> <p>USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Russian Lakes Trail</p>	<p>Lower Russian Lake Trail from the trailhead parking located in the Russian River Campground about 1.0 miles from the campground entrance to both the Barber Cabin on the shore of Lower Russian Lake and to the Russian River Falls Overlook.</p>	<p>Backcountry and cross country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking, and access to public-use cabins</p>
7	<p>Bean Creek Trail</p>	<p>Bean Creek Trail starting at its trailhead to its intersection of the main Resurrection Pass Trail above Juneau Falls.</p>	<p>Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, snow machining, dog mushing, backpacking, and access to public-use cabins</p>



7	Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek/Coyote Notch Trail System	<p>On the 2004 plat approved by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the Russian Gap Subdivision, this trail is referred to as the Quartz Creek Trail. It ascends behind the west side of KPB parcel 11912507 and continues through parcel 11912513, connecting with the Russian Gap Trail and heading north-easterly along a bench below Russian Gap.</p> <p>Coyote Notch Trail intersects with this trail. RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY CLOSE BY.</p>	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snowmachine use.
7	Resurrection Trail, South End  USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead on the Sterling Highway, continuing to the Swan Lake public use cabin	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking, and access to public-use cabins
7	Devil's Pass Ski Loops USGS Map Seward C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Devil's Pass Trail	These trails begin at the far end of the parking area for Devil's Pass Trailhead at mile 39.5 of the Seward Highway. They loop along the cleared area northeast of the parking lot between Quartz Creek and the Seward Highway.	Backcountry ski access, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, skijoring

7	Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail	Stetson Trail parking area at milepost 50.7 of Sterling Highway. Setback of 100 yards around the clearing beyond the gate under the power line and the first 400 yards up the trail.	Cooper Landing EMT training, search and rescue dog training, hiking, and snowshoeing
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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 100- yard trapping and snaring buffers along both sides of the trails and all sides of the trailheads listed and described in the table below, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed trails if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed trails, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the specified trails and trailheads.

The purpose for this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational uses of land and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when utilizing the most frequently used trails in the Cooper Landing area. Dangerous encounters between user groups and traps in recreational areas continues, unfortunately, reports are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents nor is there a database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and under strict voice command, however, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have voiced concern about the safety of their dogs in emergency missions. The Stetson Trail parking area and the first 400 yards have been used for training search-and-rescue dogs. Fears of abandoned or “ghost traps” found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community’s fear of risk.

**Why should this regulation be amended?**

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100-yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment.*

The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks, but in 2021, when a similar survey of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing was conducted, results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary. The community of Cooper Landing clearly supports traps and snare setbacks for a safe, trap- free zone in and around areas utilized for winter recreation. Surveys and meetings have highlighted the emotional stress and apprehension

experienced by residents and visitors when bringing their families, children, or pets to popular recreational areas due to the risk of encountering traps. This safety concern grows as Cooper Landing residents' demographics change to a younger, more outdoor enthusiast-oriented population. This proposal targets trails in our area used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs. Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, year round recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback benefits business owners who market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

### **What other support do you have for developing your proposal?**

- The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.
- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring buffer is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near trails. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used Trails* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from heavily used trails.
- A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setbacks do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.
- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"
- The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed trails, though trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are consistent will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

• As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 to 3,500 meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population is actively trapping. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

*Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook) .*

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the South Central Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the trails listed will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-019)  
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**PROPOSAL 147**

**5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping buffers along two areas of Kenai Lake beaches near Cooper Landing, in Unit 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap and snare setback of 100-yards from mean high-water mark of Kenai Lake on the north side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road and on the south side from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (The powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road), also, Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road, unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed beaches if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would still be allowed near the below listed beaches, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the trail.**

- Cooper Landing, Kenai Lake Beach- north side, Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past end of Williams Rd.

