

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**STAFF COMMENTS FOR**  
**SOUTHCENTRAL REGION REGULATIONS PROPOSALS**  
**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING**  
**KODIAK, ALASKA**  
**MARCH 20-25, 2026**



The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 20-25, 2026 in Kodiak, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

**PROPOSAL 70 – 5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Restrict hunters who take a nanny in Units 6, 7, 14C or 15 from hunting goats in 6, 7, 8, 14C, or 15 for 5 regulatory years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bradley Golden

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Both resident and nonresident hunters who harvest a nanny in Units 6, 7, 14C, or 15 would not be able to hunt goats anywhere in Region 2 (Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, or 15) for 5 regulatory years.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.040**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (2)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Units 6(C) and 6(D)  1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Sept. 15—Jan. 31	Sept. 15—Jan. 31
Remainder of Unit 6  1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Aug. 20—Jan. 31	Aug. 20—Jan. 31
(3)  Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Jakalof Creek, then southwesterly along the shore of Kachemak Bay to the mouth of the Port		

Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then easterly along the shoreline to the mouth of Rocky River, then northerly up Rocky River and Windy River to the divide separating Windy River from Jakalof Creek, then across that divide to Jakalof Creek, then down Jakalof Creek to the point of origin

1 goat by drawing permit only; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Aug.10—Oct. 15  
(General hunt Only)

No open season.

1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Aug.10—Oct. 15

No open season.

1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Nov.1—Nov. 30

No open season.

Unit 15(C), that portion beginning; at the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeast-

erly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the Creek to Windy Bay, then along the southern shore of Windy Bay, then westerly along the shore of the Gulf of Alaska and around the tip of the Kenai Peninsula and easterly to the point of origin

1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
Nov. 1–Nov. 30

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
No open season

Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
(General hunt only)  
Nov. 1–Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

(4)

Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island south and west of a line extending along the Spiridon River, following the North Fork

of the Spiridon to its headwaters, then going southwest following the spine of the island over Koniag peak to the headwaters of the South Fork of Midway Creek, then downstream on Midway Creek to Midway Bay

2 goats by registration permit only, only 1 of which may be a billy; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug. 20–Mar. 31  
General hunt only)

Aug. 20–Mar. 31

Unit 8, all lands enclosed by a Line beginning at the mouth of Kizhuyak Bay continuing southeast through Ouzinke Narrows and Narrow Strait, then south and west between Woody and Long islands, then southwest into Womens Bay to the mouth of Russian Creek, then southwest along Russian Creek to its watershed divide, then west to ‘Mountain 3100’ and following the ridgeline to ‘Mountain 3292’, then northeast to the headwaters of an unnamed stream west of Russian Creek headwaters; then northwest down the unnamed stream to its mouth at Kizhuyak Bay, then along the southwest shoreline of Kizhuyak Bay to Low Cape, then through the middle of Kizhuak Bay to its mouth

1 goat by registration permit only; by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Nov. 1–Dec. 15

No open season

1 goat by registration permit only; by bow and arrow,

Dec. 16–Jan. 31

No open season

muzzleloader, or crossbow only;  
the taking of nannies with  
kids is prohibited  
Unit 8, all lands enclosed by  
a line beginning at the mouth  
of Ugak Bay continuing to the  
second unnamed stream west  
of Saltery Creek, then continuing  
north along that stream to the  
watershed divide, then connecting  
to the watershed divide of  
Russian Creek and following  
Russian Creek to its mouth at  
Womens Bay, then northeast  
through the middle of Womens  
Bay, then straight east through  
Chiniak Bay south of Refuge  
Island to the 3-mile limit, then  
following the 3-mile limit back  
to the mouth of Ugak Bay,  
including Ugak Island

1 goat by registration permit  
only; by bow and arrow only;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited; or

Nov. 1–Dec. 15

No open season

1 goat by registration permit  
only; by bow and arrow only;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited; or

Dec. 16–Jan. 31

No open season

1 goat by registration permit  
only; by bow and arrow,  
muzzleloader, or crossbow only;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited

Dec. 16–Jan. 31

Dec. 16–Jan. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit  
only; up to 500 permits  
may be issued; the taking of  
nannies with kids is prohib-  
ited; or

Aug. 20–Oct. 25  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 20–Oct. 25

1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited  
(7) Nov. 1–Jan. 31 No open season

Unit 14C, the drainages of Eagle River, Bird Creek, Glacier Creek, and the East Fork of the Eklutna River

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; Sept. 1–Oct. 15 Sept. 1–Oct. 15

Remainder of Unit 14(C)  
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by registration permit only; however, goats may be taken from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31 by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited Aug. 16–Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by registration permit only; and by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or Aug. 16–Aug. 31

1 goat by drawing permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited Sept. 1–Oct. 15

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for goats in units 6C, 6D, 7 and 15C outside of the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area; there is a negative C&T finding in Unit 8. The board has determined the amounts reasonably necessary for goats are as follows: Units 6C and 6D 15-26 goats; Units 7 and 15C (outside of the NSA) 7-10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

If adopted, the proposal would encourage hunters to target only male mountain goats. Retaining adult females in the population could make goat populations more resilient, help populations rebound after declines, and provide greater hunting opportunity in future years. The bag limit for southwest Kodiak Island (RG480) in Unit 8 is 2 goats total, only one of which may be a billy. This proposal will apply to the RG480 hunt as well, which is counter to the management needs for that population.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2009, the Board of Game (board) established a penalty for harvesting a nanny on the Kenai Peninsula (Units 7 and 15) in response to declining goat numbers. If a hunter harvests a nanny, the hunter is not allowed to hunt goats on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 years. With this penalty in place and the implementation of a new hunt structure, mountain goat populations have recovered to levels that allow for annual harvest in most hunt areas.

In the past 10 years, 18% of hunters prohibited from hunting mountain goats on the in Units 7 and 15 due to harvesting a nanny, have received a permit to hunt elsewhere in Region 2 (Units 6, 8, or 14C) during their penalty period. Since adoption of the same regulation for Unit 6 in 2015, 7% of hunters prohibited from hunting goats in Unit 6 due to harvesting a nanny, have received permits to hunt in Units 7, 8, 14C, or 15 during their penalty period. The ability for hunters to harvest a nanny in one portion of Region 2 and then hunt a different unit within the region degrades the effectiveness of the nanny penalty for the areas in which it currently applies.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal and is **OPPOSED** to it for the southwestern portion of Unit 8, where the 2 goat bag limit is in place to attract hunters to take advantage of the available resource. The department will continue to manage mountain goat populations sustainably while providing hunting opportunity. The department can close hunt units or alter guideline harvest levels based on mountain goat populations estimated during surveys and in-season harvest of nannies. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.** Establish an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep to consider if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted this proposal will set the average annual historic human harvest threshold for sheep.

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.** For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e) - (g) the Board of Game will

(1) consider the following criteria when identifying big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use:

(A) harvest size: the average annual historic human harvest meets or exceeds values as follows:

(i) caribou: 100;

(ii) deer: 500;

(iii) moose: 100;

(iv) sheep: **XX** [HARVEST SIZE TO BE DETERMINED];

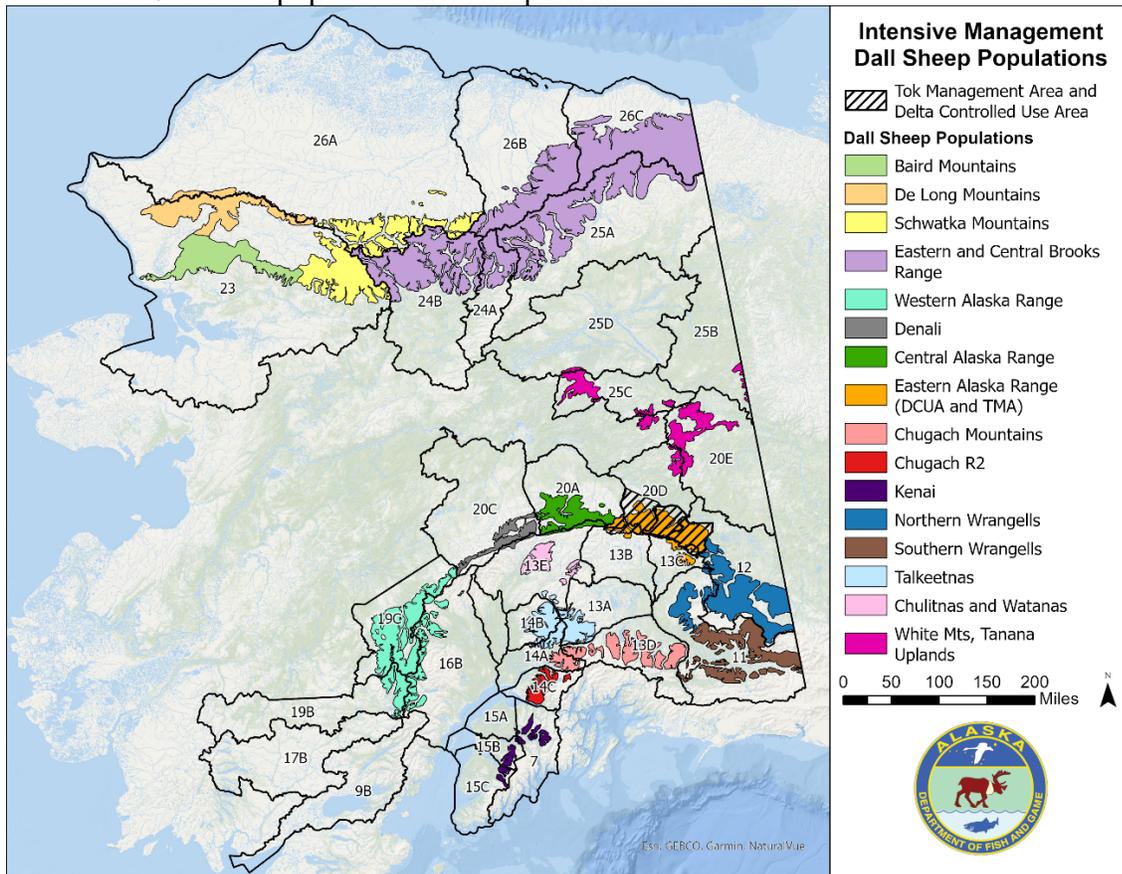
## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

If the Board adopts this proposal, it will set an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep for use in considering if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. Once established, the board can evaluate each individual population and determine if the population has a positive or negative intensive management finding, and if positive, the board can then set a population and harvest objective for each population.

**BACKGROUND:** At the Statewide Board of Game meeting in March 2025, the board adopted a proposal that added sheep to the list of species identified as important for providing high levels of human harvest. This provided the framework for the development of intensive management programs for Dall's sheep.

In 1994 the legislature adopted amendments to Title 16 in the Alaska Statutes. To provide for intensive management of certain big game prey populations. This is commonly known as the "Intensive Management Law". In 1997 the department and the Board began to apply a process for implementing the IM law. The process consisted of three steps, 1) Identification of ungulate populations that are important for providing high levels of consumptive use. 2) Establishing population objectives and harvest objectives for the identified populations. 3) Applying the population and harvest objectives to decision making. In 1998 the board set historic harvest thresholds for caribou (100), deer (500), and moose (100). These thresholds are part of the first step in the process of implementing the IM law. Now that sheep have been included as an IM species it is necessary to set the harvest threshold for sheep prior to moving to the second step in the process of implementing IM.

There are 16 distinct populations of sheep in Alaska:



Threshold Level	Population	Historic Harvest
100	Eastern and Central Brooks Range	163
100	Northern Wrangells	124
75	Central Alaska Range	88
75	Western Alaska Range	85
50	Eastern Alaska Range (DCUA&TMA)	73
35	Talkeetnas	37
35	Chugach Mountains	36
30	Southern Wrangells	30
20	Region 2 Chugach Mountains (14C)	21
15	White Mts and Tanana Uplands	17
10	Baird Mountains	10
5	Kenai	9
5	De Long Mountains	9
5	Chulitna & Watana	6
3	Schwatka Mountains	3
0	Denali	0

**Table 1. Table 1 shows the average annual harvest between 2005-2025 for each identified sheep population, and what corresponding potential harvest threshold level would be to determine if there is a positive or negative IM finding for that population.**

Potential IM action includes habitat improvement and predator control. At this time it is unknown if sheep habitat improvement is possible or practical, nor is it clear that habitat is a limiting factor for low sheep abundance. Predator removal to benefit sheep populations appears more complex than efforts to benefit moose or caribou populations for several reasons. In most Alaska IM programs the department focuses on two or three predator species; bears (brown and black) and wolves. Predation of sheep has been documented by wolves, bears, wolverine, coyote, and golden eagles. Contemplation of predator removal to benefit sheep is challenging, because they have not been managed as an IM species and research does not indicate predation is the leading factor contributing to low sheep numbers. Current studies show predator communities and their effects on sheep differ greatly between mountain ranges and sheep populations. Interactions between predator species may also lead to unintended consequences; for example, wolf removal has been theorized to result in increased coyote populations. A robust pre-treatment data set should be collected to ascertain predation levels by each predator species in each sheep population to focus efforts on the appropriate predator if predator removal is directed and to give any IM program the largest chance of success. There are federal regulatory challenges to remove golden eagles. Another hurdle is to determine how to efficiently and safely remove predators if they are identified as contributing to low sheep abundance.

Observations and historic fluctuations in sheep populations indicate low sheep abundance is due to extreme winter weather. As recently as winter 2025 deep snows are accumulating on various sheep ranges, and a number of rain on snow events have occurred. The impacts of habitat status and predation on sheep are unknown. The department also has the authority to remove predators outside of established IM programs if research indicates predation is a leading contributor to declines in sheep populations or is preventing depressed populations from recovering.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal as setting a harvest threshold is necessary for the process of implementing the IM law for sheep. This proposal is the next step in the process toward intensively managing sheep populations for high levels of human harvest. Once the board determines the appropriate harvest threshold it will then need to evaluate sheep populations statewide to determine a positive or negative IM finding for each population.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would result in additional costs for the department in the form of assessing each sheep population to aid the board in determining if the population warranted a positive or negative IM finding.

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**PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations.** Establish intensive management (IM) findings for sheep populations, and population and harvest objectives if applicable, in the Southcentral Region.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would establish intensive management (IM) findings for sheep populations and establish population and harvest objectives if the populations have a positive IM finding, in the Southcentral Region.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations.

<b>Population</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Population Objective</b>	<b>Harvest Objective</b>
...			
<b>Sheep</b>			
GMUs 7 and 15 (Kenai Peninsula)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
GMU 14(C) (Chugach Mountains)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The IM implementation process for a new species consists of three steps, 1) Identification of ungulate populations that are important for providing high levels of consumptive use. 2) Establishing population objectives and harvest objectives for the identified populations. 3) Applying the population and harvest objectives to decision making.

If the board adopts this proposal and applies the harvest threshold to determine if either of these populations has a positive IM finding that will be accomplishing the second step in the process of implementing IM.

**BACKGROUND:** At the March 2025 Statewide Board of Game meeting in Anchorage the board adopted a proposal to establish sheep as an intensive management species under **5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.** Currently no sheep populations have an IM finding. This would be the first application of either population or harvest objectives to a sheep population to determine if either of these populations has a positive or negative IM finding.

Unlike moose or caribou populations, DWC does not have a statistically validated way to count sheep and correct for the number of animals that may be missed during a survey. Further, with a few notable exceptions, sheep trend count areas encompass only a fraction of the geographic extent of sheep range in a particular unit. Trend count areas are surveyed at different scales, intensities, and time frames. As a result, innovative techniques to determine population objectives may be required.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal as part of the IM process. The department is **NEUTRAL** to the Units 7 and 15 (Kenai Mountains) and Unit 14C (Chugach Mountains) sheep populations having a positive or negative IM finding.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would result in additional costs for the department in the form of assessing each sheep population to aid the board in determining the feasibility of IM actions for identified populations.

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**PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Define the terms “permanent dwelling,” “publicly maintained trail/road,” and “developed recreational facility” in the Southcentral Region for the purpose of bear baiting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would define certain terms in 5 AAC 92.044 and reword one phrase, all applicable in the Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15 only. It would reword the phrase “permanent dwelling” as "dwelling" and define it as a structure or part of a structure that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping unit that is publicly maintained through use of public funds or privately owned. This definition would include permitted trapper cabins.

It would define “publicly maintained trail or road” as a trail or road that is maintained with the use of public funding through an agency or private organization and meant for public use.

It would define “developed recreation facility” as an area that (A) includes a shooting range, developed boat ramp, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach, education center and/or developed ski area; and (B) does not include trails or latrines more than one quarter mile from a road.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations are defined in 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or a scent lure.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

...

- (5) a person may not use bait or scent lures within
  - (A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;

- (B) one mile of a
  - (i) house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station;
  - (ii) business; or
  - (iii) school; or
- (C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

...

(d) In this section, “operate” means to establish, register, bait, maintain, or hunt a bait station site.

(e) In this section, “equipment” means barrels, tree stands, game camera, and other items associated with a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or such other person authorized to give permission.

AS 16.05.940(11) “domicile” means the true and permanent home of a person from which the person has no present intention of moving and to which the person intends to return whenever the person is away; domicile may be proved by presenting evidence acceptable to the boards of fisheries and game.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The adjective “permanent” in the current regulation modifies the word “dwelling” and there is no reference to period of occupancy or intent to return to the structure, and as currently written applies to seasonally occupied cabins. Removal of “permanent” and adoption of the proposed definition may serve to further limit bear baiting and present challenges for bear baiters who would now be in violation if a recreational tent was set up within a mile of a bait station.

The proposal would introduce confusion for hunters because the defined terms would only be applicable in Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15.

**BACKGROUND:** The intent of the current regulations regarding bear baiting is to separate bear bait sites from other activities to prevent unanticipated human/bear interactions. The department does not have reliable, high-resolution data on the placement of bait stations relative to the structures listed in 5 AAC 92.044(b)(5), and it does not have high-resolution data on the existing dwellings, permanent or otherwise, and instead relies on law enforcement discretion to enforce these regulations.

The department is unaware of a formal definition of “publicly maintained trail or road” as these features have been created and maintained at various levels of jurisdiction including borough, state, federal, Native corporation, and private. The department does not catalogue these features across jurisdictions and many are subject to frequent changes due to variable conditions, irregular maintenance, seasonality, etc.

The Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code 11 AAC 12.990 defines “developed facility” as

(11) "developed facility"

(A) includes a building, boat ramp, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach, trailhead, parking area, and developed ski area;

(B) does not include trails or latrines more than one quarter mile from a road;

The proposed definition removes “building” and includes “shooting range.” Such facilities have been created and maintained by various levels of jurisdiction and the department does not catalogue these facilities across jurisdictions and many are subject to frequent changes due to variable conditions, irregular maintenance, seasonality, etc.

At the March 2023 board meeting the board deferred Proposal 144 to the March 2025 Statewide board meeting. Proposal 144 asked to define “developed recreational facility” and “permanent dwelling” for the purposes of bear baiting in Units 7 and 15. At the March 2025 Statewide meeting, the board failed the proposal and also unanimously failed Proposal 124 which asked to change “permanent dwelling” to “permanent domicile” for the purposes of bear baiting, statewide.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on defining terms to reduce confusion and opposed to the regulatory complexity caused by defining terms within a unit or region only. If the board intends to change 5 AAC 92.044(5)(A)(B)(C), the department recommends deferring this proposal to the next regularly scheduled statewide board meeting.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 74 – 5 AAC 92.130 Restrictions to Bag Limit.** Count a wounded brown bear against a hunter’s bag limit in Units 6, 7, 14C, and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Expand current regulations already in place for Units 1-5 and Unit 8 to include Units 6, 7, 14C, and 15, wherein a brown bear wounded by a person counts against that person’s bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is taken.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to Bag limit

(f) In Units 1 - 5 and Unit 8, a black or brown bear wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is taken. However, in Units 1 - 5 and Unit 8, a brown bear wounded by a person does not count against that person's one bear every four regulatory years bag limit established in [5 AAC 92.132](#).

5 AAC 92.130(h), “wounded” means there is a sign of blood or there is sign that the animals has been hit by a hunting projectile.

There are negative customary and traditional use (C&T) findings for brown bear in units 6, 8, and 15C. Units 7, 14C, 15A, and 15B, excluding Kalgin Island, are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and there are no customary and traditional uses and the subsistence priority does not apply within the NSA. Kalgin Island in Unit 15B is outside of the NSA however there are no brown bears on the island.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Brown bears wounded and not recovered by a hunter in Units 6, 7, 14C, and 15 would count against that person’s bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is wounded. The proposal does not address areas with variable regulatory year bag limits (i.e. one bear every four regulatory years) as described in 5 AAC 92.130(f).

**BACKGROUND:** A similar regulation has been in effect since 2007 in Unit 8, and in portions of Southeast Alaska since 2005. The intent of the current regulation is to avoid the additive harvest of bears that may be caused by hunters either continuing to hunt, or taking additional bears, after they have wounded a bear. The existing regulation is intended to encourage hunters to make good shot placement, encourage taking game when conditions allow for retrieval, and to make every attempt possible to locate wounded game. The regulation is also used commonly in areas where there is limited hunting opportunity available, with the intent to spread opportunity to harvest evenly among those interested in participating.

The regulation that pertains to Units 1-5, and 8 also specifies bears wounded and not recovered count toward the bag limit for the regulatory year, but do not count toward the every four regulatory year bag limit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the proposal and uses the number of permits, season dates and bag limits (which protect cubs and sows with cubs) to ensure that over-harvest of the populations does not occur. To reduce regulatory complexity, if the board adopts the proposal, the department recommends the board consider amending the proposal to match the existing Unit 8 regulation, which specifies wounded bears count toward the bag limit for the regulatory year, but not toward the every four regulatory year bag limit.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.** Require an online trapping education course for trapping in Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Knapp

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Require trappers operating in Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15 who were born after January 1, 1986 and are 18 years or older, to have successfully completed a basic trapper education course in person or on-line before trapping in the units listed above.

Trappers under 18 years of age must have either successfully completed the basic trapper education course in person or on-line, or be under the immediate supervision of a licensed trapper who: a) is 18 years of age or older and has successfully completed a basic trapper education course in person or on-line OR b) was born on or before January 1, 1986.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are no current regulations requiring completion of a trapper education course.

Units 7, 14C, 15A, and 15B, excluding Kalgin Island, are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and there are no customary and traditional uses and the subsistence priority does not apply within the NSA. There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for furbearers in Units 6, 8, and the remainder of Unit 15 for all units with a harvestable portion, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable surplus.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the department would need to create and administer a trapper education course for users in the units listed that meet the described demographic criteria. Subsequently, over time, all trappers intending to trap in the described units would be required to take a trapper education course. The proposal was written to mirror the existing hunter education requirement in Units 7, 13, 14, 15 and 20.

**BACKGROUND:** There are no current regulations requiring trappers to complete a trapper education course. The department uses quizzes, courses, and orientations to ensure hunters have a base of knowledge before pursuing certain animals or participating in certain hunts. Some of these requirements are for selecting a legal animal, while others orient the hunter to a specific hunt area. There are many examples of ways the department provides education for hunters before going afield. For example, during the 2025 statewide Board of Game (board) meeting, the board adopted proposals that require hunters statewide to pass a mountain goat quiz before hunting mountain goats and required all nonresident hunters to complete an orientation before hunting moose statewide.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but supports the effort to reduce conflicts among outdoor recreators. It is unlikely there would be a resulting

impact on trapper participation or success rates influencing furbearer populations. If this proposal is adopted, the department will need to work with local trappers and the Alaska Trappers Association to develop educational materials. If adopted, the department recommends the board delay implementation to give the department time to develop the materials. There are no other requirements for trapping education or orientation anywhere else in regulation, this would be the first and as such, the department will need substantial time to develop the materials. Additionally, to meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of furbearers if the proposal is adopted. The proposal was submitted to address Units 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 14C, 15, and 20, however Units 13, 14A, 14B, and 20 are located outside of the area legally noticed for this meeting in the Southcentral Region and the board does not have the ability to make changes to those units at the March 2026 board meeting.

**COST ANALYSIS:** There would be a cost to the department for the development of the materials.

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**PROPOSAL 76– 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Reduce the nonresident deer bag limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bradley Golden

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reduce nonresident bag limit from 4 deer to 1 deer.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Unit 6            August 1–December 31

Resident hunters

5 deer

Only bucks may be taken before October 1

Nonresident hunters

4 deer

Only bucks may be taken before October 1

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for deer in Unit 6 with an ANS of 1,000–1,250 deer.

There is a positive intensive management finding for deer in Unit 6, with a population objective of 24,000-28,000 deer, and a harvest objective of 2,200 – 3,000.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** A

nonresident hunter would not be able to harvest as many deer in a season. This reduction in harvest would be very small and unlikely to benefit the population, which is primarily affected by weather.

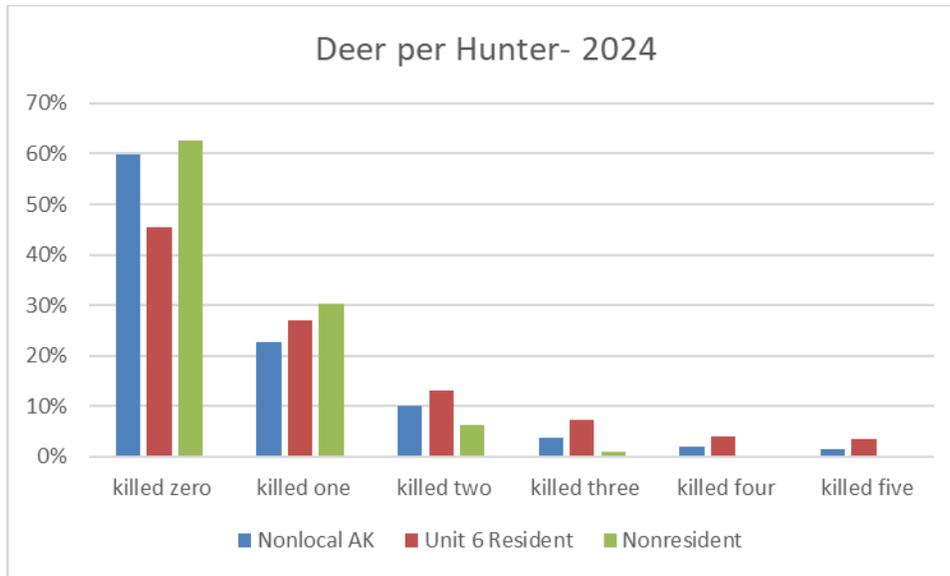
**BACKGROUND:** Sitka black-tailed deer in Unit 6 are at the extreme northern limit of their range (Cowan 1969). The population usually thrives because of mild, maritime climate conditions on islands in Prince William Sound (PWS) (Shishido 1986). The most important factors limiting the deer population are snow depth and snowpack duration (Reynolds 1979). A series of mild winters allows deer to increase and disperse to less favorable habitat, only to decline during severe winters when food is inaccessible. As such, weather primarily influences population trajectory.

Generous season and bag limits allow for high harvest in years when winter kill is anticipated to be high. However, the remote nature of most of PWS, difficult fall weather, and rugged terrain creates challenges for hunters which may limit participation and thereby lower harvest in most areas.

The average harvest for the last 10 years (regulatory years (RY) 15–RY24)) is 2,035 deer. The highest harvest during this time was 2,959 deer in RY21 which was followed by the lowest harvest, 1,499 deer, in RY22. For RY15-RY24, buck harvest was 57–69% of the total harvest with a ten-year average of 64%.

Nonresidents hunters averaged 0.57 deer per hunter during the same timeframe (RY15-RY14). Most nonresidents do not harvest more than one deer (Figure 1). A big game tag must be purchased prior to hunting and the cost for deer is \$300 per tag, and hunters may incur additional costs to transport meat home. A bag limit reduction would result in an average of 7 fewer deer being harvested per year and a loss of opportunity for nonresidents.

**Figure 1.** Unit 6 Deer harvested per hunter by residency type during RY24.



In some years, when weather concentrates deer on the beach, the number of deer taken per hunter increases substantially, but only among Unit 6 residents.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative components of this proposal and **OPPOSED** to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity. This proposal is not likely to have an impact on the population and does not create nor address a biological concern for the department.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 77 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Change the nonresident goat hunt from a registration permit to a drawing permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bradley Golden

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Change the registration goat hunt for nonresidents in Unit 6D to a drawing hunt. If adopted, this proposal will not change current mountain goat management strategies.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

Units 6C and 6D Sep 15–Jan 31

1 goat by registration permit only; however if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Units 6C and 6D outside of the Valdez non-subsistence area (RG245 and RG248) and an amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence of 15 – 26 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

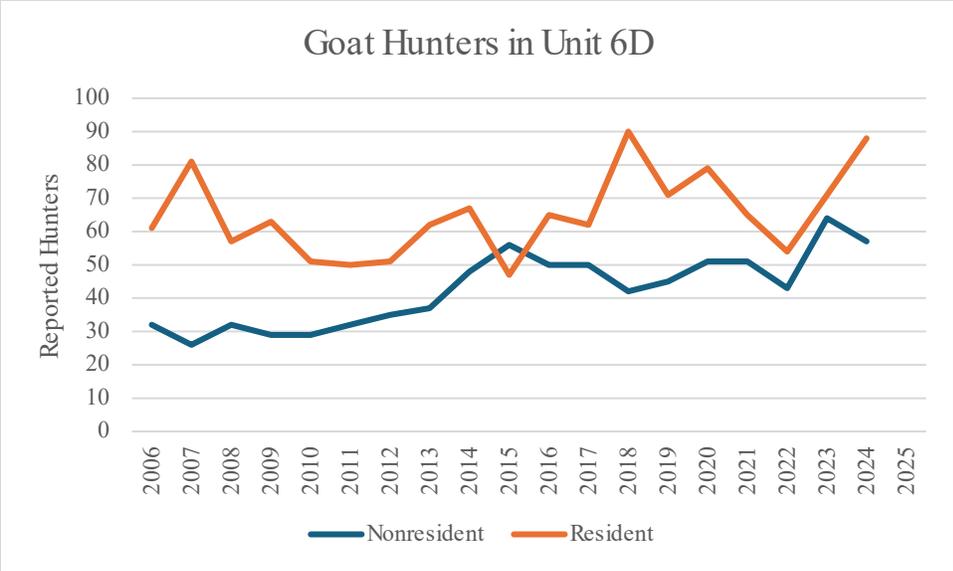
Nonresident hunters would have the full length of the season to harvest a goat rather than the risk that the season might close early when the Maximum Allowable Harvest (MAH) is met.

However, they would have to draw a permit through the drawing lottery for the opportunity to hunt. Drawing hunts could prevent exceeding MAH in some areas or leaving quotas unfilled by trying to anticipate harvest with in-season management.

**BACKGROUND:** There are 8 hunt areas in Unit 6D (RG242–266.) These hunts are managed based on minimum count aerial surveys and a 3–5% harvest rate. Harvest is considered in “goat points” with billies counting as 1 point and nannies counting as 2. If a nanny is harvested, the hunter (resident or nonresident) cannot hunt in Unit 6 for 5 years. As with all goat hunting in Alaska, completion of the Mountain Goat Orientation and Quiz is now mandatory for all hunters prior to hunting.

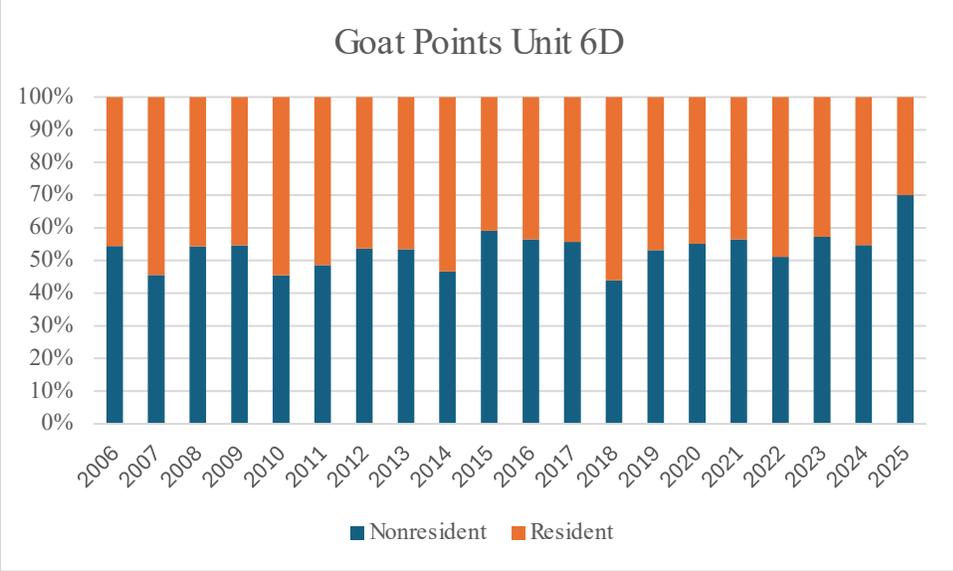
Minimum count aerial goat surveys are performed annually but are notoriously difficult to complete due to weather, pilot availability and the highly specific conditions required. While the goal is to survey each hunt area every 3-5 years, it is often longer between surveys. Stable trends characterize most areas for the last 20 years.

The number of hunters pursuing goats has increased over the last 20 years from a low of 82 hunters in RY10 and RY11 to a high of 141 hunters in 2024. In Unit 6D, the 10-year average number of nonresident hunters for RY06–15 was 36 hunters and grew to 50 hunters for RY16–24 (Figure 1). The number of resident hunters also grew from a 10-year average of 59 for RY06–15 to 72 in RY16–24. If only the 3 most popular hunt areas (RG249, RG252 and RG266) are considered, the number of nonresident and resident hunters is nearly identical and has increased at the same rate. These 3 hunts are the most popular with residents because they are closest to the ports of Whittier, Valdez, and Seward and lend themselves to self-supported hunters. For the last 10 years, an average of 7% of nonresident hunters did not report using a guide and it is inferred that these hunters are guided by a resident relative within second degree of kindred.



**Figure 1.** Goat Hunters in Unit 6D 2006–2025.

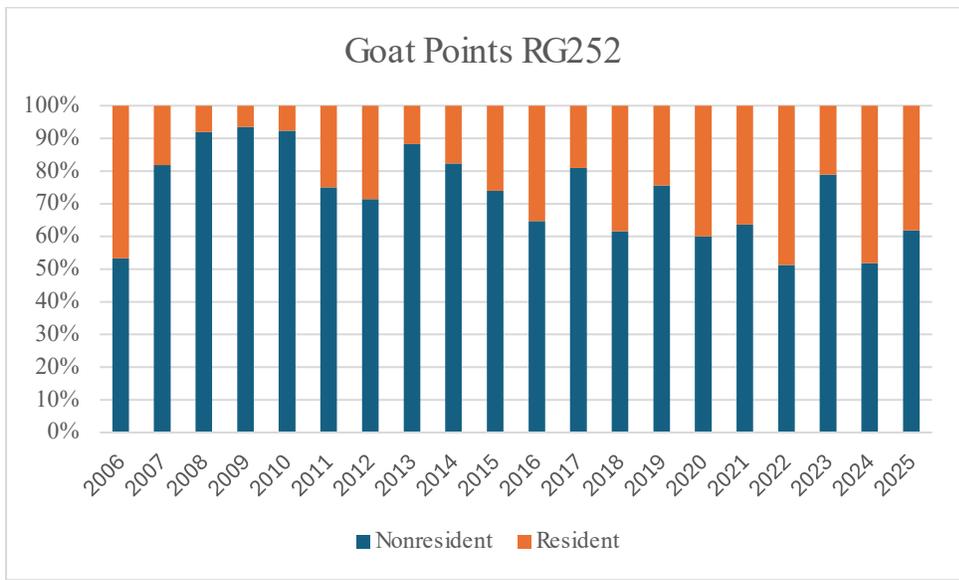
Harvest during the last 10 years, considered in goat points, has been increased in response to increased abundance of goats which provides for additional harvest opportunity (Figure 2). In RG252, in 8 of the last 10 years, more than 60% of goat points were taken by nonresidents (range 51–81%). In RG249, in 7 of the last 10 years, more than 60% of goat points were taken by nonresidents (range 35–79%). In RG266, in 4 of the last 10 years, more than 60% of goat points were taken by nonresidents (range 17–89%.) Combined harvest by goat points for Unit 6D is more than 50% nonresident.



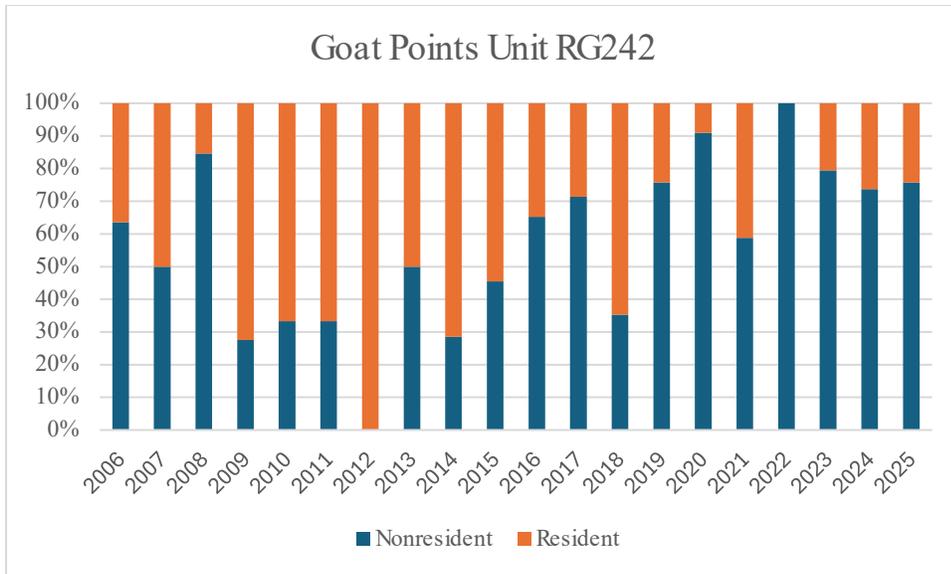
**Figure 2.** Maximum allowable harvest for goats in Unit 6D

The season is closed by emergency order when the maximum allowable harvest has been met or is anticipated to be met very soon. Some hunt areas in Unit 6D (RG242, RG243, and RG244) are rarely closed. RG245 remained open 9 of the last 20 years. The 3 most popular hunt areas, RG249, RG252, and RG266, usually close within 30 days. The cumulative number of days available to hunters in Unit 6D has declined from 658 days (5-year average RY06–10) to 533 (5-year average RY21–25).

The US Forest Service authorizes commercial operators on USFS land. Their numbers are updated every 5–10 years and do not consider goats available for harvest. As a result, effort shifts as seasons close while hunters that are hunting with contracted guides are still in the field. Some guides have addressed increasing pressure by shifting effort away from more popular areas (RG252, Figure 3) into areas with less pressure (RG242, Figure 4).



**Figure 3.** Maximum allowable harvest for goats in RG252



**Figure 4.** Maximum allowable harvest for goats in RG242

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. With shorter seasons and more hunters afield, it is becoming more difficult to stay within the MAH.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 78 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Create an archery only registration permit in a portion of Unit 6.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jesse Dunshie

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Create a fall season, archery registration permit goat hunt within RG248 hunt area in Unit 6D, with a season of September 10 – 20, and a bag limit of 1 billy. The proposal does not specify if the hunt will be open to resident and nonresidents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTERS**

Units 6C and 6D Sep 15–Jan 31 (the season runs Oct 1–Oct 31 using permit hunt conditions)

1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goats in Units 6C and 6D outside of the Valdez non-subsistence area (RG245 and RG248) and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 15 – 26 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create an exclusive hunting opportunity for archery hunters. This proposal would not likely impact the goat population because the department will continue to manage within Maximum Allowable Harvest (MAH) through available goat points. Archery hunters would have additional early season opportunity compared to non-archery hunters. With a shared quota, non-archery hunters would potentially have a shorter season as they pursue a smaller quota.

**BACKGROUND:** Goats are the only native ungulate in Unit 6 and have long been hunted. In 1998, the board established the current hunt areas in Unit 6 to allow for more precise and responsive hunt management. Registration hunts in Unit 6 are managed by emergency order when MAH levels are reached. Over the last 6 years (regulatory years (RY)19–24)), this hunt has not closed by emergency order, and the season has been expanded from 10 days to 31 days.

This hunt has occurred in 16 of 27 years (since 1998) with 5–6 goat points available when a hunt occurred, except the last 2 years when 8 goat points were available. RG248 was not offered as a hunt until RY05. From RY05–09, the hunt occurred but lasted 1–5 days before closing by emergency order. RG248 was not offered RY10–12 due to insufficient population survey data combined with disproportionately high hunter interest for a very small MAH, thereby increasing the likelihood of drastically exceeding MAH in even an extremely short season.

In RY13, aerial surveys were conducted that found sufficient goats to support the hunt. However, interest was still very high and led to seasons of less than 2 days. The board of game (board) implemented a series of changes to ensure a more regulated harvest. In 2014, the Mountain Goat Identification quiz became mandatory for goat hunters in specific areas, including RG231. Additionally, in 2015, the board passed a regulation prohibiting mountain goat hunting in Unit 6 for 5 years after harvesting a nanny. Since RY16, the department has issued a limited number of permits, available in-person only. As a result, the season has gradually lengthened and permit availability has increased.

Considering the last 10 years, an average of 11 hunters per year participate and an average of 4 goats were harvested annually. When weighted to consider nanny take, an average of 5 goat points have been taken each year. None of the harvest records in RG248 since 2005 have indicated that archery was the utilized method of take. Nearly all harvest (96%) is by Alaska residents.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal due to its allocative nature. If the board adopts the proposal, it will need to specify if the hunt is open to resident and nonresidents. Portions of the RG248 hunt area are outside of the nonsubsistence area. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider

whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for the subsistence taking of goats if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 79 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Shorten the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 6A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Semler

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Shorten the nonresident moose season in Unit 6A by one month.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

Units 6A remainder Sept. 1 – Nov. 30

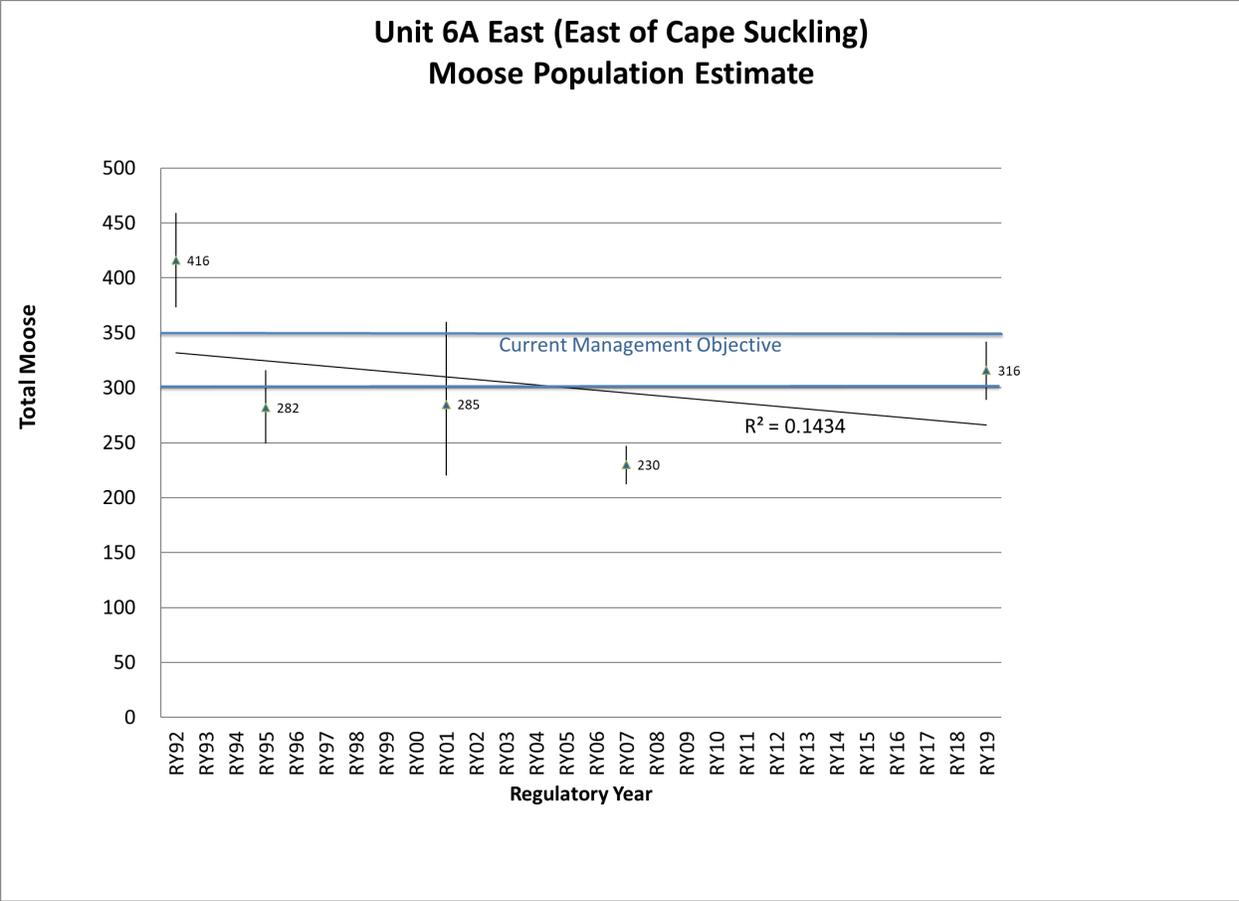
1 Bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least 1 side.

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 6.

There is a negative intensive management finding for moose in Unit 6.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The nonresident season for moose would be reduced by one month in Unit 6A. The department does not anticipate a significant decline in harvest as most moose are taken early in the season.

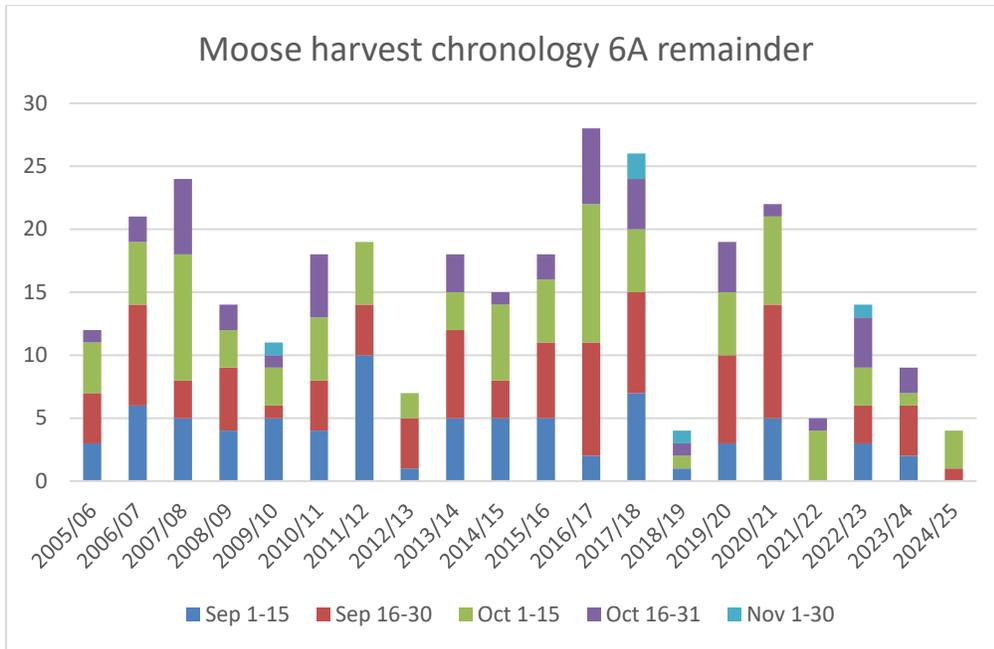
**BACKGROUND:** The most recent point estimate for Unit 6A East, Cape Suckling to Icy Bay, was 316 moose in RY19 (90% CI 289–342) (Figure 1.) The previous point estimate was from RY07; with 12 years between population estimates, it is impossible to speculate on population trajectory. Additionally, RY19 was the first year that the area from Cape Yakataga to Icy Bay had been included in the population estimate. Had this not been included, the estimate would have been very close to past estimates of about 275–285 moose. Prior to RY19, this population had not been within the management objective of 300–350 for at least 25 years. While the population is now within range, it is important to remember that this is mostly due to the inclusion of the additional area. The level of calves observed (13%) increased compared to the last surveys (RY07 7% calves, RY09 11% calves.)



**Figure 1.** Moose population estimate for Unit 6A East

Although the population trajectory for moose in Unit 6A remainder is unclear, the hunt management structure for this area makes overharvest unlikely. A 5-year annual average of 32 hunters resulted in a 5-year average annual harvest of 11 moose (range 4–22). Success rates are 23–48% and are largely influenced by the fact that most hunters (>80%) report using a guide to hunt in this area.

In most years, more moose are taken in September than in the remaining months of the season (Figure 2). Harvest in November has only been reported in 4 of the last 20 years. If November harvest are excluded, 0–2 fewer moose would have been harvested each year for a total reduction of 5 moose over the last 20 years.



**Figure 2.** Moose harvest chronology for Unit 6A remainder.

Members of the public have expressed some concern that late season hunts affect moose negatively because bulls are in poor, post-rut body condition. However, with low participation during the late season, it is unlikely that legal moose hunting would have a biological impact.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative, and the department is opposed to unnecessary reductions in opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 80 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Create a drawing hunt for moose in Unit 6D.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joseph List

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would create 2 new hunt areas, as follows:

Archery-Only Zone: From Valdez (milepost 0) to milepost 12 on the Richardson Highway and only within 100 yards on either side of the highway right-of-way.

Any-Weapon Zone: From milepost 12 to milepost 25 on the Richardson Highway and only within 100 yards on either side of the highway right-of-way.

Each hunt area would have a drawing hunt for a bull or cow without a calf.

Season Dates: October 1 to February 28

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Unit 6(D)

1 bull                                      Residents or Nonresidents                                      Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

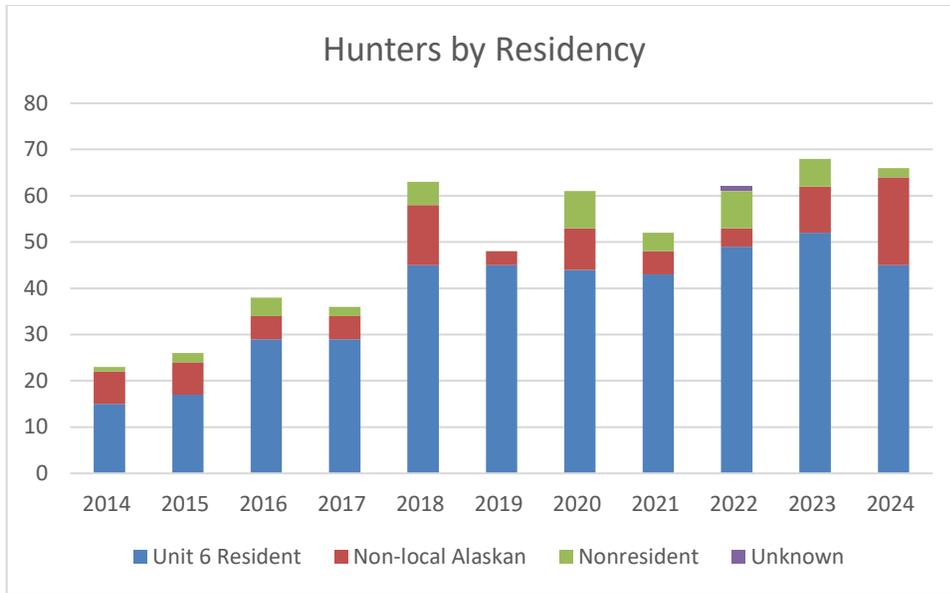
This portion of Unit 6 is located entirely within the Valdez Nonsubsistence Area (NSA), therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area. Outside of the NSA, the board has made a negative customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 6.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would create a new moose archery season intended to mitigate moose/vehicle collisions on portions of the Richardson Highway.

**BACKGROUND:** Unit 6D is not considered to have a resident moose population. Nearly all of the moose that area found in Unit 6D occur between Valdez and the boundary of 13D in Thompson Pass. During normal to severe winters, snow depths are believed to limit moose enough to either drive them from the area or kill them. In mild winters moose may remain, but these periods are usually not sustained for numerous consecutive years. Due to this ephemeral nature and what is believed to be a small population, moose in Unit 6D have not been surveyed.

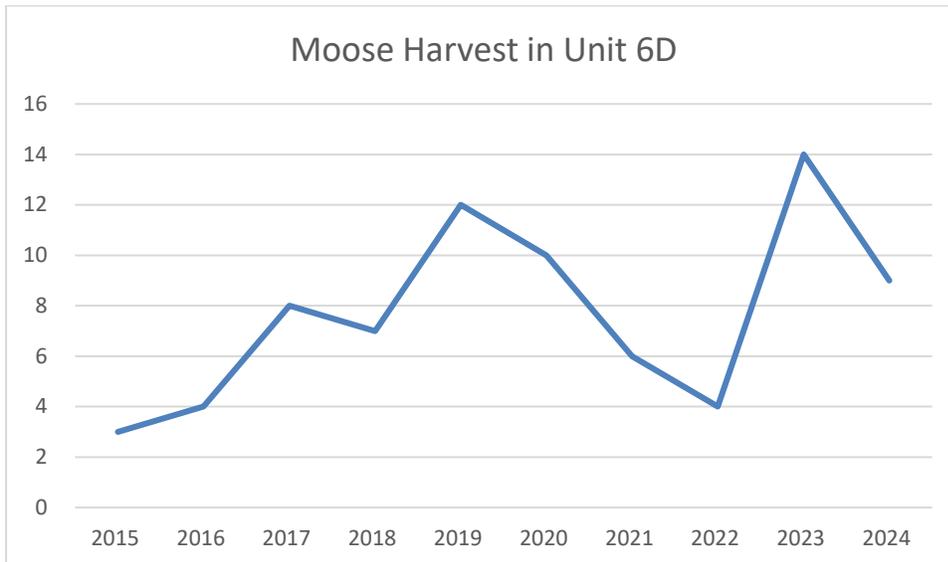
The current structure of the hunt is believed to provide for the compensatory harvest of bulls, however if winters are mild enough for cows to survive and persist, they are given the chance to do so. Winter moose mortality is believed to be biased towards males and calves because they enter the winter in the poorest body condition.

Interest in hunting moose in this area has grown from about 20 hunters to 60 hunters per year in ten years (Figure 1). Most of the hunters that participate are residents of Valdez. Hunter success varies by year from 6–25%. Hunters reported an average of 5–7 days hunted.



**Figure 1.** Unit 6D moose hunter residency.

Moose harvest has increased from 3 moose in 2015 to a high of 14 moose in 2023. However, harvest has varied greatly from year to year, probably due to moose abundance and distribution.