- Cooper Landing, Kenai Lake Beach -south side, Kenai River Bridge to 1/4mile past powerline at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Rd.
- Cooper Landing, Kenai Lake Beach-west side (Waikiki Beach)

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for 9 trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez’s trapping ordinance, confirming the city’s authority to regulate trapping within city limits. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200-yard setback for a popular trail. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and surrounding all schoolyards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

Unit	Beach Area	Description	Winter Uses
7	<u>Cooper Landing Kenai Lake Beaches north side</u>	Kenai Lake Beaches: on the North side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining
7	<u>Cooper Landing Kenai Lake Beach south- side</u>	Kenai Lake Beaches: from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road). <i>Area from the mean high water mark to 100yds back.</i>	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining
7	<u>Cooper Landing- Kenai Lake Beach-west side (Waikiki Beach)</u>	Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road. <i>Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.</i>	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining

### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

We are requesting that the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish a 100-yard trapping and snaring buffer in two small areas in Cooper Landing listed and described in the table provided, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted in the areas listed below if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed beaches, provided they are placed farther than 100 yards from the trail.

The purpose of this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational uses of land and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when utilizing the most popular beaches in the Cooper Landing area. As dangerous encounters between user groups and traps in recreational areas increases, reports are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents nor is there a database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and under strict voice command, however, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have voiced concern about the safety of their dogs in emergency missions. Incidents of abandoned or “ghost traps” found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community’s fear of risk.

### **Why should this regulation be amended?**

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100-yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks, and in 2021 when a similar survey was conducted of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing, results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary. The community of Cooper Landing clearly supports trap and snare setbacks in and around areas utilized for winter recreation.

Indicated in the surveys and local meetings was people's emotional stress and fear when taking their families, children or pets to their favorite recreational places due to the danger of encountering a trap. This safety concern grows as Cooper Landing residents' demographics change to a younger, more outdoor enthusiast-oriented population. This proposal targets several beaches used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs.

As the community evolves, there is an increasing call for measures that protect all residents and visitors. This proposal aims to create a safer environment for winter recreation by implementing trap setbacks, which will help reduce the risks and alleviate the fears associated with accidental encounters. Families can enjoy outdoor activities with peace of mind, knowing that the areas they frequent are secure from hidden dangers.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, year round recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail

running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback aims to benefit business owners who promote Cooper Landing as an area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

### **What other support do you have for developing your proposal?**

- The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.
- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near beaches. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used beaches* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from heavily used beaches.
- A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setbacks-do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.
- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"
- The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed beaches, though trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are consistent will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

- As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 and 3,500, meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population is actively trapping. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the two beach areas indicated will reduce conflicts and potentially improve the public image of trappers for those who are opposed to the activity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-020)  
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**PROPOSAL 148**

**5 AAC 92.550(9). Areas closed to trapping.**

Require signs be posted at all access points to active trapping in Unit 7, as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

1) SOLUTION:

We request that the Board amend 5 ACC 92.550(9) to add a subpart (C), adding a requirement that signs be posted by trappers at all access points to active trapping. This change will reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Management Unit 7.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

Areas Closed to Trapping The following areas are closed to the trapping of furbearers as indicated: (1-6) No change requested.

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: 5AAC 92.550(9)(C) “Trappers setting traps in Unit 7 are required to post signs at all access points to operating traplines. Signs must be:**

- 1) at least 8”x11”, 2) brightly colored (orange or yellow), 3) waterproof/tear-proof, and 4)**



posted at eye level denoting active trapping in the area. Must include Alaska Public Safety Information Network (ASPIN) ID number or contact information for the trapper. If the trapper's sign uses the ASPIN ID no, the trapper's identity would be held confidential and released only to law enforcement.

### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

#### ISSUE:

We request that the Board amend 5 ACC 92.550(9) to establish a requirement that signs be posted at all access points to active trapping. This change will reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in GMU 7.