**Figure 2.** Moose harvest in Unit 6D.

This proposal would allow for a longer season and a bag limit that would include cows, but in a small roadway corridor. This could result in higher harvest in this area, potentially exceeding the current level of roadkills. Roadkill reporting for moose is imperfect. Two moose were reported in 2023 and none for all other years. Anecdotally, it is believed that 0–3 moose are involved in vehicle collisions per year.

This proposal would create an exclusive hunting opportunity for archery hunters. Functionally this is not necessary since the City of Valdez regulates the use of firearms and would restrict opportunity to hunting equipment that adheres to their ordinances and local regulations. Additionally, without a population estimate or the ability to anticipate winter conditions, it would be nearly impossible to determine an appropriate harvest amount.

A targeted hunt would allow for a to-be-announced (TBA) season in response to conditions that could lead to high winter mortality and or/ vehicle collisions, although there is no evidence that the small amount of roadkill necessitates an additional hunt.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative nature of the proposal. The department **OPPOSES** replacing the current harvest ticket hunt with a drawing hunt because it is an unnecessary reduction in opportunity. The board will need to determine if it wants to replace the existing hunt, or add this to the existing structure. Also, if the board is interested in adopting the proposal, the department recommends the board change February 28 to “the last day of February” to be consistent with other regulations and to address leap years.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 81 – 5 AAC 085.045(a)(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 6C.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Adoption of this proposal would ensure that the department has the necessary tools to manage the Unit 6C moose population within objectives.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Seasons and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)	Sept. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued		



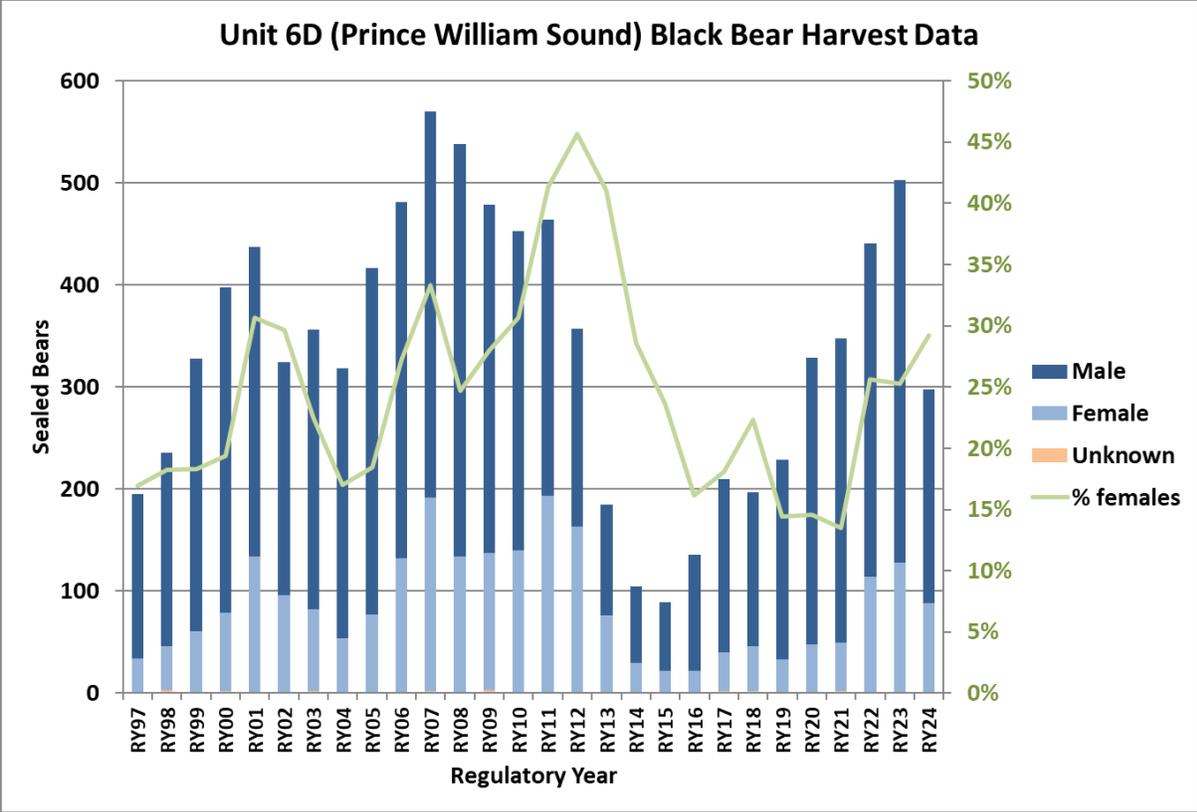
There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for black bears in Unit 6 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 80-120 bears.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The black bear season will be 10 days shorter for both residents and nonresidents. Since RY15, about 20% of the harvest occurs in the first 10 days of June. Removing this period may reduce harvest by about 50 bears per year, or effort may shift with the change in season dates and harvest may remain at similar levels. Spring snow conditions have an impact on the overall contribution of this timeframe to the total harvest in any given year. If the harvest is high or growing, a shorter season could reduce harvest pressure. If harvest is low or steady, a shorter season could result in missed harvest opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Black bear hunting in Prince William Sound is a popular spring activity. Black bears are also a sought-after species to observe on wildlife viewing excursions, which are frequent during spring and summer. Meat salvage is required in the spring when most of the harvest occurs.

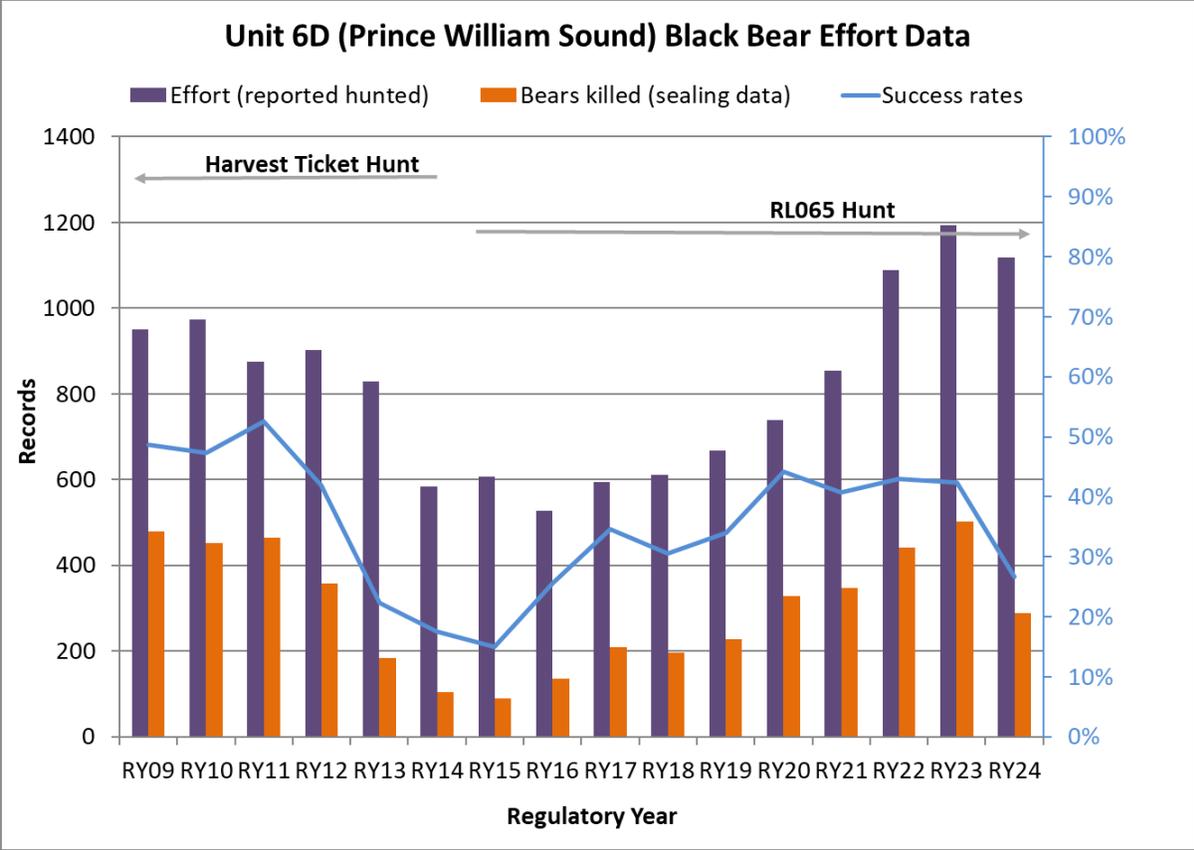
Black bears are notoriously difficult and expensive to enumerate. Harvest data is currently the only tool for trying to understand population status and trajectory. All black bears harvested in Unit 6 must be sealed within 30 days of harvest. Annual harvest has ranged from a high of 570 bears in RY07 to a low of 89 bears in RY15.

Periods of high harvest (RY00–01 and RY05–RY11) have been followed by periods of much lower harvest (RY02–04 and RY12–19, respectively). Harvest began climbing in RY19 and over 500 black bears were harvested in RY23. The preliminary RY24 harvest estimate is approximately 300 bears (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Unit 6D black bear harvest data.

Effort has only been monitored since RY09 when harvest tickets became mandatory for black bears. In RY15, a registration hunt (RL065) replaced the harvest ticket and allowed for better in-season management with a 3-day reporting period. Historically reported hunting effort was 800–974 hunters per year until RY14 when it dropped to 528–608 hunters. It stayed in that range until RY18 and climbed to over 1,000 reported hunters obtaining registration permits from RY22–24 (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Unit 6D black bear hunter effort.

Spring snow and weather conditions may impact the proportion of bears in the harvest during June. For example, in RY11 and RY12, more than 35% of the harvest occurred in June because late snow concentrated bears into smaller areas. As the season progresses, male bears may become increasingly focused on breeding females. Highly active bears are likely easier to hunt as they are engaged in less resting and feeding behavior.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity. Moderating dramatic highs and lows in harvest can increase stability for long-term hunting opportunities. Currently, emergency order authority can be used for such a purpose by modifying season dates. However, emergency orders create challenges for hunters and commercial operators and are avoided unless there is a clear biological necessity. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Increase the resident bag limit from 1 to 2 black bears.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jessie Dunshie

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Increase the resident bag limit for the RL065 black bear hunt in Unit 6 to 2 bears.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Unit 6(D)

1 bear by registration permit only

Sept. 10 – June 10

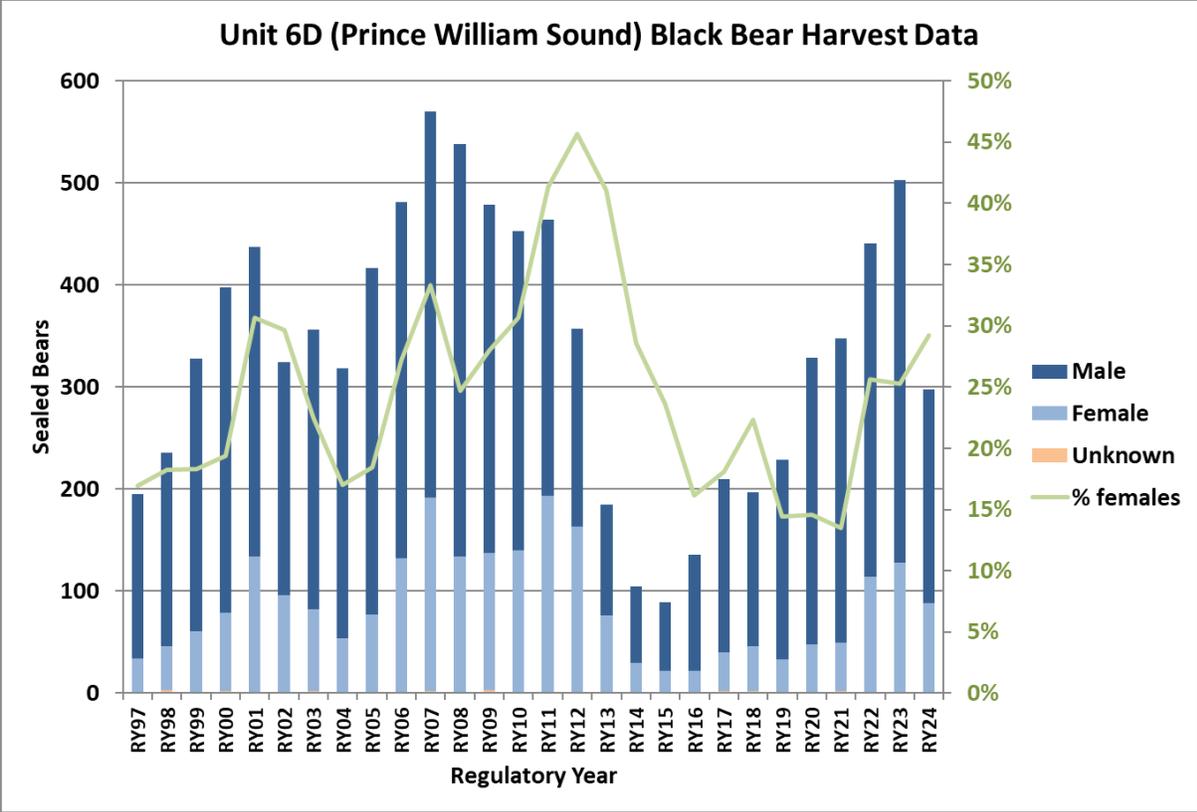
There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for black bears in Unit 6 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 80-120 bears.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Annual harvest of black bears could increase. Residents harvest the majority of black bears in Unit 6D and could capitalize on the additional opportunity for an individual to take additional bears. If faster and higher rates of harvest were to occur earlier in the regulatory year this could increase the chances of an emergency order closure and reduce future harvest opportunity for those planning a hunt later in the season.

**BACKGROUND:** Black bear hunting in Prince William Sound is a popular spring activity. Black bears are also a sought-after species to observe on wildlife viewing excursions, which are frequent during spring and summer. Meat salvage is required in the spring when most of the harvest occurs.

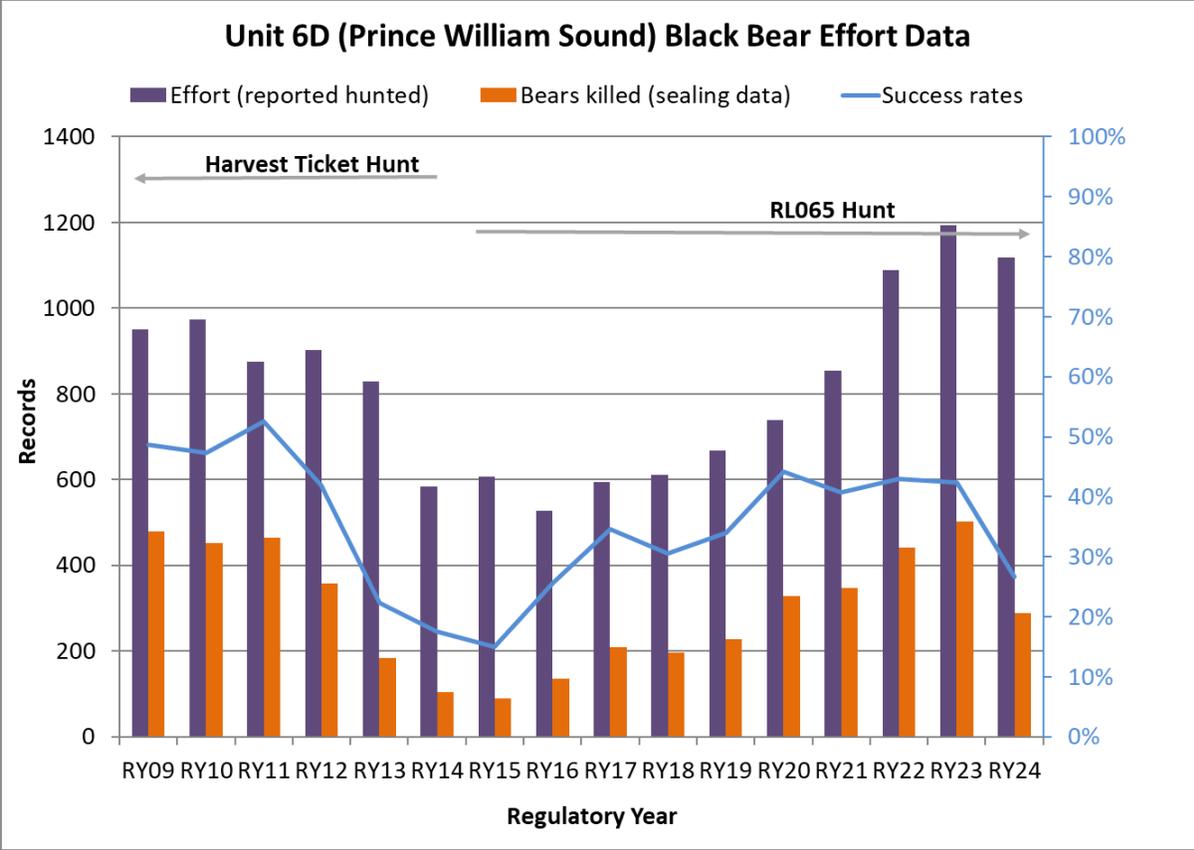
Black bears are difficult and expensive to enumerate. Harvest data is currently the only tool for trying to understand population status and trajectory. All black bears harvested in Unit 6 must be sealed within 30 days of harvest. Annual harvest has ranged from a high of 570 bears in regulatory year (RY) 07 to a low of 89 bears in RY15.

Periods of high harvest (RY00–01 and RY05–RY11) have been followed by periods of much lower harvest (RY02–04 and RY12–19). Harvest began climbing in RY19 and over 500 black bears were harvested in RY23. The preliminary RY24 harvest estimate is approximately 300 bears (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Unit 6D black bear harvest data.

Effort has only been monitored since RY09 when harvest tickets became mandatory for black bears. In RY15, a registration hunt (RL065) replaced the harvest ticket and allowed for better in-season management with a 3-day reporting period. Historically reported hunting effort was 800–974 hunters per year until RY14 when it dropped to 528–608 hunters. It stayed in that range until RY18 and climbed to over 1,000 reported hunters obtaining registration permits from RY22–24 (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Unit 6D black bear hunter effort.

Over the last twenty years (RY05-RY24), less than 10% of hunters killed more than one bear in Unit 6 during a three-year period. The number of hunters that would kill two bears each year is likely even less than this. However, if even 10% of hunters killed an additional bear, it could impact harvest opportunity for the current or upcoming years based on current management and harvest objectives.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **OPPOSES** an increase in the black bear bag limit when concerns about increasing harvest rates exist and both harvest and effort are near the highest levels ever recorded. Moderating dramatic highs and lows in harvest increases stability for long-term hunting opportunities. Currently, emergency order authority can be used for such a purpose by modifying season dates. However, emergency orders create challenges for hunters and commercial operators and the department avoids issuing them unless there is a clear biological necessity. Additional hunting opportunity exists in neighboring units for people to harvest additional black bears in the same season if they are interested.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Shorten the fall black bear season in Unit 6D.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Pinguoch

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Shorten the fall season for black bears in Unit 6D by 20 days.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Unit 6(D)

1 bear by registration permit only

Sept. 10 – June 10

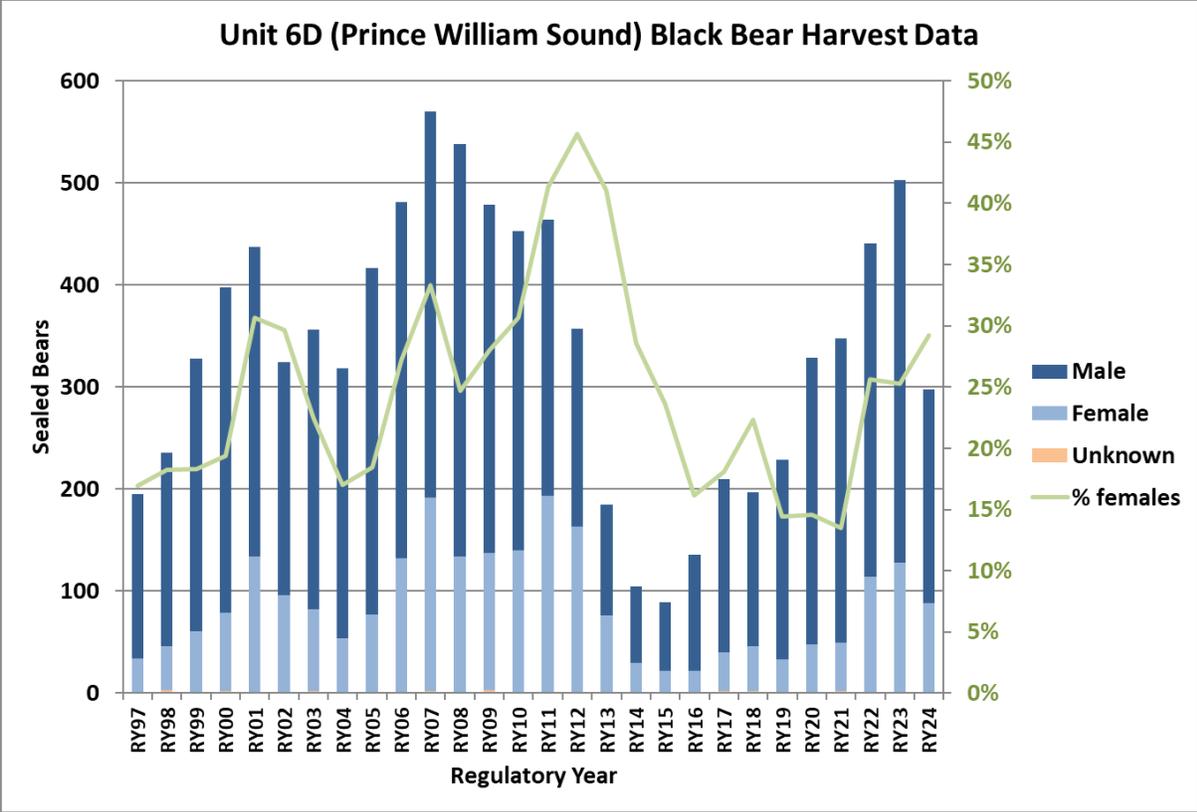
There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for black bears in Unit 6 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 80-120 bears.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The fall season would not start until October 1. Overall black bear harvest may be reduced since by October 1<sup>st</sup> many bears will no longer be frequenting salmon streams, where they are more vulnerable to harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Black bear hunting in Prince William Sound is a popular spring activity. Black bears are also a sought-after species to observe on wildlife viewing excursions, which are frequent during spring and summer. Meat salvage is required in the spring when most of the harvest occurs.

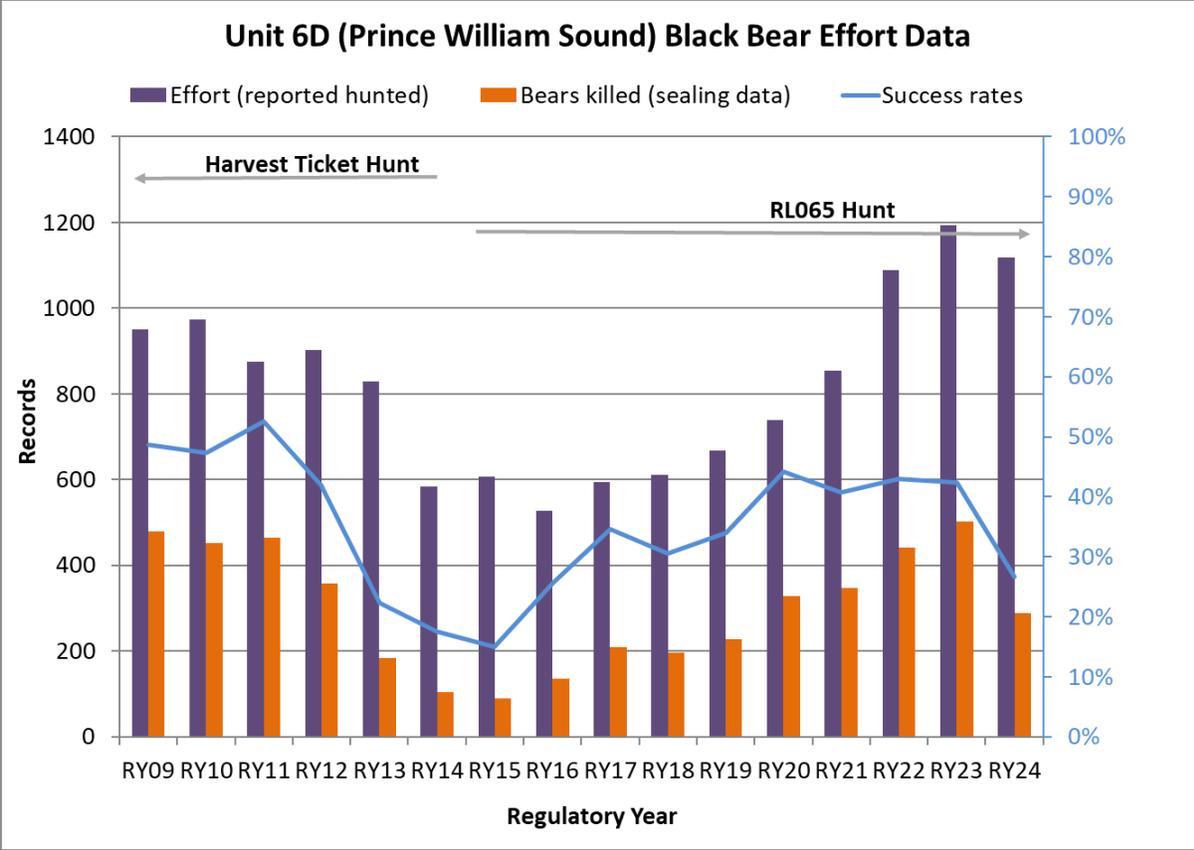
Black bears are difficult and expensive to enumerate. Harvest data is currently the only tool for trying to understand population status and trajectory. All black bears harvested in Unit 6 must be sealed within 30 days of harvest. Annual harvest has ranged from a high of 570 bears in regulatory year (RY) 07 to a low of 89 bears in RY15.

Periods of high harvest (RY00–01 and RY05–RY11) have been followed by periods of much lower harvest (RY02–04 and RY12–19). Harvest began climbing in RY19 and over 500 black bears were harvested in RY23. The preliminary RY24 harvest estimate is approximately 300 bears (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Unit 6D black bear harvest data.

Effort has only been monitored since RY09 when harvest tickets became mandatory for black bears. In RY15, a registration hunt (RL065) replaced the harvest ticket and allowed for better in-season management with a 3-day reporting period. Historically reported hunting effort was 800–974 hunters per year until RY14 when it dropped to 528–608 hunters. It stayed in that range until RY18 and climbed to over 1000 reported hunters obtaining registration permits from RY22–24 (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Unit 6D black bear hunter effort.

The vast majority (10-year average of 90%) of harvested bears are taken in the spring. Although the take of females is proportionally higher in the fall (46% females in the fall harvest compared with 18% females in the spring harvest), the total contribution of the fall harvest to the total harvest is minimal. If the season were to have started on October 1 for the last 10 years, an average of 21 bears a year (10 of which were sows) would not have been harvested. Based on the last 10 years, the overall impact of delaying the start of the fall season would result in a 7% reduction in harvest.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to unnecessary reduction in opportunity. Moderating dramatic highs and lows in harvest increases stability for long-term hunting opportunities. Fall harvest rates are already low and do not contribute as many bears to the total harvest.

To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 85 – 5 AAC 92.085. (9) Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Prohibit the take of big game from a boat in Unit 6 without a permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bradley Golden

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Restrict hunters from shooting big game from a boat in Unit 6 without a permit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.085, The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited:

(9) from a boat in Units 1–5; however, a person with physical disabilities, as defined in AS 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department;

...

(12) shooting black bear from a boat in Unit 6(D); however, a person with physical disabilities, as defined in AS 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department;

There is a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for black bear in Unit 6, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 80–120 bears. There is a positive C&T finding for deer in Unit 6 with an ANS of 1,000–1,250 deer. There is a negative C&T finding for moose in Unit 6.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Modifying this regulation would require hunters in Unit 6 to exit their boat before shooting unless they had a permit providing an exemption. Under current general hunting regulations, a person may not take game from a motor-driven boat or motorized land vehicle, unless the motor has been shut off and the progress from the motor’s power has ceased, or under the authority of a permit issued by the department.

This proposal has the potential to reduce opportunity for deer harvest, particularly in deep snow conditions when deer tend to congregate on beaches and most hunting is boat-based. The proposal also has the potential to reduce opportunity for other big game species, but it is unknown how many are currently taken from a boat.

Prohibiting shooting from a boat could reduce wounding loss, however there is no system for tracking and documenting wounding loss. There are also anecdotal reports of hunters shooting

before forward progress has stopped and this may alleviate some reports of public safety concerns or violations.

**BACKGROUND:** Beginning with regulatory year (RY) 2003, hunting black bears from a boat became illegal in Prince William Sound (Unit 6D). The department was neutral on proposal 19 in 2003 stating:

...Although we have no supportive data, we suspect that bear wounding loss resulting from shooting from boats is substantially higher than when shooting from solid ground. This regulation would also provide a safer environment for other hunters, sport fisherman, campers and non-hunting wildlife viewers, some of whom perceive a threat to their safety by errant bullets and wounded bears resulting from hunters shooting from boats.

Winters with early, deep snow (RY11 and RY21) have resulted in high deer harvest. Harvest in the month of December went up dramatically in those years. It is impossible to know how many of those hunters were shooting from a boat but anecdotal reports suggest a high proportion. Harvest reporting only captures the method of transportation to the hunt area and not specifically if a vehicle or form of transport was in use at the time of harvest.

Sitka black-tailed deer in Unit 6D are at the most northern extent of their current range. With deep snow, winter deer mortality can be high. Much, but not all, of the deer harvest is thought to be compensatory rather than additive as many deer die naturally during deep snow winters. There is no biological concern in Unit 6 at the current levels of deer harvest. Moose hunting on inland waters of Unit 6 often involves a jet boat or airboat to access hunting areas. There is no biological concern in Unit 6 at the current levels of moose harvest.

Currently, a person with physical disabilities may obtain a permit to shoot big game from a boat in Units 1-5, or black bear from a boat in Unit 6D. Permit holders may only shoot from a boat when the motor is turned off and when progress from the motor has ceased. Applications are available at the ADF&G offices nearest the hunt area and permit applications for Unit 6 are received and issued each year. Although permits can be issued, it creates an additional requirement for hunters prior to going into the field including obtaining proof of a physical disability prior to applying for the permit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this methods and means proposal and in general supportive of measures to reduce wounding loss and promote safe hunting practices. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 86 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Limit nonresident permit allocation for Unit 7 caribou hunt DC001, to up to 10% of the available permits, when 10 or more permits are available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DC001 to up to 10% of total available permits. If less than 10 total permits are available, no nonresident permits would be awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(1)		
Unit 7 north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway		
1 caribou by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for caribou in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is less than 10. Currently, 5 permits are available.

**BACKGROUND:** Kenai Mountain caribou were reintroduced in 1965 and hunting first began in 1972. Since establishment, the number of permits issued has ranged from 5–250 permits, mirroring herd fluctuations. Table 86-1 shows number of permits available and percentage received by nonresident hunters, from 2017-2025, for DC001.

**Table 86-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DC001.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	2308	156	7	2	9	23
2018	2292	156	7	1	4	24
2019	2817	179	6	5	20	25
2020	2175	156	7	0	0	24
2021	2634	207	8	4	18	22
2022	2997	287	10	1	4	24
2023	5047	371	7	3	13	24
2024	5433	424	8	0	0	14
2025	3967	348	9	0	0	5

A federal subsistence registration hunt is open to qualifying residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, and Moose Pass. Season dates extended beyond the state season (Aug. 10-Nov. 14). The 10-year average harvest from the federal hunt is 1 caribou.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 7 and 10% of the drawing applications for DC001 and have been awarded between 0 and 5 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 87 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Limit nonresident permit allocation for Unit 15 caribou hunt DC608, to up to 10% of the available permits, when 10 or more permits are available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DC608 to up to 10% of total available permits. If less than 10 total permits are available, no nonresident permits would be awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(9)		
...		
Unit 15(B), that portion south and west of Killey River, within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge		
3 caribou by drawing permit only; however, only one bull may be taken; up to 150 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

...

This portion of Unit 15 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for caribou in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DC608 to up to 10% of total available permits. Additionally, nonresident hunters would not have an opportunity if the number of permits available is less than 10. Between 2017 and 2025, an average of 48 permits have been offered (Table 87-1).

**BACKGROUND:** Killey River caribou were reintroduced during three efforts in 1985 and 1986 and hunting first began in 1994. Since establishment, the number of permits issued has ranged from 20–158 permits, mirroring herd fluctuations. The department uses its discretionary authority to reduce the bag limit to one bull. Table 87-1 shows number of permits available and percentage received by nonresident hunters, from 2017-2025, for DC608.

**Table 87-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DC608.

<b>Reg. Year</b>	<b>Total # Apps.</b>	<b># NR Apps.</b>	<b>% NR Apps.</b>	<b># NR Winners</b>	<b>% NR Winners</b>	<b># Permits Awarded</b>
2017	1086	102	9	3	7	43
2018	1240	168	14	7	16	44
2019	1837	242	13	7	16	45
2020	1712	189	11	2	4	45
2021	2274	396	17	7	15	47
2022	3051	640	21	14	31	45
2023	3852	679	18	10	19	54
2024	4360	645	15	2	4	52
2025	5227	808	15	8	15	54

A federal subsistence drawing hunt is open to qualifying residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, Nanwalek, Ninilichik, Port Graham, Seldovia, and Moose Pass. The 5-year average harvest from the federal hunt is less than one caribou.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 9 and 21% of the drawing applications for DC608 and have been awarded between 2 and 14 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Limit nonresident permit allocation for Unit 15 caribou hunt DC618, to up to 10% of the available permits, when 10 or more permits are available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DC618 to up to 10% of total available permits. If less than 10 total permits are available, no nonresident permits would be awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(9)		
Unit 15(C), that portion north of Fox River and east of Windy Lake		
1 caribou by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

This portion of Unit 15(C) is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for caribou in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DC618 to up to 10% of total available permits. Additionally, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is less than 10. Between 2017 and 2025 an average of 48 tags have been available annually (Table 88-1).

**BACKGROUND:** Fox River caribou were reintroduced in 1986 and hunting first began in 1995. Since establishment, the number of permits issued has ranged between 10 to 15 permits, mirroring herd numbers. Minimum count numbers for this herd have rarely reached above 100 animals, and the department uses its discretionary authority to restrict the bag limit to bulls only. It is believed that this herd sometimes intermingles with the Killey River herd during the winter when minimum counts are conducted. Table 88-1 shows number of permits available and the percentage received by nonresident hunters, from 2017-2025, for DC618. Between 2017 and 2025 an average of 48 permits were available annually, and nonresidents have received 0-22% of available permits (Table 88-1).

**Table 88-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DC618.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	372	60	16	2	20	10
2018	391	24	6	1	10	10
2019	420	36	9	1	10	10
2020	367	45	12	2	20	10
2021	418	62	15	2	22	9
2022	461	60	13	2	20	10
2023	577	78	14	1	11	9
2024	683	63	9	0	0	9
2025	812	97	12	2	22	9

A federal subsistence drawing hunt is open to qualifying residents of Cooper Landing, Hope, Nanwalek, Ninilichik, Port Graham, Seldovia, and Moose Pass. The 5-year average harvest from the federal hunt is less than one caribou.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 9 and 16% of the drawing applications for DC618 and have been awarded between 9 and 10 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 7.** Open an early season archery hunt for moose in Unit 7.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open a bow and arrow general season harvest ticket hunt in Unit 7 with season dates of Aug. 22–29, a bag limit of one bull moose with a spike on at least one side, 50-inch antlers, or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side and require participants to be certified bowhunters.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.045**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(6)		
Remainder of Unit 7		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 bull by drawing permit ...	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	No open season

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create additional moose hunting opportunity by establishing a bow and arrow-only moose season in Unit 7.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 2023, all of Unit 15 has had an established bow season with the dates of Aug. 22–29. In this period, bow and arrow harvest has averaged 5% of the total harvest in Unit 15. This proposal would align moose seasons in the remainder of Unit 7 and Unit 15 and simplify moose hunting regulations for the Kenai Peninsula.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Additional opportunity exists and adoption of the proposal will simplify regulations and is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on harvest because archery success rates are generally low, and animals taken during early archery seasons would have been vulnerable to harvest during the general season. Antler restrictions will ensure adequate bull moose numbers for breeding. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Units 7 & 15.** Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Halpin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would add bull moose with 10 antler points or more on at least one side to the legal resident and nonresident bag limits for Units 7 and 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in

**5 AAC 85.045(13)** are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(5)		
Unit 7, that portion west of Resurrection Creek Trail and north of the Sterling Highway		
1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 15(A), that portion east of the Mystery Creek road and the Pipeline Road, and north of the Sterling Highway;	Oct. 10—Nov. 10 (General hunt only)	Oct. 10—Nov. 10

(6)

Remainder of Unit 7

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

(13)

Unit 15(A), the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork antlers by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 15—Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 15—Sept. 30

1 bull by drawing permit only;

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season

Unit 15(A), that portion east of the Mystery Creek Road and the Pipeline Road, and north of the Sterling Highway

1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; by bow and arrow only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29  
(General hunt only)

No open season

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 7, that por-

Oct. 10—Nov. 10  
(General hunt only)

Oct. 10—Nov. 10

tion west of the Resurrection  
Creek Trail and north of the  
Sterling Highway: or

1 bull by drawing permit  
only;

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season

Remainder of Unit 15(A)

1 bull per regulatory year, only  
as follows:

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 3 or more brow tines on  
one side, by bow and arrow  
only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29  
(General hunt only)

No open season

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 3 or mor brow tines on  
one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

No open season

1 bull by drawing permit  
only;

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season

Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island

1 moose per regulatory year,  
by registration permit only

Aug. 20—Sept. 20

Aug. 20—Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(B)

1 bull per regulatory year, only  
as follows:

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 3 or more brow tines on  
one side, by bow and arrow  
only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 22—Aug. 29

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 bull by drawing permit only; Sept. 1—Sept. 25 No open season

Unit 15(C), that portion southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay. Aug. 25—Sept. 30 (Subsistence hunt only) No open season

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit

Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

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 bull by drawing permit only or; Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 moose by targeted permit only, Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing Oct. 20—Nov. 20

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

Remainder of 15(C)

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)
1 bull by drawing permit only or;	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 moose by targeted permit only;	Oct. 15—Mar. 31

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; ...	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
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There is a positive customary & traditional use (C&T) finding for moose in Unit 15B (Kalgin Island) with an amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 2 moose.

There is a positive C&T for moose in Unit 15C, that portion southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay with an ANS of 5–6 moose.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal has the potential to increase bull harvest in any antler-restricted hunt by creating an additional way for a moose to be considered legal for harvest. This would represent a new definition of legal moose as described anywhere in the state.

**BACKGROUND:** Antler restrictions for moose harvest were first introduced to the Kenai Peninsula in 1987. A legal moose was any animal with antlers with a spike or fork on at least one side, or a spread of 50 inches wide, or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side. Since that time, antler restrictions have been modified as necessary to meet management needs. The most restrictive antler regulations enacted were “50 inches or 4 or more brow tines on one side” due to low bull:cow ratios in 2011 and 2012. Antler restrictions have slowly become more liberal as

bull:cow ratios recovered. In 2019, antler restrictions were changed to spike, or 50 inches wide, or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side. Any bull permits were also introduced, allowing managers some flexibility to adjust harvest each year. Forks have remained restricted from harvest to maintain an acceptable level of young bull harvest.

Hunters were required to seal the antlers from harvested moose from 2011-2022 on the Kenai Peninsula, allowing managers to collect information on antler configuration. For legal bulls with antlers less than 50 inches and 3 or more brow tines, 6% had 10 or more points on at least one side. For sublegal moose (less than 50 inches and less than 3 brow tines), 18% had 10 or more points on at least one antler. Having 10 points on at least one antler is not strongly correlated with older age class animals; current antler restrictions are in place to protect younger age class animals and retain appropriate levels of mature bulls in the population.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** this proposal due to increased regulatory complexity and the potential to increase the harvest of breeding age and young bulls. The board has previously considered the same request and has not adopted the proposal. Current regulations provide hunting opportunity while protecting breeding age and young bull moose and the department changes bag limits to allow additional harvest when feasible. There is a requirement for all moose hunters in Units 7 and 15 to complete an orientation to help hunters determine legality based on antler restrictions; there is a statewide mandatory education requirement for nonresident hunters to help them identify legal moose as well.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in additional costs for the department because existing educational materials that are required in regulation will need to be updated.

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**PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15.** Shift the moose season later and change the dates for the 15C motorized restriction to later in the season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Arnold Mason

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the dates for the current Unit 15 general harvest moose season to Oct.1 – Oct. 25 and adjust the motorized closed restriction in 15C accordingly.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in

5 AAC 85.045(13) are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 15(A), the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area	Sept. 15—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Sept. 30
1 bull with spike-fork antlers by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 15—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Sept. 30
1 bull by drawing permit only;	Sept. 1—Sept. 25	No open season
Unit 15(A), that portion east of the Mystery Creek Road and the Pipeline Road. and north of the Sterling Highway		
1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; by bow and arrow only; or	Aug. 22—Aug. 29 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25	No open season
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 7, that por-	Oct. 10—Nov. 10 (General hunt only)	Oct. 10—Nov. 10

tion west of the Resurrection  
Creek Trail and north of the  
Sterling Highway: or

1 bull by drawing permit  
only;

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season

Remainder of Unit 15(A)

1 bull per regulatory year, only  
as follows:

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 3 or more brow tines on  
one side, by bow and arrow  
only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29  
(General hunt only)

No open season

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 3 or mor brow tines on  
one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

No open season

1 bull by drawing permit  
only;

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season

Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island

1 moose per regulatory year,  
by registration permit only

Aug. 20—Sept. 20

Aug. 20—Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(B)

1 bull per regulatory year, only  
as follows:

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or antlers  
with 3 or more brow tines on  
one side, by bow and arrow  
only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 22—Aug. 29

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 bull by drawing permit only; Sept. 1—Sept. 25 No open season

Unit 15(C), that portion southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay. Aug. 25—Sept. 30 (Subsistence hunt only) No open season

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit

Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

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 bull by drawing permit only or; Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 moose by targeted permit only, Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing Oct. 20—Nov. 20

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

Remainder of 15(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)
1 bull by drawing permit only or;	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 moose by targeted permit only;	Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or mor brow tines on one side;	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
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...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 15B (Kalgin Island) and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 2 moose.

In Unit 15C, that portion southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, there is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and an ANS of 5–6 moose.

The remainder of Unit 15 is located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area; therefore, there are no customary and traditional uses of moose in the area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would shift the Unit 15 general moose season one month later to October 1 – October 25. Later season dates would coincide with rut timing which may lead to unsustainably higher harvest rates and/or interference with breeding behaviors.

**BACKGROUND:** The current Unit 15 moose season dates are set so that the majority of the hunting season occurs before the rut. Shifting the season to October would move the season into the rut. Vulnerability of bulls to harvest would significantly increase by changing to these season dates and interference with rutting activity could impact breeding success.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Current seasons dates avoid the rut to ensure long term sustainable harvest opportunity. Should the board adopt this proposal the department asks that the same season dates be applied to Unit 7 to keep regulations standardized across the Kenai Peninsula.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15.**  
Align the moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B with the rest of the Unit 15B moose seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the dates for the current Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island registration moose season from Aug. 20–Sept. 20 to Sept. 1–Sept. 25.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 5 AAC 85.045(13) are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20

...

The Alaska Board of Game (board) has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 15B (Kalgin Island) and has determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 2 moose.

There is a negative intensive management finding for moose in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create new season dates for Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island moose season of Sept. 1-Sept. 25. This would shorten the season by 7 days and could decrease resident and nonresident harvest on a moose population that is currently 3-4 times above objective population numbers.

**BACKGROUND:** The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest any moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective of 20-40 moose across the island.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island’s carrying capacity and habitat conditions were deteriorating, 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.

During the most recent moose survey in November 2024, department staff counted 103 moose on Kalgin Island. In the last 5 years, an average of 107 permits were issued for this hunt; 74 permittees hunted, yielding an average annual harvest of 23 moose. Harvest rate is correlated to hunter effort and success rate has remained high with a 5-year average of 31%. The majority of the harvest in the last 5 years (69%) has occurred during the first 10 days of the season (August 20–29).

The current Kalgin Island moose season (Aug. 20-Sep. 20) is very similar in timing and length to the moose season in the rest of Unit 15B, opening 2 days before the bow season (Aug. 22) and ending 5 days sooner than the general season (Sept. 25). Decreasing the season length could lead to a decrease in moose harvest, contrary to the department’s objectives in this area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to reduction in hunting opportunity for a population that is currently 3-4 times higher than its objective. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15.**

Limit nonresident permit allocation for Unit 15 antlerless moose hunt DM549, to up to 10% of the available permits, when 10 or more permits are available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DM549 to up to 10% of total available permits. If less than 10 total permits are available, no nonresident permits would be awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15**

(13)

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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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;

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

...

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

...

This hunt is completely within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DM549 to up to 10% of total available permits. Additionally, nonresident hunters would not be allocated a permit if the number of permits available is less than 10. Between 2017 and 2025 an average of 50 permits have been available, with 0-6% of permits awarded to nonresidents annually (Table 93-1).

**BACKGROUND:** The DM549 antlerless moose hunt was originally authorized by the board in 1995. Since then, 20-65 permits have been issued annually. This is a highly sought-after opportunity, with draw odds < 1% and average success rates of >80%. Table 93-1 shows number of permits available and percentage received by nonresident hunters, from 2017-2025, for DM549.

**Table 93-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM549.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	3127	24	1	0	0	48
2018	3496	42	1	0	0	50
2019	3405	47	1	1	2	48
2020	2674	25	1	0	0	48
2021	2776	59	2	0	0	47
2022	3085	55	2	2	4	45
2023	3458	93	3	1	2	48
2024	4051	133	3	1	2	49
2025	4806	136	3	4	6	63

A federal subsistence registration hunt open to qualifying residents Nanwalek, Ninilichik, Port Graham, Seldovia, also exists for this herd. The 5-year average harvest from the federal hunt is less than 1 moose

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 1 and 2% of the drawing applications for DM549, and have been awarded between 0 and 4 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in.** Limit nonresident permit allocation for Units 7&14C antlerless moose hunt DM210, to up to 10% of the available permits, when 10 or more permits are available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit the nonresident permit allocation of DM210 to “up to 10%” of total available permits. If less than 10 total permits are available, no nonresident permits would be awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Units 7 & 14C.**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(5)		
...		
Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Aug. 20—Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Aug. 20—Oct. 10

...

This hunt is completely within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DM210 to up to 10% of total available permits. Additionally, nonresident hunters would not be allocated a permit if the number of permits available is less than 10. Between 2017 and 2025 an average of 34 permits have been available each year, with 0-6% of permits awarded to nonresidents annually (Table 93-1).

**BACKGROUND:** The DM210 antlerless moose hunt was originally authorized by the board in 1993. Since then, 20-40 permits have been issued annually. This is a highly desired hunt opportunity, with drawing odds  $\leq 1\%$  and average success rates  $\geq 50\%$ . Table 94-1 shows number of permits available and percentage received by nonresident hunters, from 2017-2025, for DM210.

**Table 94-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM210. NR = nonresident.

Reg . Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# PermitsAwarded
2017	3217	193	6	2	7	30
2018	3097	221	7	4	13	30
2019	4221	373	9	4	13	30
2020	3440	401	12	7	23	30
2021	4441	685	15	3	10	30
2022	4355	721	17	3	8	40
2023	4694	843	18	4	10	40
2024	5976	963	16	4	10	40
2025	5663	913	16	4	10	40

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 6 and 18% of the drawing applications for DM210, and have been awarded between 2 and 7 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(13) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 85.045 are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(13) ...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island 1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20–Sept. 20	Aug. 20–Sept. 20

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 15B (Kalgin Island) with ANS of 2 moose.

There is a negative intensive management finding for moose in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless moose season for Kalgin Island (RM572) in Unit 15B would be reauthorized. This hunt will help to maintain moose populations within sustainable levels on Kalgin Island, provide subsistence opportunity, maximize other harvest opportunity, and decrease the chance of high winterkill due to a lack of suitable forage.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the 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 of 20-40 moose.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and habitat conditions were deteriorating, 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 potential opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat.

During the most recent moose survey (November 2024), department staff counted 103 moose on Kalgin Island. In the last 5 years, an average of 107 permits were issued for this hunt, of which 74 permittees hunted, yielding an average annual harvest of 23 moose. Harvest tracks with hunter effort and the success rate has remained high with a 5-year average of 31%.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to reduce moose numbers 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 likely minimize the danger of overharvest. Additionally, if needed, the department can manage this permit hunt in-season, allowing for a change in the number of permits provided or closure of the hunt.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. This hunt helps to control the moose population on Kalgin Island to keep it within sustainable limits and provides additional harvest opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(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 in 15C (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550).

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt DM549 and the targeted antlerless hunt AM550 in Unit 15C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 85.045 are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(13)		
...		
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		Oct. 20—Nov. 20

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

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

...

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose by targeted permit only, Oct. 15—Mar. 31

This portion of Unit 15C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional uses of moose in this area.

The intensive management population objective for moose in Unit 15C is 2,500-3,500 and the IM harvest objective is 200-350 moose.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless moose season within 15C (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in 15C would be reauthorized. This harvest may help minimize human–moose conflicts and winter-kill deaths of moose due to habitat limitations.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. In February 2023, a GSPE census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in an initial population estimate of 5,162 moose (95% CI: 3,934–6390). However, after the estimate was adjusted for the area surveyed the corrected population estimate is 5,975 moose (95% CI: range 4,787–7,162), of which 22% (95% CI: 15–28) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately 5.1 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 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608), of which 20% (95% CI: 14–26) were calves. Despite this variability in moose distribution influencing precision of GSPE censuses, the population appears to be above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. Fall composition counts in core count areas during November 2023 provided a bull ratio of 36 bulls:100 cows. Antlerless hunts, such as DM549 and AM550, provide potential opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat.

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 doubling in size since the 1980's, 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 occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 27 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.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. A limited antlerless moose harvest that provides additional opportunity and helps to limit habitat degradation and wildlife conflicts. Antlerless hunts are a useful tool to aid in achieving harvest objectives as set by the board.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joshua Volland

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal removes the motorized vehicle restriction during the general moose season in Unit 15(C).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

#### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The motor vehicle restriction in Unit 15C during the general moose season would be eliminated. There is a potential for increased harvest with additional utilization of motorized vehicles in this area. This proposal does not change the applicable restrictions for a legal moose for any hunts occurring in this area.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area (LKCUA) was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the Board of Game (board) adopted the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and In 1992, the gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. The LKCUA was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for motorized use for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

Eliminating the LKCUA has been discussed at past board meetings and has been retained each time. Some residents and local advisory committees have supported the restriction because it is thought to decrease conflicts between ATV and non-ATV users, while others want to see the restriction removed. The LKCUA does not limit the use of boats or planes for moose hunting, nor does it limit the use of motorized vehicles on state- or borough-maintained highways or graveled portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake roads.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in regulatory year (RY) 22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% confidence interval: range 4,435–6,608 moose). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective of 25 bulls: 100 cows, with 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within the harvest objective of 250-300 moose (Table 97-1).

Table 97-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is an allocative issue. Additional harvest in the area is sustainable.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 98 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Clarify the types of roads motorized vehicles can be used on for moose hunting, and reduce the size of the controlled use area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal amends the language of the 15(C) motorized use closure to allow the use of motorized vehicles on all platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads and removes the lands south of Kachemak Bay, Kachemak Creek, Bradley River and Bradley Lake from the closure.

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

### **5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The motor vehicle restriction in 15C would be amended to allow motorized vehicle use on all platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads during the general moose season and the closure would no longer apply to the lands south of Kachemak Bay, Kachemak Creek, Bradley River and Bradley Lake.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area (LKCUA) was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the Board of Game (board) adopted the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and In 1992, the gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. The LKCUA was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for motorized use for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

Eliminating the LKCUA has been discussed at past board meetings and has been retained each time. Some residents and local advisory committees have supported the restriction because it is thought to decrease conflicts between ATV and non-ATV users, while others want to see the restriction removed. The LKCUA does not limit the use of boats or planes for moose hunting, nor does it limit the use of motorized vehicles on state- or borough-maintained highways or graveled portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake roads.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in regulatory year (RY) 22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% confidence interval: range 4,435–6,608 moose). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective of 25 bulls: 100 cows, with 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within the harvest objective of 250-300 moose (Table 98-1).

Table 98-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

During the winter of 2024 the Homer and Seldovia Advisory Committees held a series of community meetings to address possible changes in this regulation. Multiple alternatives were discussed including:

1. To exempt the south side of Kachemak Bay from the regulations

2. To amend the language so that moose hunters could use motorized vehicles on all platted and developed (graveled) borough, state, and municipal roads.
3. A provision to allow the transport of meat after dark.
4. Allow an exemption for individuals 65 or older or with a 70% disability.
5. Amend the closure to apply to all big game hunting.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The department does not maintain road status information that may be necessary for hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Reduce the size of the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seldovia Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove lands south of the Fox River and Kachemak Bay from the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal would allow moose hunters to use motorized vehicles for moose hunting south of the Fox River and Kachemak Bay for the entire moose hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction was adopted. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and in 1992, gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. It was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

During the winter of 2024 the Homer and Seldovia Advisory Committees held a series of community meetings to address possible changes in this regulation. Multiple alternatives were discussed including:

1. To exempt the south side of Kachemak Bay from the regulations
2. To amend the language so that moose hunters could use motorized vehicles on all platted and developed (graveled) borough, state, and municipal roads.
3. A provision to allow the transport of meat after dark.
4. Allow an exemption for individuals 65 or older or with a 70% disability.
5. Amend the closure to apply to all big game hunting.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in RY22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective, (25 bulls: 100 cows), at 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within objectives of 250-300 moose (Table 99-1).

Table 99-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The department does not maintain road status information that may be necessary for hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 100 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Reduce the size of the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area, clarify the types of roads motorized vehicles can be used on, change the regulation to be applicable to big game only, and eliminate the use of aircraft.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Miotke

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal amends the language of the 15(C) motorized use closure to allow the use of motorized vehicles on all platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads, disallows the use of aircraft for spotting moose during the closed period, applies the regulation to all big game species, and removes the regulation south of Kachemak Bay and the Bradley Lake watershed.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

#### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The motor vehicle restriction in 15C would be amended to allow motorized vehicle use on all platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads during the general moose season, disallow the use of aircraft for moose spotting during the closed period, apply the regulation to the hunting of all big game species, and exempt the area south of Kachemak Bay and the Bradley Lake watershed. The proposal may clarify which roads motorized vehicles are allowed on, and extend the restriction to include prohibiting the use of aircraft, and will be applicable to all species, the impacts of which to harvest are unknown.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction was adopted. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and in 1992, gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. It was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

During the winter of 2024 the Homer and Seldovia Advisory Committees held a series of community meetings to address possible changes in this regulation. Multiple alternatives were discussed including:

1. To exempt the south side of Kachemak Bay from the regulations
2. To amend the language so that moose hunters could use motorized vehicles on all platted and developed (graveled) borough, state, and municipal roads.
3. A provision to allow the transport of meat after dark.
4. Allow an exemption for individuals 65 or older or with a 70% disability.
5. Amend the closure to apply to all big game hunting.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in RY22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective, (25 bulls: 100 cows), at 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within objectives of 250-300 moose (Table 100-1).