Mandatory posted signs are in line with the Alaska Trappers Association's Official Position Statement "Trapline Signs" that was adopted on September 27th, 2016, and states:

*"The Alaska Trappers Association encourages trappers in road-accessible regions of the State to post signs near major points of access to their personal trapline trails. These signs should explain that there are traps and/or snares on or near the trail. The signs could also include the trapper's name and contact information. These signs are intended to alert other trail users of the purpose of the trail, so that they can avoid conflict with the trapper. This approach of posting signs should be beneficial for everyone involved."*

"Active Trapping" informational signs aligns with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social."

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100-yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

This is a low-cost, low-maintenance way to reduce conflicts between trappers and recreational users, create a shared responsibility, and support trappers' rights.

#### WHY:

Posted trapping signs would alert user groups to the presence of trapping in the area and allow them to take safety precautions. Trapping signs would also alert safety personnel to additional dangers if they were called to respond to an emergency requiring the use of Search and Rescue Dogs to find injured, lost, or buried victims. Ten other states have set a precedent for signage regulations; *see attachment*. A former local Cooper Landing trapper posted signs warning of his traplines and supports a regulation to add "active trapping" signs, as do several of the Cooper Landing AC members and members of the ATA.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses want to extend their seasonal offerings. With the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future, year-round recreational activity is expected to increase. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and

backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would benefit business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

Signage is a valuable precaution to avoid conflicts. The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy, especially in environmental and public health contexts. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. This puts the onus on dog owners to be aware of potential risks around a legal trapline. We seek regulations to ensure the safety of all area user groups to reduce the risk of accidental encounters.

As of the 2024 census, there are 741,147 residents of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state, meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population traps. By adopting this trapping regulation in GMU 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and better align with current area residents' recreational use.

*Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook) .*

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the trails listed will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-021)  
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## **PROPOSAL 149**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping and snaring buffers along highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Summit Lake Recreation Area in Unit 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7:** “Trap and snare setback of 100-yards along the perimeter of highway pull outs accessing backcountry areas along the Seward Highway, and on both side of the winter trails listed within the Summit Lake Recreational Area, unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted in the described areas if the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below listed areas, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the trail.

- Japan Woods - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Summit Lake (MP44.5) north to Colorado Creek (MP 46.5).
- Tenderfoot Campground - Ski Area - MP 46 of the Seward Highway.
- Park N Poke - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Lower Summit Lake (MP 47) to the gravel pit at (MP 49).
- Manitoba Mountain - MP 48 of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing up to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain.

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for 9 trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. In January 2025, the Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez’s trapping ordinance, confirming the city’s authority to regulate trapping within city limits. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200yd. setback for a popular trail. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and surrounding all schoolyards in the Matanuska Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state-managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Japan woods	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Summit Lake (MP 44.5) north to Colorado Creek (MP 46.5).	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Tenderfoot Campground – Ski Area	MP 46 of the Seward Highway.	Backcountry skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, snow machine use
7	Park N Poke	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Lower Summit Lake (MP 47) to the gravel pit at (MP 49).	Backcountry Skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Manitoba Mountain	MP 48 of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, backpacking for camping and cabin use

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

We are requesting that the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 100-yard trapping and snaring buffers along the perimeter of all highway pull outs, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Summit Lake Recreation Area, described in the table below, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed areas if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed areas, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the specified recreational areas.

The purpose of this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational uses of land and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when utilizing the Summit Lake Recreation Area. Reports of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps in recreational areas are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents nor is there a database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and under strict voice command, however, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have voiced concern about the safety of their dogs in emergency missions. Incidents of abandoned or “ghost traps” found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community’s fear of risk.

### **Why should this regulation be amended?**

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100- yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

This conflict of user groups has been an issue for almost 20 years in the Cooper Landing area. It is getting more attention as the demographics change to a more recreational population. The community of Cooper Landing supports trap and snare setbacks. In 2021, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee sent a survey to every post office box, landowner, and business in Cooper Landing to get a precise gauge of what people wanted. With a 35% return rate, 90% wanted trap setbacks established, and many requested up to a mile. This represents a 7% increase from a 2015 survey where 83% supported setbacks. The surveys and community meetings highlight people's concerns about taking their families, children, and pets to recreational areas due to past incidents and the risk of encountering traps. This proposal targets several roads and pullouts in our area used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing’s economy. The Summit Lake Recreational Area is about 1.5 hours south of Anchorage and 30 minutes north of Cooper Landing. Winter recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback benefits business owners who market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

### **What other support do you have for your proposal?**

- The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully

established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.

- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near Summit Lake Recreation Area. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used Summit Lake Recreation Area* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from the popular areas of the Summit Lake Recreation Area.
- A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setbacks do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.
- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social."
- The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed Summit Lake Recreation Area, though understandably, trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary.
- The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks, and in 2021 when a similar survey was conducted of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing, results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary.
- As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 to 3,500 meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population actively traps. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

*Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook) .*

### **Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal, and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the

discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the trails listed will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-022)  
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**PROPOSAL 150**

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

Require identification tags on traps and snares in Unit 7 as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

5 AAC 92.095 should be amended to add a provision stating as follows:

In Unit 7, a person may not set a trap or snare unless there is attached to the trap or snare an identification tag.. Identification tags must provide either the person's name, or personal identification number (PIN) The PIN for residents is the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (ASPIN) ID. For residents, the Department shall upon request of a person intending to set traps or snares that person's ASPIN ID. For nonresidents the Department will assign a PIN when a trapping license is issued. PINs will be kept confidential by the Department with the exception with the exception that the identities of trappers shall be released to Law Enforcement when requested by Law Enforcement.

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

Tags on traps and snares should be required in Unit 7 to provide a deterrence to individuals who might be tempted to trap illegally.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

Law Enforcement supported a statewide proposal for tags on traps which was considered by the Board at its statewide meeting in March, 2025, but was rejected. This proposal incorporates the technical changes and recommendations made by Law Enforcement.

For that reason it can be said that this proposal is being made in coordination with Law Enforcement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-053)  
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## **PROPOSAL 151**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Close all beaver trapping within the Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to but excluding the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C, for five years as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

The Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to but not including the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C should be closed to beaver trapping for five years with a population assessment before reopening. Closing trapping for this length of time with an ADF&G assessment before reopening will provide the time needed to evaluate the re-establishment effort.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

The following areas are closed to trapping as indicated:

...

(4) Unit 15

...

**(E) That portion of Unit 15(C) within the Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to the northern boundaries of the Fox River Drainage and all tributaries is open to trapping under Unit 15(C) seasons and bag limits, except that the trapping of beaver is not allowed.**

**(i) This closure will remain in effect for approximately five years from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031 a review of population levels will be conducted by ADFG before reopening.**

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

Beaver are no longer a functional part of the ecosystem in the Anchor River drainage. As a keystone species, the loss of beaver from the system is negatively impacting wildlife such as moose, salmon, songbirds and other species that rely on the habitat that beavers create. Trapping opportunities have been lost and flood control and water retention naturally provided by beaver impoundments is absent, which negatively impacts human infrastructure in the Anchor River Drainage.

The Homer Soil and Water District proposes to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the restoration of beaver populations in this watershed. A trapping moratorium during these restoration efforts are likely to increase the success of the program. Unit 15C's harvest of beaver in 2023 was five animals with a five year average of four being taken,



**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was created out of concern for the beaver population by the Homer Advisory Committee in close cooperation with the Homer Water and Soil Conservation District and ADF&G.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 152**

**5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Close all beaver trapping in the Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C for five years as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

The Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C is closed to all beaver trapping for five years with a required review before reopening. Closing trapping for this length of time with a required review before reopening will provide the time needed to begin a re-establishment effort. Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, under the direction and assistance of ADF&G, will conduct animal surveys and reviews as needed.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

The following areas are closed to trapping as indicated:

...

(4) Unit 15

...