Table 100-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The department does not maintain road status information that may be necessary for hunters. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Bumbalough

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal removes the motorized vehicle restriction during the general moose season in Unit 15(C).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area would be eliminated. There is a potential for increased harvest with additional utilization of motorized vehicles in this area. This proposal does not change the applicable restrictions for a legal moose for any hunts occurring in this area.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction was adopted. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and in 1992, gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. It was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

Eliminating the LKCUA has been discussed at past board meetings and has been retained each time. Some residents and local advisory committees have supported the restriction because it is thought to decrease conflicts between ATV and non-ATV users, while others want to see the restriction removed. The LKCUA does not limit the use of boats or planes for moose hunting, nor does it limit the use of motorized vehicles on state- or borough-maintained highways or graveled portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake roads.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in RY22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective, (25 bulls: 100 cows), at 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within objectives of 250-300 moose (Table 101-1).

Table 101-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The department does not maintain road status information that may be necessary for hunters. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 102 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Mathis

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal removes the motorized vehicle restriction during the general moose season in Unit 15(C).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The motor vehicle restriction in Unit 15C during the general moose season would be eliminated. There is a potential for increased harvest with additional utilization of motorized vehicles in this area. This proposal does not change the applicable restrictions for a legal moose for any hunts occurring in this area.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction was adopted. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and in 1992, gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. It was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

Eliminating the LKCUA has been discussed at past board meetings and has been retained each time. Some residents and local advisory committees have supported the restriction because it is thought to decrease conflicts between ATV and non-ATV users, while others want to see the restriction removed. The LKCUA does not limit the use of boats or planes for moose hunting, nor does it limit the use of motorized vehicles on state- or borough-maintained highways or graveled portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake roads.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in RY22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective, (25 bulls: 100 cows), at 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within objectives of 250-300 moose (Table 102-1).

Table 102-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The department does not maintain road status information that may be necessary for hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Modify the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area to allow motorized vehicle use on weekends only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Arn Johnson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would modify the current regulation in Unit 15C such that the current motorized restrictions would be in effect from September 8 through the end of moose season, with exceptions for motorized vehicle use allowed on weekend days (Saturday and Sunday).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

Regulations on motorized vehicle restrictions in Unit 15C would be modified such that the current restrictions would be in effect from Sept. 8 through the end of moose season with exceptions for motorized vehicle use on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) only. The number of motorized closed days would fluctuate from 12 to 14 days each calendar year.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction was adopted. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and in 1992, gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. It was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

Eliminating the LKCUA has been discussed at past board meetings and has been retained each time. Some residents and local advisory committees have supported the restriction because it is thought to decrease conflicts between ATV and non-ATV users, while others want to see the restriction removed. The LKCUA does not limit the use of boats or planes for moose hunting,

nor does it limit the use of motorized vehicles on state- or borough-maintained highways or graveled portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake roads.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in RY22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective, (25 bulls: 100 cows), at 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within objectives of 250-300 moose (Table 103-1).

Table 103-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b>RY</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas.** Modify the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area to allow the use of motorized vehicles at night.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Basargin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would modify the current motorized restrictions in Unit 15C such that motorized vehicles could be used from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Sept. 16–19 and Sept. 22–25.

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

### **5 AAC 92.540**

(4) Unit 15:

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(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 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 hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and 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

...

The LKCUA is located in Unit 15C, which is largely within the boundaries of the Anchorage-MatSu Nonsubsistence Area (NSA); there are no customary and traditional uses of wild resources within an NSA. A small portion of Unit 15C lies within the LKCUA but outside of the boundaries of the NSA; in that small area of Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–6 moose. The only moose hunting that occurs in this area is conducted under a Tier II permit since the board has determined that the moose population in this area cannot provide for all subsistence uses. This proposal does not occur in this area.

## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

Motorized restrictions in Unit 15C would be modified such that the regulations prohibiting motorized vehicle use would be lifted from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. each day during the current closure period.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1985 to ease hunting pressure in trail accessible portions of 15C. However, it did not fully meet goals for moose management and the selective harvest strategy of spike, fork, 50-inch antler restriction was adopted. The motorized restrictions remained in place at the request of users. In 1987, the regulation was modified to define highway as a borough-maintained road and in 1992, gravel portions of Oilwell and Broady Roads were exempted due to high use by road hunters and hunters accessing other hunting areas. It was further amended in 1992 to allow a window for the removal of meat from the field. In 2005, Tustumena Lake Road and private drives were added as exemptions from the regulation.

Eliminating the LKCUA has been discussed at past board meetings and has been retained each time. Some residents and local advisory committees have supported the restriction because it is thought to decrease conflicts between ATV and non-ATV users, while others want to see the restriction removed. The LKCUA does not limit the use of boats or planes for moose hunting, nor does it limit the use of motorized vehicles on state- or borough-maintained highways or graveled portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake roads.

Currently the moose population in 15C is above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective of 3,500 moose. The most recent GSPE surveys, conducted in RY22, estimated 5,522 moose (95% CI: range 4,435–6,608). In 2025, the post hunting season bull to cow ratio in 15C was above the population objective, (25 bulls: 100 cows), at 28 bulls: 100 cows. Since RY2016, harvest has been within objectives of 250-300 moose (Table 104-1).

Table 104-1. Total moose harvest, by regulatory year in Unit 15C, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

<b><u>RY</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest</u></b>
2015	180
2016	204
2017	179
2018	220
2019	321
2020	311
2021	278
2022	269
2023	239
2024	286

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Close all sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would close Dall sheep hunting in Units 7 and 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(4) Unit 7, that portion south of the Sterling Highway, west of the Seward Highway, and north and east of Kenai Lake; up to 50 permits may be issued		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only		Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Units 7 and 15(A), those portions east of Fuller Lake trail, south of Dike Creek, and a straight line from the source of Dike Creek, east through the divide south of Trout Lake, to Juneau Creek, west of Juneau creek, and north of the Sterling Highway; up to 10 permits may be issued		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 7, Unit 9, Remainder of Unit 13, remainder of Unit 14(A), Unit 14(B), Remainder of Unit 15, and Units 16, 19(A), 19(B), and 19(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by youth hunt only; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 5

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger;

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by youth hunt only; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 5

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

...

All sheep habitat in Units 7 and 15 is located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would eliminate all state Dall sheep hunting opportunity in Units 7 and 15. If adopted this would be a significant reduction in hunting opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** All state harvest on the Kenai Peninsula is under full curl management. The current state hunt structure includes two drawing hunt areas including Round Mountain and Crescent Lake. The remainder of Units 7 and 15 are managed under a general season harvest ticket hunt. The 5-year average annual harvest for the Kenai Peninsula, including federal subsistence harvest, is 7 sheep per year (Figure 105-1). Currently there are two federal subsistence hunts in Units 7 and 15, available by drawing permit, with bag limits of 1 ram with full curl, and 1 ram with ¾ curl respectively. Closure of state managed sheep hunts in Units 7 & 15 will not remove all sheep harvest opportunity from Units 7 & 15.

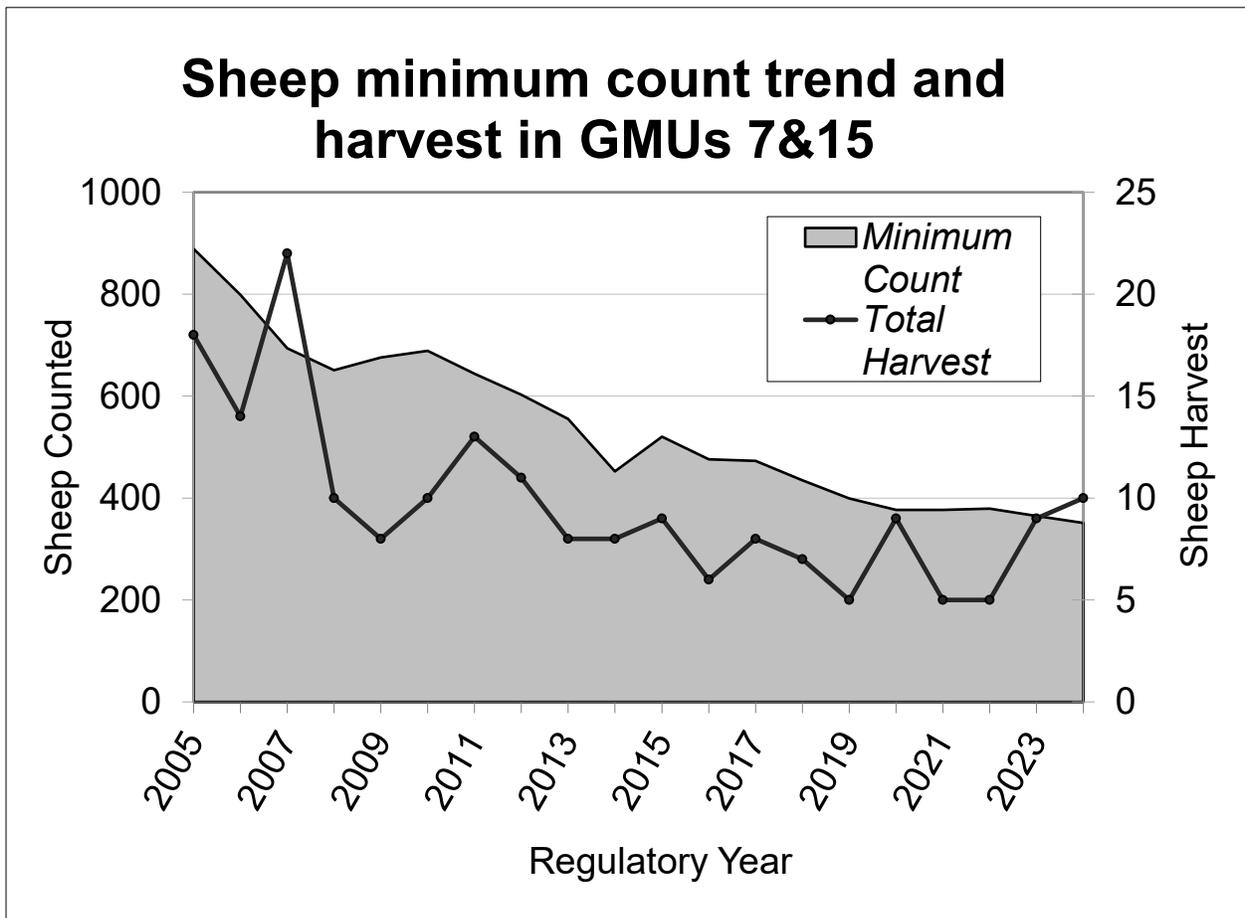


Figure 105-1. Sheep minimum count trend and total harvest in GMUs 7&15, 2005-2024.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to loss of sheep hunting opportunity. Kenai sheep are harvested under full curl management and there is no biological justification for a closure currently.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 106 – 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change all harvest ticket sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to registration permits, and change the bag limit for the youth hunts to once in a lifetime.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Miotke

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change all Dall sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to registration hunts, and would limit youth hunters to harvest one sheep per lifetime in those hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in **5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<p>(4) Unit 7, that portion south of the Sterling Highway, west of the Seward Highway, and north and east of Kenai Lake; up to 50 permits may be issued</p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)</p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20</p>
<p>RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by drawing permit only</p> <p>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only</p>		
<p>Units 7 and 15(A), those portions east of Fuller Lake trail, south of Dike Creek, and a straight line from the source of Dike Creek, east through the divide south of Trout Lake, to Juneau Creek, west of Juneau creek, and north of the Sterling Highway; up to 10 permits may be issued</p>		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
Larger, drawing permit only Aug. 10—Sept. 20  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Remainder of Unit 7, Unit 9,  
Remainder of Unit 13, remain-  
Der of Unit 14(A), Unit 14(B),  
Remainder of Unit 15, and  
Units 16, 19(A), 19(B), and  
19(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger, by youth hunt only; or Aug. 1—Aug. 5

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger; Aug. 10—Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 Aug. 1—Aug.  
1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger, by youth hunt only; or

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger, every 4 regulatory years Aug. 10—  
Sept. 20

...

All sheep habitat in Units 7 and 15 is located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai  
Nonsubsistence Area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted,  
this proposal is not expected to have a biological effect because harvest is currently managed  
under full curl regulations and sheep sealing is required. Youth hunters would only be able to  
harvest one sheep per lifetime during the youth hunts. Once adults, the successful youth hunters  
would be eligible to harvest another sheep. Registration permits are administered with stricter  
reporting requirements than general season harvest ticket hunts, and there are no proposed limits  
on the number of registration permits to be issued or limited availability dates or locations, so  
functionally the registration hunt may be no different than the harvest ticket.

**BACKGROUND:** Dall sheep numbers on the Kenai Peninsula have declined by approximately 80% since the 1960s (Figure 106-1). All state harvest on the Kenai Peninsula is under full curl management. The current state hunt structure includes 2 drawing hunt areas including Round Mountain and Crescent Lake. Round Mountain opened for one drawing permit in 2025 after being closed for 4 years. Crescent Lake has remained closed. These areas have not been open to state harvest in recent years due to a lack of legal rams available for harvest and low sheep numbers as observed by the department during minimum count surveys. The remainder of Units 7 and 15 are managed under a general season harvest ticket hunt. The 5-year average annual harvest for the Kenai Peninsula, including federal subsistence harvest, is 7 sheep per year.

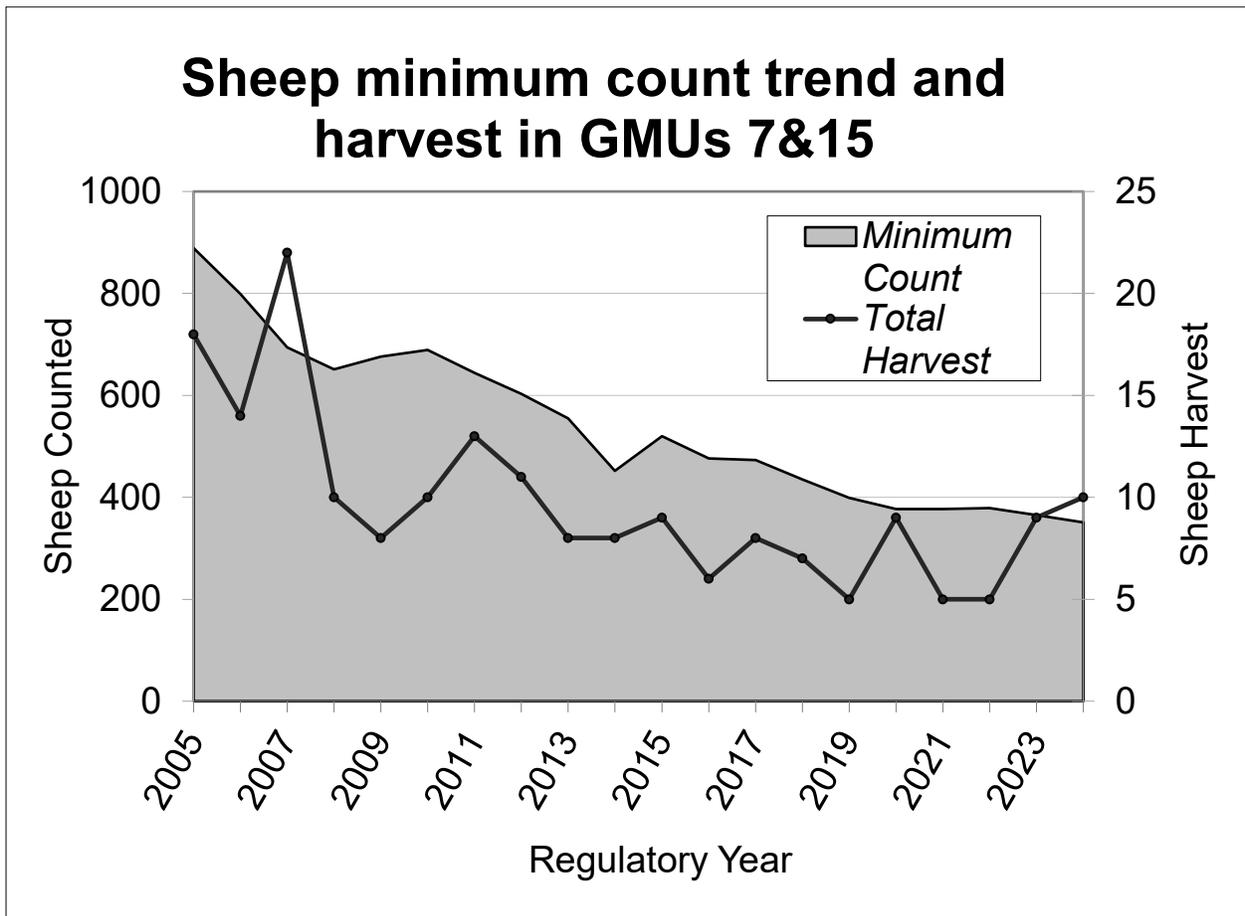


Figure 106-1. Sheep minimum count trend and total harvest in GMUs 7&15, 2005-2024.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Harvest is regulated by full curl management, which does not negatively impacting sheep population levels. The existing full-curl bag limit for the youth hunt is not negatively impacting sheep populations, and to date no youth hunters have harvested multiple sheep in Units 7 and 15 since it was first established in RY16, and only 4 sheep have been taken in the youth hunt in these units.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 107** – 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change all sheep hunting in Units 7 and 15 to drawing permit only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change all Dall sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to drawing permit hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(4) Unit 7, that portion south of the Sterling Highway, west of the Seward Highway, and north and east of Kenai Lake; up to 50 permits may be issued		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only		Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Units 7 and 15(A), those portions east of Fuller Lake trail, south of Dike Creek, and a straight line from the source of Dike Creek, east through the divide south of Trout Lake, to Juneau Creek, west of Juneau creek, and north of the Sterling Highway; up to 10 permits may be issued		



for 4 years. Crescent Lake has remained closed. These areas have not been open to state harvest in recent years due to a lack of legal rams available for harvest and low sheep numbers as seen during minimum count surveys. The remainder of Units 7 and 15 are managed under a general season harvest ticket hunt. The 5-year average annual harvest for the Kenai Peninsula, including federal subsistence harvest, is 7 sheep per year.

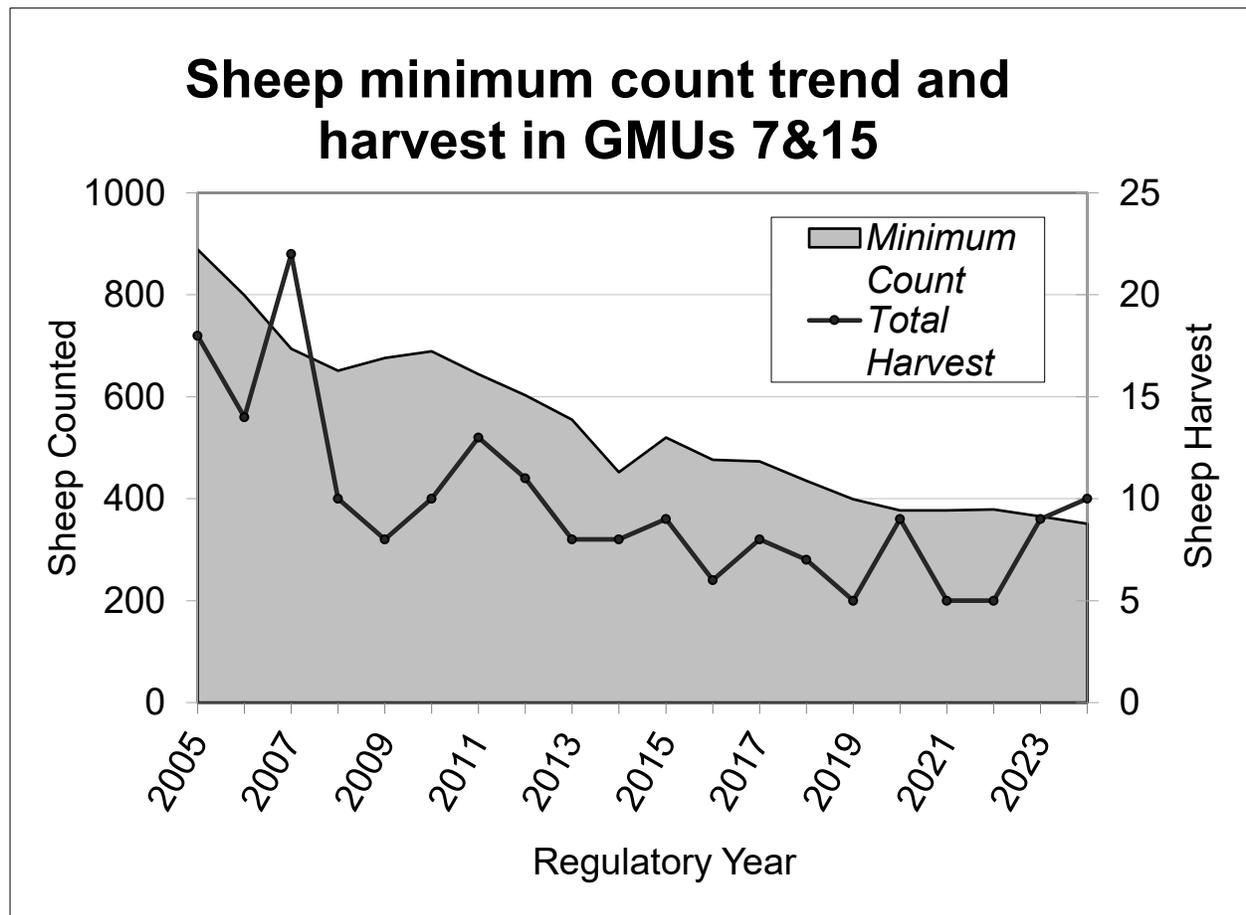


Figure 107-1. Sheep minimum count trend and total harvest in GMUs 7&15, 2005-2024.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Harvest is regulated by full curl management, minimizing most concerns of harvest negatively impacting sheep population levels. The board will need to decide if it would like to continue to provide a youth hunting opportunity separate from the new drawing permit hunt, and will also need to establish “up to” numbers for drawing permit hunts to be issued in the areas currently open by harvest ticket only.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change some or all of the general season sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to archery only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change all or some of (which hunts are not clear in the proposal) the current general season harvest ticket sheep hunt in Units 7 and 15 to an archery-only weapons restricted hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(4) Unit 7, that portion south of the Sterling Highway, west of the Seward Highway, and north and east of Kenai Lake; up to 50 permits may be issued		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only		Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Units 7 and 15(A), those portions east of Fuller Lake trail, south of Dike Creek, and a straight line from the source of Dike Creek, east through the divide south of Trout Lake, to Juneau Creek, west of Juneau creek, and north of the Sterling Highway; up to 10 permits may be issued		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 7, Unit 9, Remainder of Unit 13, remainder of Unit 14(A), Unit 14(B), Remainder of Unit 15, and Units 16, 19(A), 19(B), and 19(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by youth hunt only; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 5

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger;

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by youth hunt only; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 5

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

...

All sheep habitat in Units 7 and 15 is located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would limit the current general season harvest ticket sheep hunt in Units 7 and 15 to archery-only with a bag limit of 1 ram full curl or larger and season dates of Aug. 10–Sept. 20. Adoption of this proposal is likely to result in a decrease in harvest as harvest success rates in archery hunting are typically lower than other means.

**BACKGROUND:** Dall sheep numbers on the Kenai Peninsula have declined by approximately 80% since the 1960s (Figure 108-1). All state harvest on the Kenai Peninsula is under full curl management. The current state hunt structure includes two drawing hunt areas including Round Mountain and Crescent Lake. Round Mountain opened for one permit in 2025 after being closed for 4 years. Crescent Lake has remained closed. These areas have not been open to state harvest in recent years due to a lack of legal rams available for harvest and low sheep numbers as seen during minimum count surveys. The remainder of Units 7 and 15 are managed under a general

season harvest ticket hunt. The 5-year average annual harvest for the Kenai Peninsula, including federal subsistence harvest, is 7 sheep per year.

Only 1 sheep has been harvested by bow and arrow on the Kenai since harvest reporting began documenting method of take in 2004.

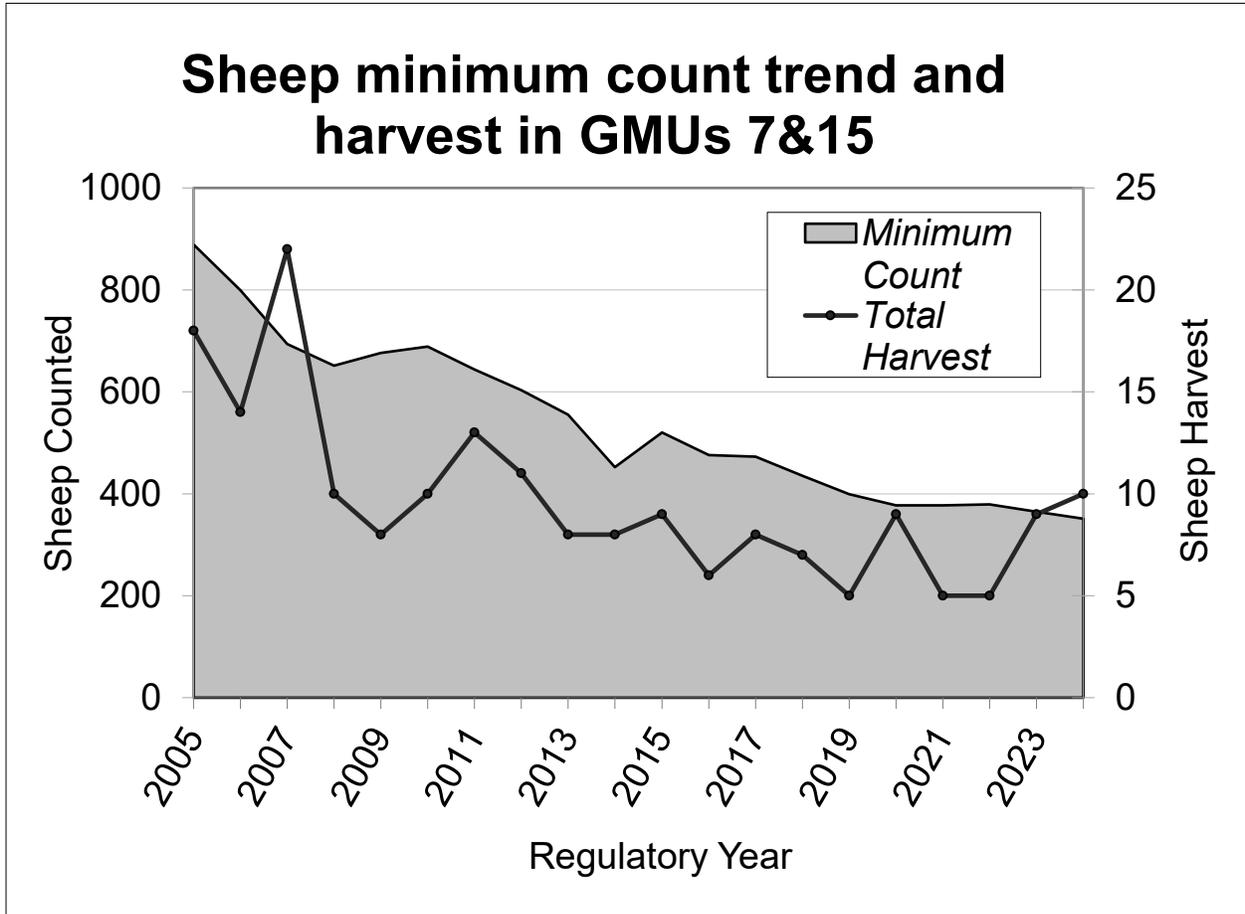


Figure 108-1. Sheep minimum count trend and total harvest in GMUs 7&15, 2005-2024.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. Changing the method of take would have no biological effect on the population but would reduce opportunity for non-archery hunters to harvest a sheep.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 109** – 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit nonresident permit allocation for Unit 7 sheep hunt DS150, to up to 20% of the available permits, when 5 or more permits are available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DS150 to up to 20% of total available permits. If less than 5 total permits are available, no nonresident permits would be awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(4)		
Units 7 and 15(A), those portions east of Fuller Lake trail, south of Dike Creek, and a straight line from the source of Dike Creek, east through the divide south of Trout Lake, to Juneau Creek, west of Juneau creek, and north of the Sterling Highway; up to 10 permits may be issued		

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20
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...