(E) That portion of Unit 15(C) within the Anchor River drainage and its tributaries is open to trapping under Unit 15(C) seasons and bag limits, **except that the trapping of beaver is not allowed.**

**(i) This closure will remain in effect for approximately five years from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031 unless renewed.**

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

Beavers are no longer a functional part of the ecosystem in the Anchor River drainage. As a keystone species, the loss of beaver from the system is negatively impacting wildlife such as moose, salmon, songbirds and other species that rely on the habitat that beavers create. Trapping opportunities have been lost and flood control and water retention naturally provided by beaver impoundments is absent, which negatively impacts human infrastructure in the Anchor River Drainage.

The Homer Soil and Water Conservation District proposes to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the restoration of beaver populations in this watershed. Without a trapping moratorium restoration efforts are unlikely to be successful.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

This proposal was developed with consultation and support from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Homer Advisory Committee, the Alaska Trapper’s Association and members of the community of Homer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matthew James, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (OI-F25-032)  
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**PROPOSAL 153**

**5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Close the Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C to beaver trapping as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

The Anchor River drainage is closed to beaver trapping.

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

Beaver trapping in the Anchor River drainage should be closed. Department of Fish and Game comments provided to the Board of Game regarding a proposal to close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek drainages indicated that there were virtually no beaver active in the Anchor River drainage at that time; and that beaver trapper had reported low number and poor recruitment in 2017. In addition, comments and testimony regarding other proposals to reduce Beaver trapping on the Kenai Peninsula indicated area-wide over-trapping with resulting reductions in beaver populations at many places on the Kenai Peninsula. Closure for at least three years, or until at least the next meeting of the board, should be implemented to see if this important species repopulate this drainage and provides information for analysis by the department as to how to remedy the decline of beaver population elsewhere on the Kenai Peninsula .

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-056)  
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**PROPOSAL 154**

**5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.**

Change the bag limits for sea ducks in Unit 15C as follows:

**What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?**

In the waterfowl regulations:

GULF COAST Units 5-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only), 14-16

Ducks 1 .....8 per day, 24 in possession

Sea Ducks 2, 3, 4

Residents.....10 per day, 20 in possession

Nonresidents.....8 per day, 20 per season

**Special Bag Limit Restrictions**

1 DUCKS: General duck limits may include no more than 2 canvasback per day, 6 in possession.

2 SEA DUCKS:

- Steller’s and spectacled eiders are closed statewide.
- Residents may take no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession of harlequin ducks and no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession of long-tailed ducks.
- Nonresidents may not take or possess more than 20 sea ducks per season, including no more than 4 each of any sea duck species.

~~3. Units 7 and 15, limits for residents and nonresidents may include no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession of long tailed ducks.~~

~~4. Unit 15C, that portion of Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, limits for residents and nonresidents may include no more than 2 per day, 4 in possession of harlequin, and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession of eiders (king or common). In addition, nonresidents may not take or possess more than 4 each of any sea duck species.~~

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

Uniformity for migratory waterfowl regulations for sea ducks among all Alaska regions for the same migratory sea duck species.

Weather patterns determine where the ducks go with much of Unit 15’s coastline not hunted and holds birds most cannot access or survey through the designated duck season.

People tend to hunt the protected waters of Seldovia Bay or China Poot. There are nine large bays beyond Port Graham that are too remote to observe duck populations as well as the continuing shoreline. There are other open areas where there are mussel beds that are difficult to hunt due to open water and distance from the shoreline.

The number of birds vary due to weather being the primary factor of finding open water. Wind strength, direction and tide cycles are daily factors on finding sea ducks. Time of year for observing any ducks also determines the density. Fall flocks of family groups verses winter flocks of higher density feeding groups versus spring when mature birds begin pairing off. It is wrong to assume ducks are in the same place and have the same social structure year-round.

Sea duck hunting in Unit 15C is light pressure and shows with the lack of operating sea duck guides/transporters compared to other areas in the Southcentral Alaska region. The duck population is healthy and to say that it is not would risk the entire state's sea duck population, since they are migratory.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

With waterfowl hunters on social media regarding previous years' Unit 15C proposals.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Waldvogel (HQ-F25-005)

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