The board has not made a customary and traditional use (C&T) determination for Dall sheep in Unit 15 outside of the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence area (NSA). Unit 7 falls within the NSA, therefore there are no C&T findings in this unit.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of DS150 to up to 20% of total available permits. Additionally, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity if the number of permits available is less than 5. Between 2017 and 2025 a range of 1-3 drawing permits have been available annually (Table 109-1).

**BACKGROUND:** A drawing hunt for sheep in the Round Mountain area (DS150) was established in 2004. This hunt area is north of the Kenai/Russian River confluence and west of Cooper Landing. Permits are determined by the number of legal animals classified during annual aerial minimum count surveys. Permits were available each year from 2004 to 2020. From 2021 to 2024 the area was closed due to a lack of legal animals seen during surveys. Since 2017, 2 of 12 permits available, (17%), have been awarded to nonresidents (Table 109-1).

**Table 109-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DS150. NR = non-resident, NR-2DK = non-residents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year*	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	995	42	4	23	2	1	33	1	33	3
2018	1088	73	7	36	3	0	0	0	0	3
2019	1259	83	7	44	3	1	33	0	0	3
2020	1070	51	5	44	4	0	0	0	0	2
2025	2470	102	4	101	4	0	0	0	0	1

\*Reg years 2021-2024 had zero permits available

There is a Federal subsistence draw permit, DS1509, with a bag limit of ¾ curl or larger and season dates of Aug. 10–Sept. 20.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 5 years, nonresidents have submitted between 4 and 7% of the drawing applications for DS150 and have been awarded between 0 and 1 of the permits available. Applications were not accepted for DS150 for RY26, and the hunt will not be held this year.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 110 – 5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Create a drawing permit hunt for goats in a portion of Unit 7.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to establish a drawing hunt in the Cooper Mountain (RG337) goat management area within Unit 7.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30
1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited ...		

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create a new drawing hunt for goats in Unit 7 in an area currently managed through a registration permit. This change would have little effect on current goat management; permits for the RG337 hunt area are not currently being issued because of population levels below the minimum count threshold. If this proposal was adopted, minimum goat counts in this area would continue to limit permit issuance as either a drawing or registration hunt. No additional hunting or harvest opportunity will be created by the proposed change at this time.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2001, the Board of Game established the current hunt structure for mountain goats on the Kenai Peninsula with an early drawing permit season of Aug.10–Oct. 15 and a late season registration hunt of Nov. 1–Nov. 30. Registration hunts only open if harvest opportunity still exists after the closure of the early drawing season.

The Kenai Peninsula is divided into 35 discreet management areas in which hunts were established. The area requested to be opened is management area 337. Under current hunt management structure, a minimum of 50 goats must be observed during minimum count surveys for a specific hunt area to be opened to harvest This management structure was established due to conservation concerns. Goat numbers have recovered in most management areas under this system. Since the inception of this management structure, mountain goat minimum count numbers in area 337 have never surpassed the 50-goat minimum (Table 110-1). Should the minimum threshold of 50 goats be reached in the future, harvest will be opened in this management area.

Table 110-1. RG337 hunt area mountain goat survey 2014-2024.

Year	Adults	Kids	Total Goats	% Kids
2014	23	6	29	21
2015	34	9	43	21
2016	16	2	18	11
2019	23	7	30	23
2022	18	4	22	18
2024	16	5	21	24

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on issuing drawing permits instead of registration permits and **OPPOSES** opening a harvest opportunity in this management area until the minimum count of 50 goats is reached.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 111 – 5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Create an archery only registration hunt for goats in the remainder of Unit 7.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would create an archery-only registration hunt for mountain goats in Unit 7 with season dates of Aug. 16–31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would establish a new registration archery-only goat hunt in the remainder of Unit 7 with season dates of August 16–31 and a bag limit of 1 goat. These dates overlap with the existing drawing permit season dates which do not have weapons restrictions. The legal animal would be either sex, taking of nannies with kids prohibited. If a nanny were taken, the hunter would be prohibited from taking mountain goats in Units 7 and 15 for 5 regulatory years.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2001, the board established the current hunt structure for mountain goats on the Kenai Peninsula with an early drawing permit season of Aug.10–Oct. 15 and a late season registration hunt of Nov. 1–Nov. 30. Registration hunts only open if harvest opportunity still exists after the closure of the early drawing season. A maximum of 500 permits may be issued.

The Kenai Peninsula is divided into 35 discreet management areas in which hunts were established. Under the current management structure 50 goats must be observed during minimum count surveys in order for an area to open Harvest is managed by area with the number of goat points available for harvest based on the most recent minimum count numbers, current population trends, unit accessibility, previous harvest, and the age of the current population data. Under this system, billy harvest is worth 1 goat point, nannies are worth 2 goat points, and harvest of unknown sex is worth 2 goat points. This management structure was established due to conservation concerns. Goat numbers have recovered in most management areas under this system.

From 2015 to 2024, 5 mountain goats (1% of the harvest) were taken by archery in Unit 7. The 10-year average proportion of nannies taken by archery (40%) is higher than the 10-year average proportion of nannies taken by other means (18%).

If this proposal was adopted, goat harvest points from the current drawing permit allocation would need to be re-allocated to the archery registration season for each unit, as harvest would occur concurrent to the established drawing permit season. This would likely reduce drawing permit availability; registration permit numbers may be limited and the season may be closed by emergency order if harvest is at or near management objectives. Additional harvest during the early season under both drawing and registration permits would reduce the chances of late season registration permits being issued.

Goat management area 352 falls within both Units 7 and 15, with approximately half of the area in each unit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. As written, this proposal does not address the entirety of the existing hunt area (to include portions of the hunt area in both Unit 7 and Unit 15). If this proposal is adopted, new registration hunt boundaries should be established based on current mountain goat hunt areas.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 112 – 5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Create an archery only registration permit hunt for goats in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would create a 7-day, bow and arrow only, registration hunt in all goat hunt areas in Units 7 and 15 that would occur prior to current registration seasons.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 5 AAC 85.040(3) **Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<p>(3) Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Jakalof Creek, then southwesterly along the shore of Kachemak Bay to the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then easterly along the shoreline to the mouth of Rocky River, then northerly up Rocky River and Windy River to the divide separating Windy River from Jakalof Creek, then across that divide to Jakalof Creek, then down Jakalof Creek to the point of origin</p>	<p>Aug.10—Oct. 15 (General hunt Only)</p>	<p>No open season.</p>
<p>1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies</p>	<p>Aug.10—Oct. 15</p>	<p>No open season.</p>

with kids is prohibited; or

1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Nov.1—Nov. 30

No open season.

Unit 15(C), that portion beginning; at the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the Creek to Windy Bay, then along the southern shore of Windy Bay, then westerly along the shore of the Gulf of Alaska and around the tip of the Kenai Peninsula and easterly to the point of origin

1 goat by registration permit only; however, if a nanny is either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
Nov. 1–Nov. 30

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
No open season

Unit 7 and Remainder  
of Unit 15

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
(General hunt only)  
Nov. 1–Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Oct. 15  
Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if

a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no subsistence uses for goat in this area.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area. The board has determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goat.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would establish an archery-only registration season for goats, when opportunity exists, after the current drawing permit season and prior to current registration season. Adequate time to gather harvest reports is needed between the end of the drawing season and the beginning of any registration hunts to calculate remaining allowable harvest quotas, if available, and determine which areas may be opened.

If adopted, current reporting periods for drawing hunts would need to be shortened, and registration permit distribution dates and season dates adjusted later to allow for full accounting of drawing season harvest. Moving the dates for the current registration hunt later in the year would put increased overlap between the registration hunt and the rut period, which could increase harvest rates. Permit quantities would be adjusted by managers as necessary.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2001, the board established the current hunt structure for mountain goats on the Kenai Peninsula with an early drawing permit season of Aug.10–Oct. 15 and a late season registration hunt of Nov. 1–Nov. 30. Registration hunts only open if harvest opportunity still exists after the closure of the early drawing season. A maximum of 500 permits may be issued. This system was established due to conservation concerns.

Under the current management system, goat numbers have recovered in most management units. From 2015 to 2024, seven mountain goats (0.7%) of the harvest were taken by archery. However, the 10-year average proportion of nannies taken by archery (29%) is higher than the 10-year average proportion of nannies taken by other means (19%).

The hunting opportunity for mountain goats in the portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA is slightly different, and at the 2019 Board of Game meeting the board restructured the Seldovia (RG364) and English Bay (RG365) mountain goat hunts, establishing a new hunt (DG364) for the Seldovia area, and separating the late seasons of RG364 and RG365 into RG374 and RG375 to aid the department in the distribution of permits, the tracking of hunts in these management areas, and to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. If the board adopts the proposal the department recommends permits also be available in the Soldotna and Homer ADF&G offices, in addition to those currently listed in the proposal. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Gilpatrick Mountain goat hunt, DG332.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15  1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG332. DG332 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of Devils Creek, Juneau Creek, and Mystery Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 113-1.

Table 113-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG332. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year*	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	752	49	7	40	5	0	0	0	0	5
2018	767	35	5	25	3	0	0	0	0	5
2025	1600	49	3	49	3	0	0	0	0	6

\*Reg years 2019-2024 had zero permits available

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 3 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 3 and 7% of the drawing applications and have been awarded 0 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Mills Creek goat hunt, DG334.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30
1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		
...		

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no non-resident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG334. DG334 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of

Mills Creek, Canyon Creek, and Quartz Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 114-1.

Table 114-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG334. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year*	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2020	891	75	8	26	3	1	13	0	0	8
2021	1134	79	7	31	3	0	0	0	0	7
2022	949	39	4	39	4	0	0	0	0	8
2023	1269	80	6	80	6	0	0	0	0	7
2024	1298	57	4	57	4	0	0	0	0	7
2025	994	56	6	56	6	0	0	0	0	7

\*Reg years 2017-2019 had zero permits available

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 6 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 4 and 8% of the drawing applications and have been awarded 1 permit.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Crescent Lake goat hunt, DG338.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

5 AAC 85.040(3) **Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG338. DG338 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of Crescent Creek, Carter Creek, and Dry Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 115-1.

**Table 115-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG338. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year*	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1249	31	2	29	2	0	0	0	0	10
2018	1259	49	4	20	2	1	11	0	0	10
2019	1593	35	2	27	2	0	0	0	0	10
2020	1407	29	2	29	2	0	0	0	0	8
2021	1591	62	4	55	3	1	14	1	14	7
2022	1497	17	1	17	1	0	0	0	0	7
2023	1394	28	2	28	2	0	0	0	0	7
2024	1735	34	2	34	2	0	0	0	0	9
2025	1963	84	4	73	4	0	0	0	0	9

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 1 and 4% of the drawing applications and have been awarded 1 permit.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Grant Lake goat hunt, DG339.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30
1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		
...		

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG339. DG339 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes Grant Lake and the Falls Creek drainage. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 116-1.

**Table 116-1.** Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG339. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year*	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2019	573	17	3	3	1	1	13	0	0	8
2020	471	21	4	15	3	0	0	0	0	8
2021	545	6	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
2022	734	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
2023	675	6	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	8
2024	706	26	4	14	2	0	0	0	0	7
2025	582	20	3	20	3	0	0	0	0	7

\*Regulatory years 2017 & 2018 had zero permits

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 7 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 3 and 4% of the drawing applications, and have been awarded 0 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents..

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Lost Lake goat hunt, DG342.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG342. DG342 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of

Lost Creek, Martin Creek, and Boulder Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 117-1.

**Table 117-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG342. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	825	43	5	14	2	0	0	0	0	5
2018	946	37	4	19	2	0	0	0	0	5
2019	847	16	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	5
2020	843	20	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	8
2021	938	41	4	15	2	0	0	0	0	8
2022	1055	17	2	11	1	0	0	0	0	8
2023	1043	36	3	35	3	0	0	0	0	8
2024	1229	34	3	34	3	2	25	2	25	8
2025	1061	30	3	24	2	0	0	0	0	8

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 5% of the drawing applications, and have been awarded 2 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Victor Creek goat hunt, DG343.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG343. DG343 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of Victor Creek and Rocky Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 118-1.

**Table 118-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG343. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

<b>Reg. Year*</b>	<b>Total # Apps.</b>	<b># NR Apps.</b>	<b>% NR Apps.</b>	<b>NR-2DK Apps.</b>	<b>% NR- 2DK Apps.</b>	<b># NR Winners</b>	<b>% NR Winners</b>	<b># NR- 2DK Winners</b>	<b>% NR- 2DK Winners</b>	<b># Permits Awarded</b>
2024	748	109	15	31	4	1	30	0	0	3
2025	270	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6

\*Regulatory years 2017-2023 had zero permits

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 2 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 15% of the drawing applications, and have been awarded 0 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents..

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Nellie Juan Lake goat hunt, DG344.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15  1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited  ...	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG344. DG344 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the Nellie Juan River drainage. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 119-1.

**Table 119-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG344. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	252	59	23	9	4	1	10	0	0	10
2018	162	14	9	8	5	0	0	0	0	10
2019	258	49	19	4	2	1	10	0	0	10
2020	203	42	21	0	0	1	13	0	0	8
2021	308	32	10	2	1	1	13	0	0	8
2022	228	30	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
2023	311	78	25	0	0	1	13	0	0	8
2024	190	16	8	12	6	1	13	1	13	8
2025	393	30	8	12	3	0	0	0	0	8

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 8 and 25% of the drawing applications, and have been awarded 1 permit.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents..

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Whidbey Bay goat hunt, DG345.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG345. DG345 is in Unit 7, accessed through Resurrection Bay and includes areas north of Whidbey Bay and Cape Mansfield up to the Ellsworth and Excelsior Glaciers. Season dates are

Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 120-1.

**Table 120-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG345. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	464	95	20	7	2	8	27	1	3	30
2018	533	99	19	15	3	9	30	1	3	30
2019	532	113	21	5	1	7	23	0	0	30
2020	543	142	26	32	6	3	15	0	0	20
2021	539	91	17	19	4	3	15	0	0	20
2022	642	91	14	25	4	3	10	0	0	30
2023	653	96	15	18	3	2	7	0	0	30
2024	612	97	16	11	2	5	13	0	0	40
2025	646	116	18	5	1	8	23	2	6	35

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years the hunt was open, nonresidents have submitted between 14 and 26% of the drawing applications, and have been awarded between 2 and 9 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Resurrection Peninsula goat hunt, DG346.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<p>Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15</p> <p>1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited</p> <p>...</p>	<p>Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)</p>	<p>Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30</p>

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG346. DG346 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of Sawmill Creek, Goodwin Creek, and Likes Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 121-1.

**Table 121-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG346. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1314	50	4	47	4	2	4	2	4	45
2018	1651	52	3	29	2	2	4	0	0	45
2019	1509	63	4	60	4	2	6	2	6	35
2020	1674	59	4	59	4	3	9	3	9	35
2021	1938	37	2	37	2	0	0	0	0	28
2022	1984	49	2	33	2	0	0	0	0	40
2023	1959	40	2	22	1	1	2	1	2	45
2024	2424	87	4	80	3	3	7	3	7	45
2025	2462	100	4	73	3	3	7	0	0	45

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 4% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 3 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Seward goat hunt, DG347.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30
1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		
...		

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG347. DG347 is in Unit 7, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of Spruce Creek and Tonsina Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 122-1.

**Table 122-1.** Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG347. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	688	13	2	13	2	0	0	0	0	20
2018	747	11	1	11	1	0	0	0	0	22
2019	920	19	2	18	2	0	0	0	0	20
2020	907	12	1	12	1	0	0	0	0	16
2021	975	23	2	15	2	0	0	0	0	10
2022	888	14	2	14	2	0	0	0	0	10
2023	826	32	4	26	3	0	0	0	0	10
2024	861	13	2	13	2	0	0	0	0	14
2025	1046	21	2	14	1	0	0	0	0	14

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 1 and 4% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Petrof Lake goat hunt, DG351.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 7 is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG351. DG351 is in Unit 7, accessed through the Nuka Passage and includes Petrof Lake north to Petrof Glacier. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 123-1.

**Table 123-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG351. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2018	87	8	9	8	9	1	10	1	10	10
2019	62	6	10	6	10	0	0	0	0	10
2020	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
2021	87	8	9	8	9	1	8	1	8	12
2022	138	7	5	7	5	0	0	0	0	12
2023	111	7	6	7	6	1	7	1	7	14
2024	151	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	14
2025	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 8 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 10% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 1 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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 15C goat drawing hunt DG352.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Brown Mountain goat hunt, DG352.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30
1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be is- sued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either sea- son, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Ke- nai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		
...		

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG352. DG352 is in Unit 15C, accessed through the Nuka passage and includes Brown Mountain and associated unnamed drainages. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 124-1.

**Table 124-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG352. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	220	25	11	7	3	2	8	2	8	25
2018	297	48	16	13	4	4	13	0	0	30
2019	310	33	11	15	5	4	13	1	3	30
2020	312	61	20	19	6	7	20	4	11	35
2021	451	56	12	25	6	4	17	0	0	24
2022	341	109	32	13	4	7	44	1	6	16
2023	332	60	18	18	5	4	20	2	10	20
2024	470	51	11	15	3	1	5	1	5	20
2025	388	55	14	13	3	3	12	0	0	25

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 11 and 32% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 1 and 7 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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 15B goat drawing hunt DG354.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Skilak Glacier goat hunt, DG354.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

5 AAC 85.040(3) **Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

Unit 15B is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG354. DG354 is in Unit 15B, accessed through Skilak River and Upper Russian Lake. It includes the drainages of the Russian River and Summit Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 125-1.

**Table 125-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG354. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year*	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2018	306	9	3	8	3	0	0	0	0	6
2019	204	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2020	306	14	5	14	5	0	0	0	0	6
2021	310	1	< 1	0	0	1	17	0	0	6
2022	276	7	3	7	3	0	0	0	0	5
2023	416	8	2	8	2	0	0	0	0	5
2024	392	12	3	12	3	0	0	0	0	6
2025	448	33	7	33	7	1	17	1	17	6

\*Regulatory year 2017 had zero tag

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 8 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 7% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 1 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents. .

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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 15B goat drawing hunt DG356.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Indian Creek goat hunt, DG356.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

Units and Bag Limits (3)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited  
...

Unit 15B is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG356. DG356 is in Unit 15B, accessed from Tustumena Lake and includes the drainages of Indian Creek, Moose Creek, and Bear Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 126-1.

**Table 126-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG356. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	213	5	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	15
2018	219	12	5	12	5	0	0	0	0	15
2019	313	16	5	16	5	2	13	0	0	15
2020	374	15	4	15	4	0	0	0	0	15
2021	535	33	6	33	6	0	0	0	0	11
2022	451	23	5	23	5	1	11	0	0	9
2023	565	25	4	25	4	0	0	0	0	6
2024	493	13	3	13	3	1	9	0	0	11
2025	518	27	5	27	5	0	0	0	0	11

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 6% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Tustumena Glacier goat hunt, DG357.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG357. DG357 is in Unit 15C, accessed from Tustumena Lake and includes the drainages of Clear Creek, Crystal Creek, and Truli Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 127-1.

**Table 127-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG357. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
2018	176	10	6	10	6	0	0	0	0	10
2019	163	6	4	6	4	0	0	0	0	10
2020	208	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2021	235	13	6	13	6	0	0	0	0	7
2022	248	18	7	18	7	0	0	0	0	9
2023	255	18	7	18	7	1	6	1	6	16
2024	343	9	3	9	3	0	0	0	0	17
2025	329	22	7	22	7	2	13	0	0	16

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 7% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Fox River goat hunt, DG358.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...  
There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG358. DG358 is in Unit 15C and includes areas south and east of the Fox River and north of Sheep Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 128-1.

**Table 128-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG358. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	82	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	12
2018	99	13	13	12	12	2	20	2	20	10
2019	128	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2020	113	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2021	128	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	10
2022	104	8	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	10
2023	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
2024	230	11	5	11	5	1	6	1	6	18
2025	314	40	13	16	5	2	11	1	6	18

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 13% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG359.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Bradley Lake goat hunt, DG359.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...  
There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG359. DG359 is in Unit 15C, accessed via Bradley Lake and includes the Kachemak Creek drainage. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 129-1.

**Table 129-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG359. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	227	8	4	6	3	0	0	0	0	24
2018	167	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	24
2019	225	30	13	12	5	3	13	0	0	24
2020	195	4	2	4	2	1	5	1	5	20
2021	374	17	5	17	5	0	0	0	0	12
2022	278	7	3	7	3	1	4	1	4	28
2023	402	18	4	18	4	2	7	2	7	30
2024	442	15	3	15	3	0	0	0	0	30
2025	451	18	4	18	4	1	3	1	3	30

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 1 and 13% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 3 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Dixon Glacier goat hunt, DG360.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG360. DG360 is in Unit 15C, accessed via Kachemak Bay and includes the drainages of Martin River and Battle Creek. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 130-1.

**Table 130-1.** Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG360. NR = non-resident, NR-2DK = non-residents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	375	12	3	11	3	1	3	1	3	36
2018	506	24	5	20	4	1	2	1	2	42
2019	439	5	1	5	1	1	3	1	3	40
2020	632	15	2	15	2	1	3	1	3	40
2021	579	11	2	11	2	1	3	1	3	36
2022	674	43	6	19	3	1	3	1	3	36
2023	700	36	5	30	4	0	0	0	0	41
2024	765	68	9	62	8	2	4	2	4	45
2025	853	31	4	31	4	2	4	2	4	46

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 1 and 9% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Halibut Cove goat hunt, DG361.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG361. DG361 is in Unit 15C, accessed via Kachemak Bay, and includes the Halibut Creek drainage. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 131-1.

**Table 131-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG361. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	428	6	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	25
2018	496	9	2	9	2	0	0	0	0	25
2019	458	7	2	5	1	1	4	0	0	25
2020	315	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
2021	576	29	5	21	4	0	0	0	0	25
2022	542	25	5	20	4	0	0	0	0	20
2023	497	18	4	18	4	0	0	0	0	22
2024	509	7	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	23
2025	433	21	5	19	4	0	0	0	0	24

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 5% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 1 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Sadie Cove goat hunt, DG362.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient to for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing goat hunt DG362. DG362 is in Unit 15C, accessed via Kachemak Bay and includes the areas south of the Wosnesenski River and North of Tutka Bay. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 132-1.

**Table 132-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG362. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	700	22	3	16	2	0	0	0	0	18
2018	802	40	5	40	5	2	9	2	9	22
2019	806	31	4	28	3	1	5	1	5	22
2020	850	45	5	45	5	0	0	0	0	16
2021	853	19	2	16	2	0	0	0	0	12
2022	877	30	3	12	1	0	0	0	0	12
2023	787	34	4	28	4	0	0	0	0	13
2024	928	66	7	63	7	0	0	0	0	14
2025	1141	67	6	61	5	1	5	1	5	20

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 7% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident permit allocation cap of “up to 20%” for the Port Dick goat hunt, DG363.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department uses discretionary authority to divide the hunt area below into multiple drawing permit hunt areas.

**5 AAC 85.040(3) Hunting Seasons and bag limits for goat:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and Remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Oct. 15 Nov. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug. 10–Oct. 15 season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1–Nov. 30 season; however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for goat in Unit 15C, outside the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 7–10 goats.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be provided an opportunity to hunt if the number of permits available is insufficient for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG363. DG363 is in Unit 15C, accessed via Port Dick or Kachemak Bay and includes the areas east of Rocky River and south of the Tutka Bay Drainage. Season dates are Aug. 10–Oct. 15. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 133-1.

**Table 133-1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG363. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	337	59	18	18	5	8	27	3	10	30
2018	375	64	17	7	2	5	14	1	3	36
2019	291	49	17	9	3	5	21	1	4	24
2020	403	106	26	4	1	7	25	0	0	28
2021	481	85	18	19	4	6	27	1	5	22
2022	513	142	28	16	3	7	30	0	0	23
2023	628	274	44	16	3	17	85	0	0	20
2024	618	230	37	2	0	10	48	0	0	21
2025	719	339	47	21	3	13	54	0	0	24

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 17 and 47% of the drawing applications and have been awarded between 5 and 17 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 85.015(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Shorten the resident black bear season, change the hunt to a drawing permit, and close the nonresident black bear hunt in a portion of Units 7 and 15C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Quentin McMullen

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would close nonresident black bear hunting in a portion of Unit 7 and 15C, and change the resident season to September 1–June 30 by drawing permit, with a bag limit of 1 bear, and a maximum of 500 permits available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 85.015 are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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 Lake	No closed season (General hunt only)	
RESIDENT HUNTERS: (3 bears)		
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: (1 bear)		No closed season
Remainder of Units 7 and 15		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: (3 bears)	No closed season (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: (3 bears)		No closed season

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for black bear in Unit 15C outside of the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai nonsubsistence area (NSA), and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 20–60 bears. Unit 7 is within the NSA, therefore there are no customary and traditional uses of black bear in this unit.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal was adopted, nonresident hunters would no longer be able to harvest black bears in the portions of Unit 7 and Unit 15C south of the city limits of Seward at 60° 04' 58" north latitude and south of Bradley River, Bradley Lake, and Kachemak Creek. This proposal would reduce opportunities for both hunters and guides. Bag limits for resident hunters would decrease to 1

bear per year and hunters would be required to obtain a drawing permit. A maximum of 500 permits would be issued. It is likely that overall black bear harvest would be reduced in these areas.

**BACKGROUND:** Black bears are an important resource to local communities in Units 7 and 15C for both meat and economic opportunity. On average, more black bears are harvested on the Kenai Peninsula in a year than moose (532 black bears vs. 435 moose, 5-year avg.). In the most recent 5 years, 87% of resident hunters and 78% of nonresidents salvaged their bear meat. A substantial number of guides and transporters (more than 25) work out of the coastal communities in Units 7 and 15C. Accordingly, the nonresident harvest is much higher in coastal areas (37% in 15C) than in non-coastal portions (9% in 15A) of the Kenai Peninsula. Hunting regulations for resident and nonresident hunters have not changed since 2011 when the current regulations were established. All harvested bears are required to be sealed. Prior to 2011, no separate bag limit existed for residents and nonresidents for the coastal portions of the Kenai Peninsula. The bag limit has varied between 1-3 bears in the spring and 1 bear in the fall. Black bear population monitoring is limited to harvest data, anecdotal observations from biologists and hunters, and limited data collected during mountain goat and salmon surveys.

The department collects information on subsistence uses of black bears through subsistence comprehensive household harvest surveys. Table 134-1 shows all available household survey information from 1982 – 2023 for the Lower Cook Inlet communities of Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Seldovia. Eighty-two percent of households in Nanwalek used black bear in a single study year.

Table 134-1. Number of black bears harvested, percent of households harvesting black bears, and percent of households using black bears in Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Seldovia, 1982-2023.

	Nanwalek			Port Graham			Seldovia			Total bear harvest
	Bear harvest	Percent harvesting	Percent using	Bear harvest	Percent harvesting	Percent using	Bear harvest	Percent harvesting	Percent using	
1982	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3%	*	5
1987	6	9%	52%	1	2%	9%	-	-	-	7
1989	5	9%	33%	0	0%	2%	-	-	-	5
1990	5	9%	54%	2	4%	35%	-	-	-	7
1991	8	14%	76%	7	10%	43%	9	6%	18%	24
1992	15	16%	75%	2	4%	33%	11	5%	20%	28
1993	11	18%	82%	1	2%	16%	0	0%	11%	12
1997	10	14%	66%	3	5%	23%	-	-	-	13
2003	5	18%	64%	6	4%	23%	-	-	-	11
2014	2	4%	18%	1	2%	10%	3	2%	21%	6
2023	-	-	-	3	5%	11%	-	-	-	3

\*Percent of households using by species was not collected in 1982

-No survey conducted for this year

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because it is an unnecessary reduction in opportunity. There is currently no biological concern given consistent harvest and observations for the population of black bears on the Kenai Peninsula. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted; and the board has not yet found that drawing permits can provide for subsistence opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 135** – Change management of RB300 (Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear) human-caused mortality tracking from a calendar year to regulatory year and/or split mortality caps between spring and fall seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Resident Hunters of Alaska

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, this proposal would direct the department to manage the RB300 mortality limit from calendar year to regulatory year. It also suggests splitting human-caused mortality limit between spring and fall seasons.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2015-211-BOG  
Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game  
Provided during the Southcentral Region Meeting  
March 18, 2015**

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 of 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 beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15

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

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6)		
Unit 7		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug. 10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—June 30
(14)		
Unit 15		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug.10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug.10—June 30

...

Most of Units 7 and 15 are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and the subsistence priority does not apply. The portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA has a negative C&T finding for brown bear, and there are no brown bears on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would require the department to manage the RB300 brown bear mortality limit, in Units 7 & 15, from a calendar year to regulatory year. In 2022 and 2024, emergency orders were issued when mortality caps were reached during the spring and early summer, effectively closing brown bear hunting opportunities for the following fall. Changing management of this hunt to a regulatory year could ensure the fall season opportunity remains open in most years, however the season may be closed by emergency order earlier in the spring.

This proposal also suggests splitting the mortality cap between spring and fall, but does not support increasing the total number of human-caused mortalities in the cap.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations regarding brown bear hunting in Units 7 and 15 have undergone many changes over the last decade. This has included changes in season dates, method of take, and objectives for allowable human-caused mortality.

The current ranges were established in 2015 by the board. These findings direct the department to establish a maximum human-caused mortality of no more than 50-60 brown bears, with no more

than 8-12 of these being adult (at least 5 years old) sows, per calendar year beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15. Mortalities are calculated on a 3-year running average.

The department monitors the RB300 hunt closely and uses emergency orders to manage the harvest. In calendar year 2022, the mortality cap of adult sows was reached, prompting an emergency order (No. 02-05-22) closing the fall portion of the season on September 30, 2022 (Tables 135-1 & 135-2). The RB300 season reopened at the start of the new calendar year (January 1, 2023). At the 2023 South Central Board of Game meeting, Proposal 134 was adopted, extending the RB300 season dates by 52 days (previously September 1–May 31 and now August 10–June 30). In 2024, the mortality cap for adult sows was again reached. Accordingly, the RB300 season was closed by emergency order (No. R2-03-24) effective July 1, 2024 through the remainder of the calendar year, closing the fall season of the hunt.

Table 135-1. 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
2015	27	4	31
2016	44	13	57
2017	38	9	47
2018	33	13	46
2019	40	8	48
2020	72	11	83
2021	35	5	40
2022	48	9	57
2023	40	7	47
2024	56	9	65
2025	41	1	42

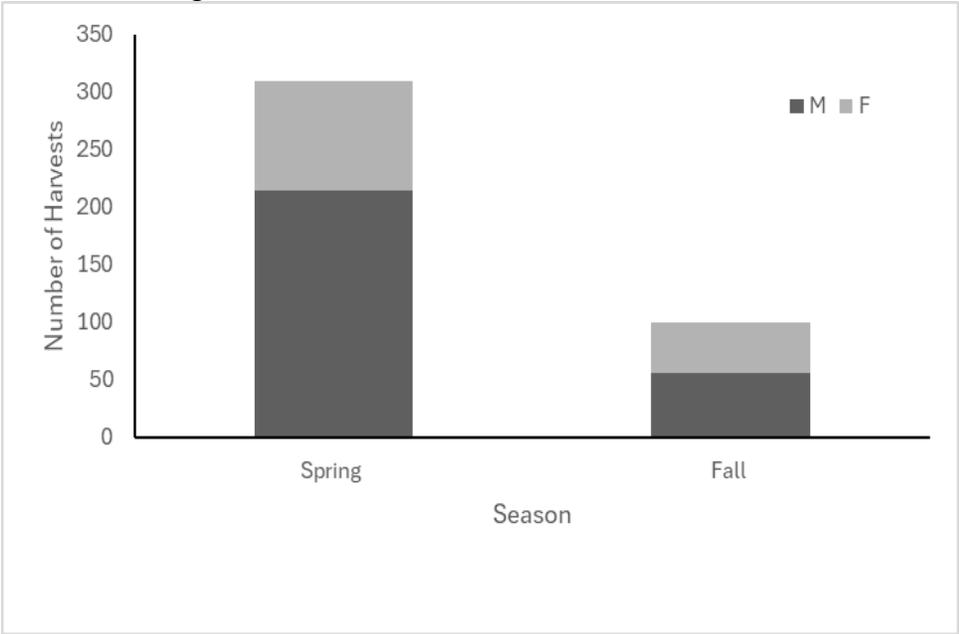
Table 135-2. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of adult female brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2015	8	0	8
2016	3	2	5
2017	3	0	3

2018	5	4	9
2019	5	1	6
2020	14	2	16
2021	4	1	5
2022	12	3	15
2023	7	3	10
2024	12	2	14
2025	8	0	8

Since 2015, an average of 76% of the harvest under the RB300 permit occurs during the spring season (Figure 135-1). Reaching mortality caps early in the management year reduces variation available for additional human-caused mortalities (e.g., defense of life and property). Managing by regulatory year would help ensure a fall RB300 season while hunters are in the field pursuing other species like moose, sheep, and caribou. Under the regulatory year strategy, if mortality caps are reached and an EO issued, it is likely to occur in the mid- to late spring season when hunters are specifically targeting bears and when fewer hunting seasons are happening concurrently. Baiting for brown bears is legal in Units 7 and 15, and for regulatory years 2015-2024, of the 565 brown bears sealed, 250 were taken over bait. Of the 565 taken, 76% of the total harvest (365) were taken in the spring.

Figure 135-1. Number of brown bear harvest mortalities by sex occurring during spring and fall in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska, 2015–2025.



Splitting mortality limits by spring and fall seasons would add complexity to RB300 regulations and management structure, with the potential to have multiple emergency orders issued in one management year (i.e. opening and closing EO's for each spring and fall season). This could create confusion from hunters about season status, along with requiring additional staff time to track the divided limits.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the proposal because it is allocative and the department can manage under existing findings or proposed findings. Most bear hunting is done in the spring, and changing to a regulatory year allocates more brown bear hunting opportunity to the fall season.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 136** – Change the management of the RB300 (Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear) brown bear mortality tracking from calendar year to regulatory year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dave Lyon

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, this proposal would require the department to manage the RB300 mortality limit from calendar year to regulatory year.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2015-211-BOG  
Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game  
Provided during the Southcentral Region Meeting  
March 18, 2015**

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 of 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 beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15

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

(6)	Resident	
	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season

Unit 7

1 bear every  
regulatory year by  
registration permit only

Aug. 10—June 30  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10—June 30

(14)

Unit 15

1 bear every  
regulatory year by  
registration permit only

Aug. 10—June 30  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10—June 30

...

Most of Units 7 and 15 are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and the subsistence priority does not apply. The portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA has a negative C&T finding for brown bear, and there are no brown bears on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would require the department to manage the RB300 brown bear mortality limit, in Units 7 & 15, from a calendar year to regulatory year. In 2022 and 2024, emergency orders were issued when mortality caps were reached during the spring and early summer, effectively closing brown bear hunting opportunities for the following fall. Changing management of this hunt to a regulatory year could ensure the fall season opportunity remains open in most years, however the season may be closed by emergency order earlier in the spring.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations regarding brown bear hunting in Units 7 and 15 have undergone many changes over the last decade. This has included changes in season dates, method of take, and objectives for allowable human-caused mortality.

The current ranges were established in 2015 by the board. These findings direct the department to establish a maximum of human-caused mortality of no more than 50-60 brown bears, with no more than 8-12 of these being adult (at least 5 years old) sows, per calendar year beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15. Mortalities are calculated on a 3-year running average.

The department monitors the RB300 hunt closely and uses emergency orders to manage the harvest. In calendar year 2022, the mortality cap of adult sows was reached, prompting an emergency order (No. 02-05-22) closing the fall portion of the season on Sept. 30, 2022 (Tables 136-1 & 136-2). The RB300 season reopened at the start of the new calendar year (Jan. 1, 2023). At the 2023 South Central Board of Game meeting, Proposal 134 was adopted, extending the RB300 season dates by 52 days (previously Sept. 1–May 31 and now Aug. 10–June 30). In 2024, the mortality cap for adult sows was again reached. Accordingly, the RB300 season was closed by

emergency order (No. R2-03-24) effective July 1, 2024 through the remainder of the calendar year, closing the fall season of the hunt.

Table 136-1. 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
2015	27	4	31
2016	44	13	57
2017	38	9	47
2018	33	13	46
2019	40	8	48
2020	72	11	83
2021	35	5	40
2022	48	9	57
2023	40	7	47
2024	56	9	65
2025	41	1	42

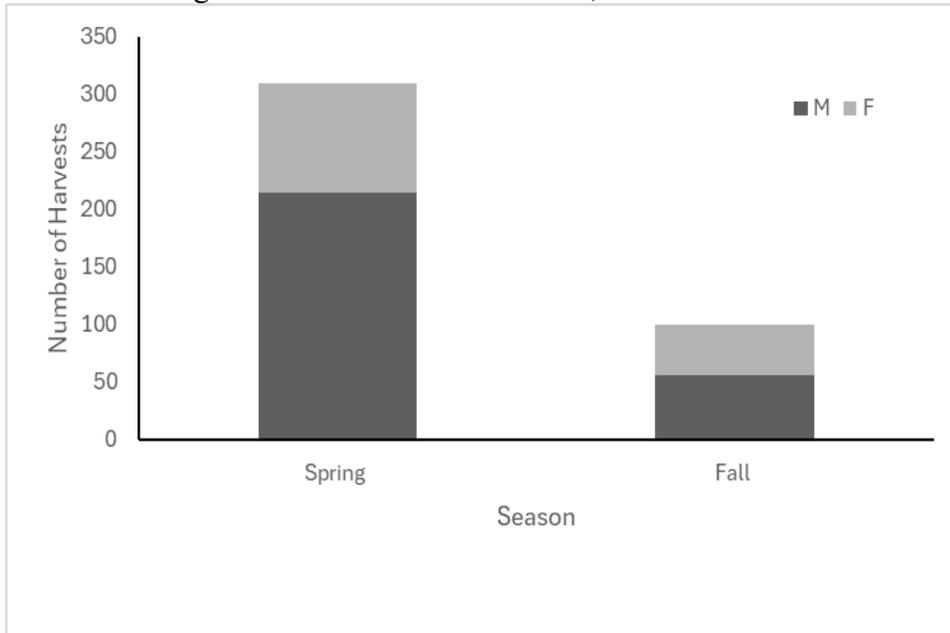
Table 136-2. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of adult female brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2015	8	0	8
2016	3	2	5
2017	3	0	3
2018	5	4	9
2019	5	1	6
2020	14	2	16
2021	4	1	5
2022	12	3	15
2023	7	3	10
2024	12	2	14
2025	8	0	8

Since 2015, an average of 76% of harvest under the RB300 permit occurs during the spring season (Figure 136-1). Reaching mortality caps early in the management year reduces variation available for additional human caused mortalities (e.g., defense of life and property). Managing by regulatory year would help ensure a fall RB300 season while hunters are in the field pursuing other

species like moose or caribou. Under the regulatory year strategy, if mortality caps are reached and an EO issued, it is likely to occur in the mid- to late spring season when hunters are specifically targeting bears and when fewer hunting seasons are happening concurrently. Baiting for brown bears is legal in Units 7 and 15, and for regulatory years 2015-2024, of the 565 brown bears sealed, 250 were taken over bait. Of the 565 taken, 76% of the total harvest (365) were taken in the spring.

Figure 136-1. Number of brown bear harvest mortalities by sex occurring during spring and fall in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska, 2015–2025.



**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the proposal because it is allocative and the department can manage under the existing findings proposed findings. Most bear hunting is done in the spring, and changing to a regulatory year allocates more brown bear hunting opportunity to the fall season.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 137** – Remove current human-caused mortality quotas for the RB300 (Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear) permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, this proposal would remove the human-caused mortality quotas for the RB300 permit in Units 7 and 15, as provided in 2015-211 Board of Game findings.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2015-211-BOG  
Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game  
Provided during the Southcentral Region Meeting  
March 18, 2015**

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 of 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 beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15

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

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6)		
Unit 7		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug. 10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—June 30
(14)		
Unit 15		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug.10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug.10—June 30

...

Most of Units 7 and 15 are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and the subsistence priority does not apply. The portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA has a negative C&T finding for brown bear, and there are no brown bears on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would eliminate the RB300 brown bear mortality quota for Units 7 and 15. The department would need to establish new criteria internally for acceptable harvest limits (including sex and age class) and human-caused mortality rates to determine when emergency orders are warranted to modify season dates and provide for sustainable harvest of brown bears.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations regarding brown bear hunting in Units 7 and 15 have undergone many changes over the last decade. This has included changes in season dates, method of take, and objectives for allowable human-caused mortality.

The current ranges were established in 2015 by the board. These findings direct the department to establish a maximum human-caused mortality of no more than 50-60 brown bears, with no more than 8-12 of these being adult (at least 5 years old) sows, per calendar year beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15. Mortalities are calculated on a 3-year running average.

The department monitors the RB300 hunt closely and uses emergency orders to manage the harvest. In calendar year 2022, the mortality cap of adult sows was reached, prompting an emergency order (No. 02-05-22) closing the fall portion of the season on Sept. 30, 2022 (Tables 137-1 & 137-2). The RB300 season reopened at the start of the new calendar year (January 1, 2023). At the 2023 South Central Board of Game meeting, Proposal 134 was adopted, extending the RB300 season dates by 52 days (previously September 1–May 31 and now August 10–June 30). In 2024, the mortality cap for adult sows was again reached. Accordingly, the RB300 season was closed by emergency order (No. R2-03-24) effective July 1, 2024 through the remainder of the calendar year, closing the fall season of the hunt.

Table 137-1. 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
2015	27	4	31
2016	44	13	57
2017	38	9	47
2018	33	13	46
2019	40	8	48
2020	72	11	83
2021	35	5	40
2022	48	9	57

2023	40	7	47
2024	56	9	65
2025	41	1	42

Table 137-2. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of adult female brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

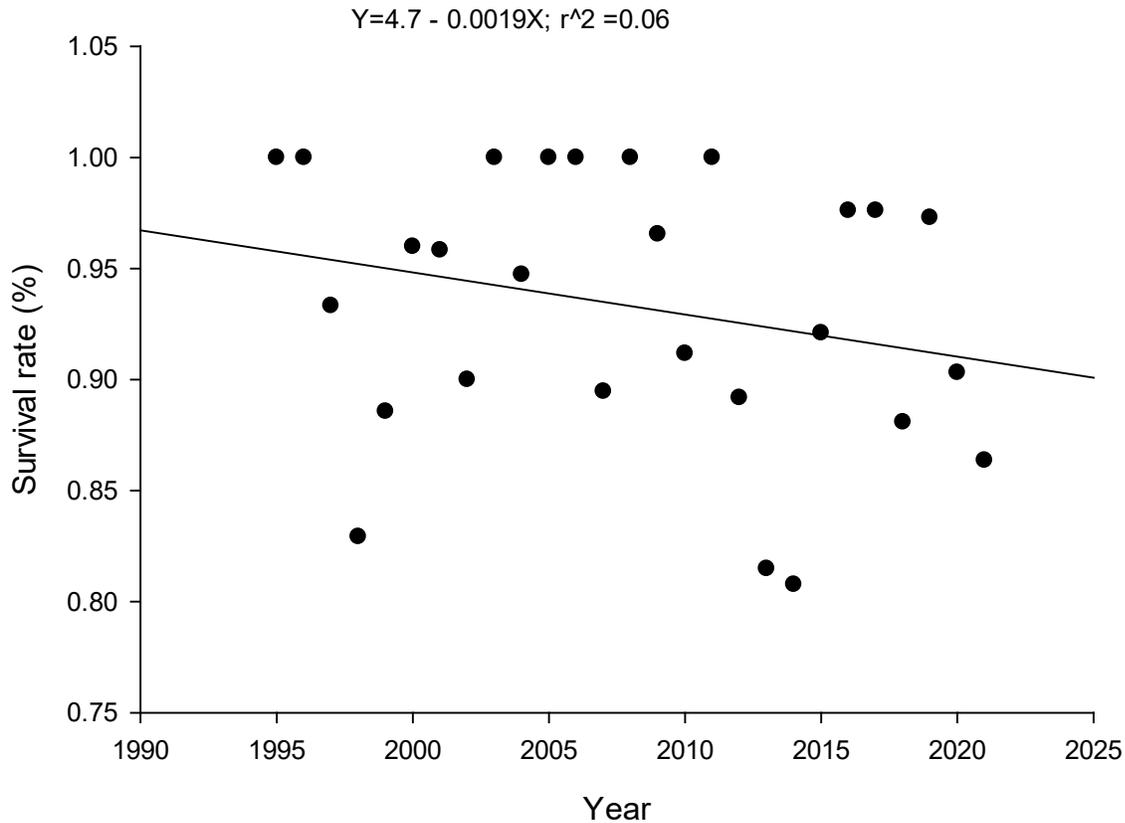
Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2015	8	0	8
2016	3	2	5
2017	3	0	3
2018	5	4	9
2019	5	1	6
2020	14	2	16
2021	4	1	5
2022	12	3	15
2023	7	3	10
2024	12	2	14
2025	8	0	8

Under the current mortality cap structure, the RB300 management strategy is able maintain a consistent harvest opportunity with only two closures over the last 10 years. Although variable in nature, recorded non-harvest mortalities e.g., DLP) are slightly decreasing.

Adult female survival is the most important parameter affecting population change. Adult female survival is relatively high at 92%, and data indicate a slight reduction in adult female survival since 2015 (Figure 137-1).

Figure 137-1. Annual survival for adult female brown bears in Units 7 & 15, Alaska

### Survival rate for adult females



**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal, however new mortality limits would need to be established to provide for sustainable hunting opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bears.** Reduce the RB300 brown bear hunting season in Units 7 and 15 by 15 days.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ted Spraker

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, this proposal would shorten the RB300 (Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear) season for both resident and non-resident hunters by 15 days, from August 10 – June 30, to August 10 – June 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6)		
Unit 7		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug. 10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—June 30
(14)		
Unit 15		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug. 10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—June 30

...

Most of Units 7 and 15 are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and the subsistence priority does not apply. The portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA has a negative C&T finding for brown bear, and there are no brown bears on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would change the RB300 season from August 10—June 30 to August 10—June 15. The majority of RB300 harvest occurs in the spring portion of the hunt and shortening the spring season may result in harvest staying below mortality caps, thereby lowering the chance of an emergency order closure.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations regarding brown bear hunting in Units 7 and 15 have undergone many changes over the last decade. This has included changes in season dates, method of take, and objectives for allowable human-caused mortality.

The current ranges were established in 2015 by the board. These findings direct the department to establish a maximum human-caused mortality of no more than 50-60 brown bears, with no more than 8-12 of these being adult (at least 5 years old) sows, per calendar year beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15. Mortalities are calculated on a 3-year running average.

The department monitors the RB300 hunt closely and uses emergency orders to manage the harvest for long-term sustainability. In calendar year 2022, the mortality cap of adult sows was reached, prompting an emergency order (No. 02-05-22) closing the fall portion of the season on Sept. 30, 2022. The RB300 season reopened at the start of the new calendar year (Jan. 1, 2023). At the 2023 South Central Board of Game meeting, Proposal 134 was adopted, extending the RB300 season dates by 52 days (previously September. 1–May 31 and now August 10–June 30). Harvest over bait is allowed from April 15–June 30. In 2024, the mortality cap for adult sows was again reached. Accordingly, the RB300 season was closed by emergency order (No. R2-03-24) effective July 1, 2024 through the remainder of the calendar year, closing the fall season of the hunt.

The fall season of RB300 represents concurrent harvest opportunity for moose, sheep, and caribou hunters. Annually, the RB300 spring season accounts for 76% of total harvest and 79% of female harvest (Figure 138-1). Shortening the spring portion of the season may result in human-caused mortalities staying below caps, resulting in fewer emergency orders being issued to close the RB300 hunt.

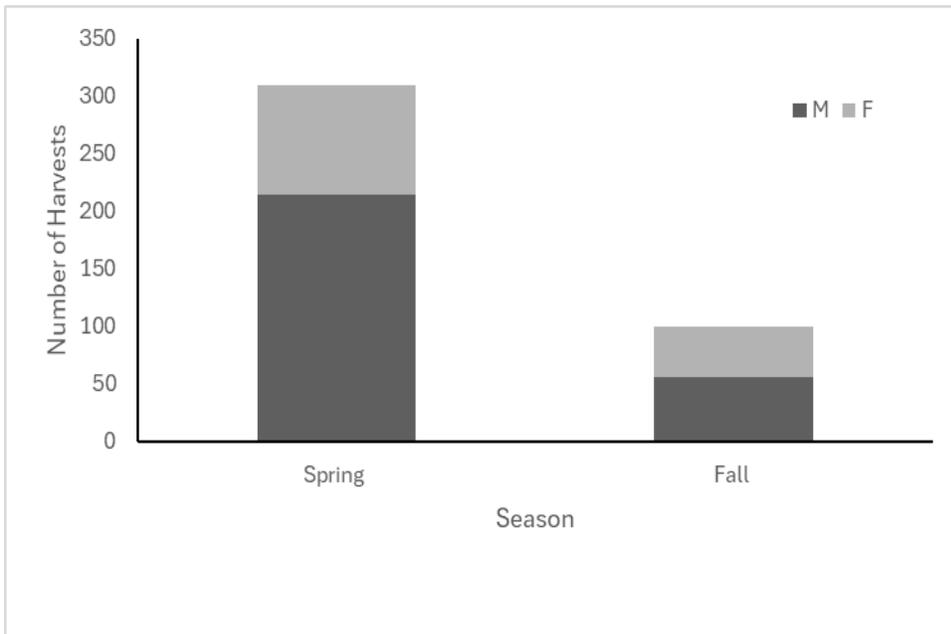


Figure 138-1. Number of brown bear harvest mortalities by sex occurring during spring and fall in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska, 2015–2025.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative and the department can manage under existing findings or proposed findings. The proposed reduction in season length will likely decrease spring brown bear harvest and adult female harvest based on previous harvest trends. This reduction in spring harvest may keep harvest below the mortality cap longer, reducing the need to close seasons by Emergency Order, resulting in increased fall hunting opportunities.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 139** – Reduce the RB300 brown bear hunting season and, create separate hunts and adult sow mortality caps for Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted this proposal would shorten the RB300 season in Units 7 and 15 from August 10 – June 30 to October 1 – June 15, and create separate hunts and mortality caps for each unit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6)		
Unit 7		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug. 10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—June 30
(14)		
Unit 15		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug.10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug.10—June 30

...

Most of Units 7 and 15 are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and the subsistence priority does not apply. The portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA has a negative C&T finding for brown bear, and there are no brown bears on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal would change the RB300 season from August 10—June 30 to October 1—June 15, shortening the season by 67 days. Shortening the season may result in lower harvest and a longer time to reach the established mortality caps, thus fewer emergency orders being issued to close the RB300 hunt.

This proposal also seeks to divide RB300 into two separate hunt areas, one hunt in Unit 7 and one hunt in Unit 15, each with a separate human-caused mortality cap of at least 10 adult sows. This results in increasing the adult sow cap from the current 8-12, to at least 20 adult sows. Increasing the adult sow mortality cap could result in an unsustainably high harvest rate of brown bears in Units 7 & 15.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations regarding brown bear hunting in Units 7 and 15 have undergone many changes over the last decade. This has included changes in season dates, method of take, and objectives for allowable human-caused mortality.

The current ranges were established in 2015 by Board of Game findings. These findings direct the department to establish a maximum human-caused mortality of no more than 50-60 brown bears, with no more than 8-12 of these being adult (at least 5 years old) sows, per calendar year beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15. Mortalities are calculated on a 3-year running average.

The Department monitors the RB300 hunt closely and uses emergency orders to manage the harvest for long-term sustainability. In calendar year 2022, the mortality cap of adult sows was reached, prompting an emergency order (No. 02-05-22) closing the fall portion of the season on September 30, 2022. The RB300 season reopened at the start of the new calendar year (January 1, 2023). At the 2023 South Central Board of Game meeting, proposal 134 was adopted, extending the RB300 season dates by 52 days (previously September 1—May 31 and now August 10—June 30). Harvest over bait is allowed from April 15—June 30. In 2024, the mortality cap for adult sows was again reached. Accordingly, the RB300 season was closed by emergency order (No. R2-03-24) effective July 1, 2024, through the remainder of the calendar year, closing the fall season of the hunt.

The fall season of RB300 represents opportunity for concurrent harvest opportunity for moose, sheep, and caribou hunters. Annually, the RB300 spring season accounts for 76% of total harvest and 79% of female harvest (Figure 139-1). Shortening the spring portion of the season may result in human-caused mortalities staying below caps, resulting in fewer emergency orders being issued to close the RB300 hunt.

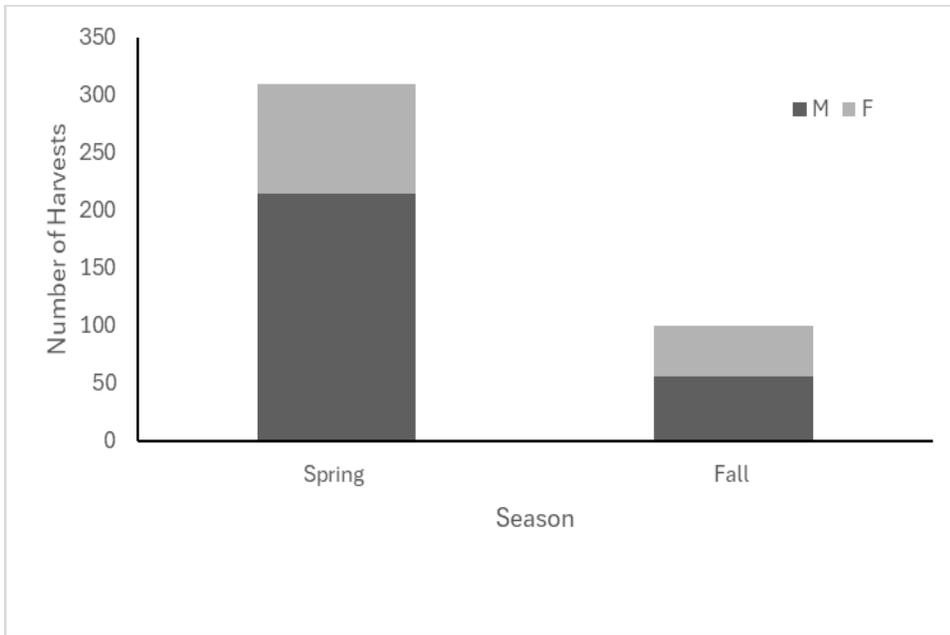


Figure 139-1. Number of brown bear harvest mortalities by sex occurring during spring and fall in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska, 2015–2025

Under the current mortality cap structure, the RB300 permit has been able to maintain a consistent harvest opportunity with only two closures over the last 10 years. Although variable in nature, recorded non-harvest mortalities (e.g., DLP) are slightly decreasing.

Adult female survival is the most important parameter affecting population change. Adult female survival is relatively high at 92%, and data indicate a slight reduction in adult female survival since 2015 (Figure 139-1).

### Survival rate for adult females

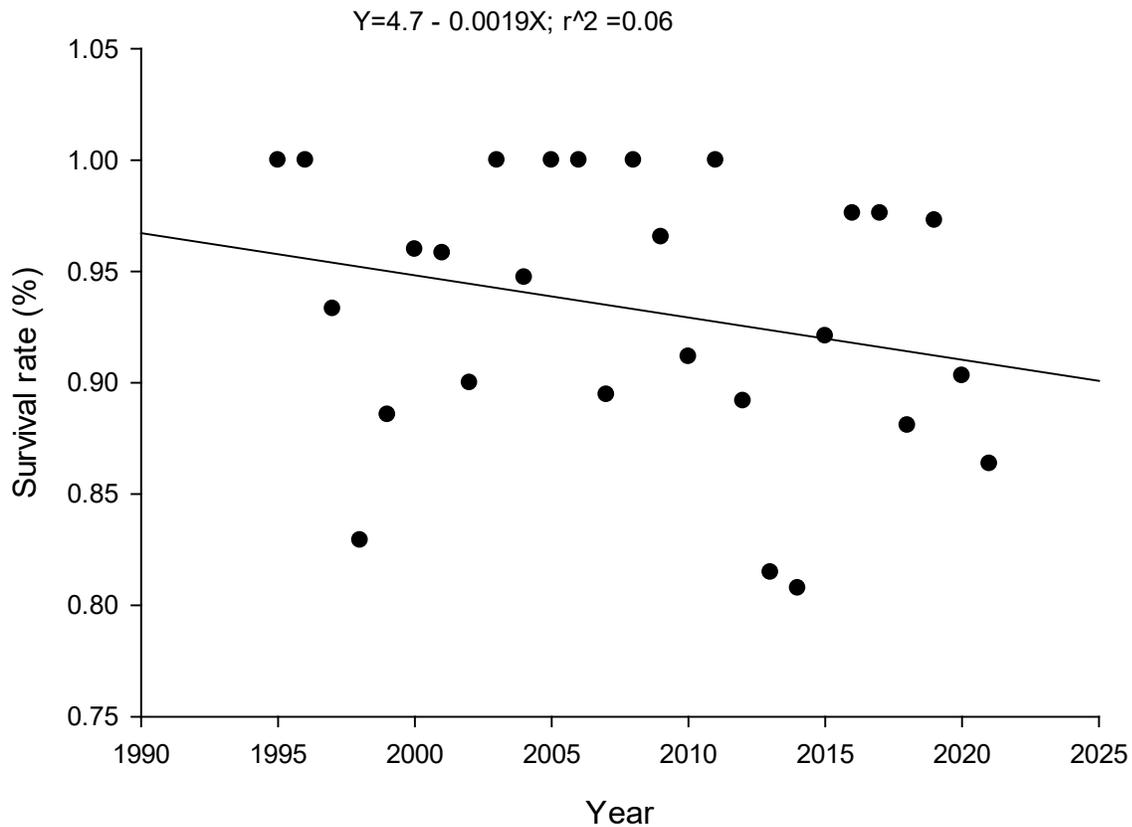


Figure 139-1. Annual survival for adult female brown bears in Units 7 & 15, Alaska.

There is a lack of evidence to support delineating Units 7 and 15 as separate or subpopulations. In addition to the large geographic ranges and movements of radio-marked brown bears, genetic analysis shows no evidence of population substructuring. The department recommends consistent seasons, bag limits, and mortality caps, among units 7 and 15.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on reducing season length, because it is allocative, and can manage under existing findings or proposed findings. Adoption of the proposal will likely decrease spring brown bear harvest and adult female harvest based on previous harvest trends. Reducing harvest will likely result in remaining below the mortality caps, reducing the need to close the hunt by Emergency Order, resulting in increased fall hunting opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bears.** Restrict hunters who harvest a female brown bear in Units 7 and 15 from hunting RB300 for two to four years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Garrett Becker

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted this proposal would restrict hunters who harvest a female (sow) brown bear under the RB300 (Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear) permit from obtaining another RB300 permit for two to four years.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6)		
Unit 7		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug. 10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—June 30
(14)		
Unit 15		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only	Aug.10—June 30 (General hunt only)	Aug.10—June 30
...		

Most of Units 7 and 15 are located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area and the subsistence priority does not apply. The portion of Unit 15C outside of the NSA has a negative C&T finding for brown bear, and there are no brown bears on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal would prohibit hunters who harvest a female (sow) brown bear in Units 7 and 15 from obtaining an RB300 permit for the next two to four years (proposal provides options).

Hunters may be more selective prior to harvesting a bear, similar to the intentions of the nanny penalty for mountain goats. Hunters could participate in brown bear hunting elsewhere in the state during this time. There are currently no other brown bear hunts with this restriction.

**BACKGROUND:** The department monitors the RB300 hunt closely and uses human-caused mortality caps and emergency orders to manage the harvest. This allows the closure of the season if conservation concerns arise or mortality caps are met to ensure the long-term sustainability of the brown bear population.

The current mortality caps were established in 2015 by the board. These findings direct the department to establish a maximum of 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 beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15. These caps are calculated on a 3-year running average. Since these caps were established the RB300 season has been closed by emergency order twice, in 2022 and 2024, both times due to reaching the adult sow mortality caps.

An average of 1,107 RB300 permits are issued each regulatory year, (range: 650-1748), with 98% and 2% of permit holders being residents and nonresidents, respectively.. For both residents and nonresidents, a brown bear locking tag is required.

Since 2012, there have been 618 successful RB300 hunters. Twenty nine hunters (6%) harvested at least one sow. This proposal would reduce harvest by approximately 2 total bears; 0-1 of which would be sows. Sows accompanied by cubs are not legal for harvest under current regulations, and all brown bears taken in these units must be sealed.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it allocates harvest to hunters over time (years). Reduction in female harvest will ensure continued sustainable harvest opportunity and likely reduce the need to use EOs to manage the harvest. There would be no change to established mortality caps from this proposal. The effect on overall harvest or effort would be minimal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 84.270(5). Furbearer trapping.** Establish consistent dates for lynx trapping in Units 7 and 15, when the season is open.

**PROPOSED BY:** Douglas Malone

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would set the lynx trapping season dates in Units 7 and 15 to December 15 through the last day of February, and remove the department’s ability to change trapping dates by emergency order.

## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

### 5 AAC 84.270

(5) Lynx

<b>Species and Units</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
Units 7, 11, and 13 – 16	Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb.	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.

...

In the portion of Unit 15C that is outside of the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai nonsubsistence area, the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for lynx. The board has determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would shorten the current trapping season set for lynx in regulation by more than 30 days and would remove the department's authority to shorten the season length by emergency order; the season is currently managed through annual announcements. Managers would retain the ability to close the season by emergency order during times of low abundance. The effect would be a set season when open, and seasons would continue to be closed in their entirety in periods of low abundance.

**BACKGROUND:** In spring 1992, the board adopted a lynx harvest tracking strategy in Southcentral Game Management Units with framework trapping seasons of November 10 through the last day of February. The board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles.

Since 1992 the department has used its authority to set season length and open/closure status. The first season held after adoption of the lynx tracking cycle framework was January 1–31, 1996 in Units 7, 15(B), and 15(A). The following year, in 1997, two additional weeks were added to the season (Jan. 1– Feb. 15) and all portions of Units 7 and 15 were open. Since 1997, when open, the season dates have varied between Jan. 1–31 and Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 with all units open.

Since the harvest tracking strategy was implemented, there have been two major peaks in harvest, in 1998 and 2011, with harvest of 151 and 465 lynx, respectively. Two to three years

after each peak in harvest, there was a 6- to 7-year trapping-season closure, (Figure 141-1). Traps and snares account for the majority of harvest, (88%), followed by shooting (11%). Harvest per trapper in each season typically ranges from 2 to 5 lynx and strongly correlates with the lynx population abundance cycle (Table 141-1).

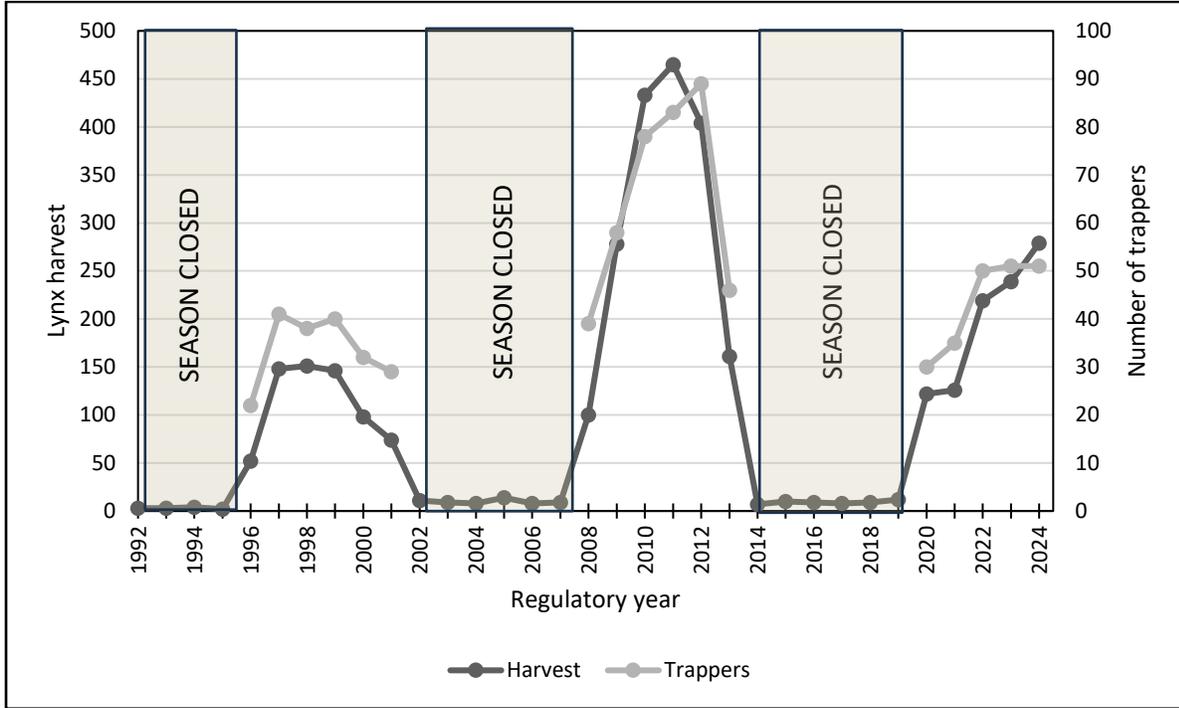


Figure 141-1. Total lynx harvest and number of successful trappers, regulatory years 1992–2024, Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

Regulatory year	Number of Trappers	Harvest	Harvest per trapper
1996	22	47	2.1
1997	41	129	3.1
1998	38	143	3.8
1999	40	105	2.6
2000	32	82	2.6
2001	29	51	1.8
2008	39	94	2.4
2009	58	247	4.3
2010	78	419	5.4
2011	83	444	5.3
2012	89	345	3.9
2013	46	101	2.2
2020	30	114	3.8
2021	35	116	3.3
2022	50	214	4.3
2023	51	234	4.6
2024	51	258	5.1

Table 141-1. Lynx harvest per successful trapper, regulatory years 1996–2024, Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Lynx harvest may increase during years when the trapping season is open. The board does not have the authority to restrict the department’s ability to close seasons during low abundance years, so the proposal presents no biological concern. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 142 – 5 AAC 84.270(5) and 5 AAC 85.060(a)(4) Trapping and hunting seasons for lynx in Units 7 and 15.** Establish consistent dates for lynx trapping in Units 7 and 15, when the season is open.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Nelson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the lynx hunting and trapping season dates in Units 7 and 15 to Dec. 15–Feb. 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 84.270**

(5) Lynx

<b>Species and Units</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
Units 7, 11, and 13 – 16	Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb.	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.

**5 AAC 85.060**

(4) Lynx

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Units 6,7, 11, and 13 – 16 2 lynx	Nov. 10 –Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10 –Feb. 28

...

In the portion of Unit 15C that is outside of the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai nonsubsistence area, the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for lynx. The board has determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would shorten the current lynx hunting and trapping season dates from November 10 to the last day of February or February 28 to December 15– February 15. Currently, specific annual season dates are announced by emergency order. The effect would be a set season when open, and seasons would continue to be closed in their entirety in periods of low abundance.

**BACKGROUND:** In spring 1992, the board adopted a lynx harvest tracking strategy in Southcentral Game Management Units with a trapping season framework of November 10

through the last day of February. The board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles.

Since 1992 the department has used its authority to set season length and open/closure status. The first season held after adoption of the lynx tracking cycle was January 1–31, 1996 in Units 7, 15(B), and 15(A). The following year, in 1997, two additional weeks were added to the season (Jan. 1 – Feb. 15.) and all portions of Units 7 and 15 were open. Since 1997, when open, the season dates have varied between Jan. 1–31 and Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 with all units open.

Since the harvest tracking strategy was implemented, there have been two major peaks in harvest, 1998 and 2011, with harvest of 151 and 465 lynx, respectively. Two to three years after each peak in harvest, there was a 6- to 7-year trapping season closure (Figure 141-1). Traps and snares account for the majority of harvest (88%), followed by shooting (11%). Harvest per trapper in each season typically ranges from 2 to 5 lynx and strongly correlates with the lynx population abundance cycle (Table 141-1).

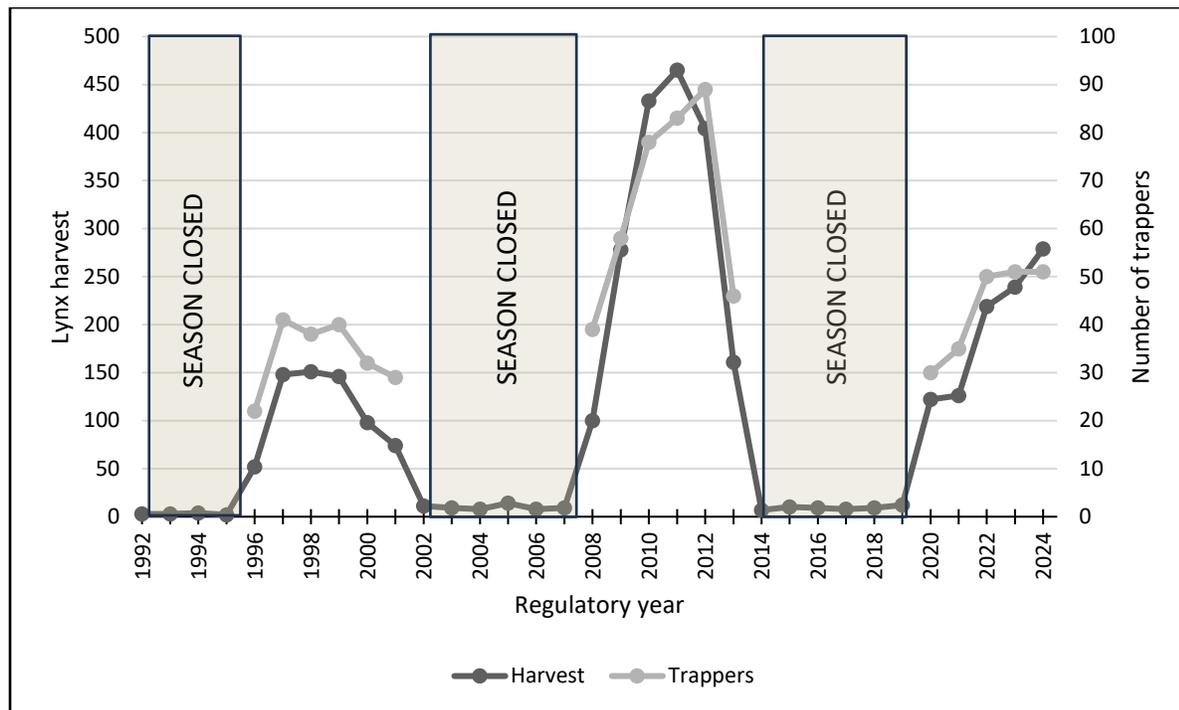


Figure 142-1. Total lynx harvest and number of successful trappers, regulatory years 1992–2024, Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

Regulatory Year	Number of Trappers	Harvest	Harvest per Trapper
1996	22	47	2.1
1997	41	129	3.1
1998	38	143	3.8
1999	40	105	2.6
2000	32	82	2.6
2001	29	51	1.8
2008	39	94	2.4
2009	58	247	4.3
2010	78	419	5.4
2011	83	444	5.3
2012	89	345	3.9
2013	46	101	2.2
2020	30	114	3.8
2021	35	116	3.3
2022	50	214	4.3
2023	51	234	4.6
2024	51	258	5.1

Table 142-1. Lynx harvest per successful trapper, regulatory years 1996–2024, Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Lynx harvest may increase during years in which trapping season is open. The board does not have the authority to restrict the department’s ability to close seasons during low abundance years, so the proposal presents no biological concern. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 143** – 5 AAC 84.270(5). **Furbearer trapping.** Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** John and Debbie Dahman

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the lynx trapping season dates in Units 7 and 15 to December 1 – February 15.

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

(5) Lynx

<b>Species and Units</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
Units 7, 11, and 13 – 16	Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb.	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.

...

In the portion of Unit 15C that is outside of the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai nonsubsistence area, the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for lynx. The board has determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted as written, this proposal would shorten the current regulation lynx season dates from November 10 to the last day of February to December 1 – February 15. The specific annual season length is currently announced by emergency order.

**BACKGROUND:** In spring 1992, the board adopted a lynx harvest tracking strategy in Southcentral Game Management Units with framework trapping seasons of November 10 through the last day of February. The board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles.

Since 1992 the department has used its authority to set season length and open/closure status. The first season held after adoption of the lynx tracking cycle was January 1–31, 1996 in Units 7, 15(B), and 15(A). The following year, in 1997, two additional weeks were added to the season (Jan. 1 – Feb. 15.) and all portions of Units 7 and 15 were open. Since 1997, when open, the season dates have varied between Jan. 1– Jan. 31 and Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 with all units open.

Since the harvest tracking strategy was implemented, there have been two major peaks in harvest, 1998 and 2011, with harvest of 151 and 465 lynx, respectively. Two to three years after each peak in harvest there has been a 6- to 7-year trapping-season closure, (Figure 143-1). Traps and snares account for the majority of harvest, (88%), followed by shooting (11%). Harvest per trapper typically ranges from 2 to 5 lynx each season and strongly correlates with the lynx population abundance cycle (Table 143-1).

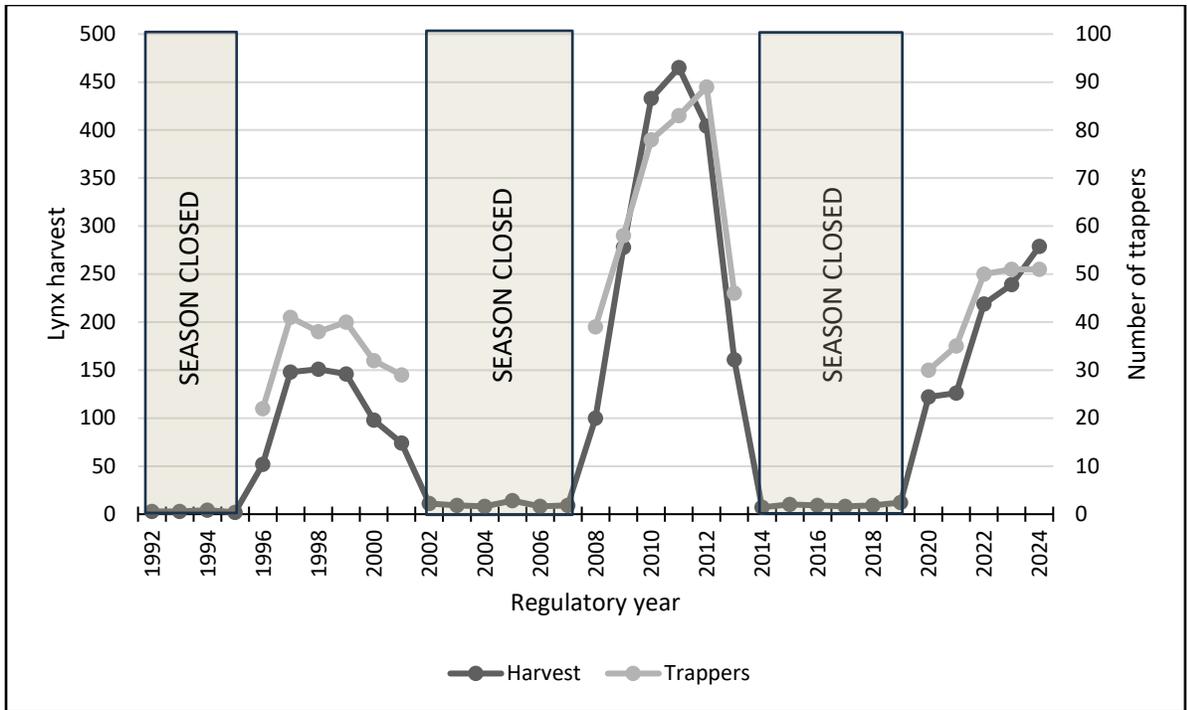


Figure 143-1. Total lynx harvest and number of successful trappers, regulatory years 1992–2024, Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

RY	Number of Trappers	Harvest	Harvest per Trapper
1996	22	47	2.1
1997	41	129	3.1
1998	38	143	3.8
1999	40	105	2.6
2000	32	82	2.6
2001	29	51	1.8
2008	39	94	2.4
2009	58	247	4.3
2010	78	419	5.4
2011	83	444	5.3
2012	89	345	3.9
2013	46	101	2.2
2020	30	114	3.8
2021	35	116	3.3
2022	50	214	4.3
2023	51	234	4.6
2024	51	258	5.1

Table 143-1. Lynx harvest per successful trapper, regulatory years 1996–2024, Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Lynx harvest may increase during years in which trapping season is open. The board does not have the authority to restrict the department’s ability to close seasons during low abundance years, so the proposal presents no biological concern. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 84.270 and 5 AAC 85.060.** Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 7 and 15 to align with Units 6 and 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would set the lynx hunting and trapping season dates in Units 7 and 15 to November 10 – February 28.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

(5) Lynx

<b>Species and Units</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
Units 7, 11, and 13 – 16	Nov. 10– Last day of Feb.	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.

**5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.**

(4) Lynx

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Units 6,7, 11, and 13 – 16 2 lynx	Nov. 10–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10–Feb. 28

...

In the portion of Unit 15C that is outside of the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai nonsubsistence area, the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for lynx. The board has determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would have no effect on current season length in regulation, it would remove the department's authority to shorten the season length by emergency order as the season is currently managed through annual announcements. Managers would retain the ability to close the season by emergency order during times of low abundance.

**BACKGROUND:** In spring 1992, the board adopted a lynx harvest tracking strategy in Southcentral game management units with framework trapping seasons of November 10 through the last day of February. The board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles.

Since 1992 the Department has used its authority to set season length and open/closure status. The first season held after adoption of the lynx tracking cycle was in 1996 from Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 in Units 7, 15(B), and 15(A) The following year in 1997, two additional weeks were added to the season (Jan. 1 – Feb. 15.) and all portions of Units 7 and 15 were open. Since 1997, when open, the season dates have varied between Jan. 1– Jan. 31 and Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 with all units open.

Since the harvest tracking strategy was implemented, there have been two major peaks in harvest, 1998 and 2011 with harvest of 151 and 465 lynx respectively. Typically, 2-3 years after these peaks has been a 6–7 year trapping season closure, (Figure 143-1). Traps and snares account for the majority of harvest, (88%), followed by shooting (11%). Harvest per trapper in a given season typically ranges from 2-5 lynx, and strongly correlates with the lynx population abundance cycle (Table 144-1).

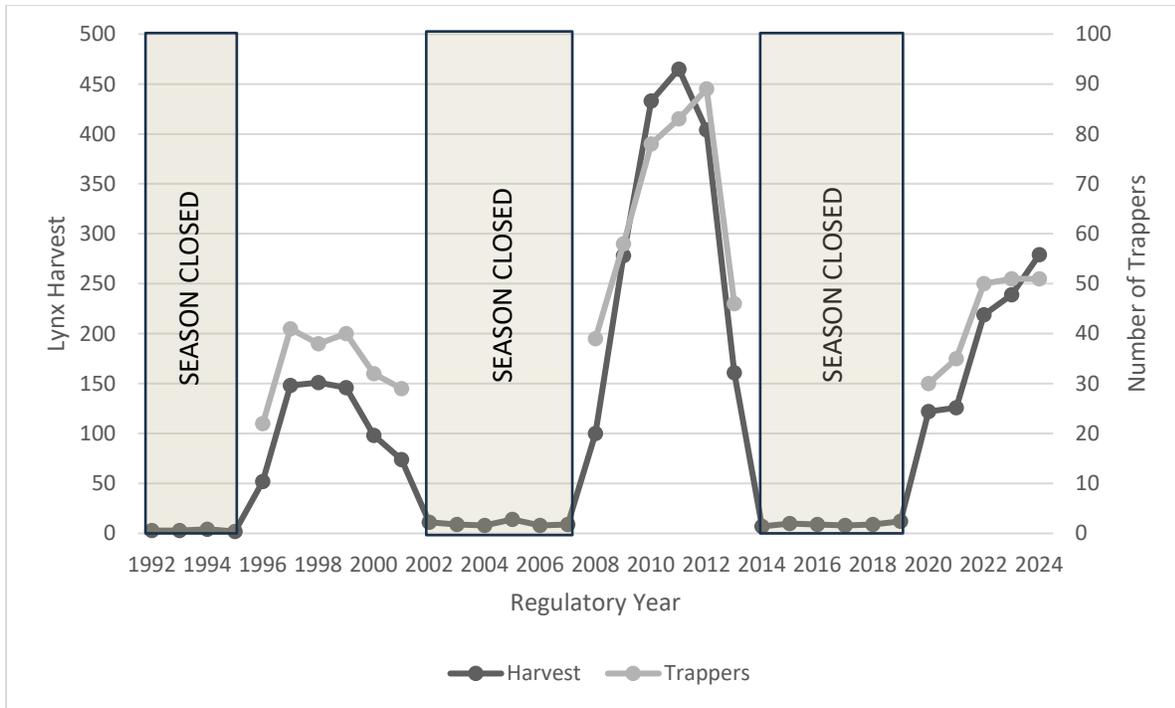


Figure 141-1. Total lynx harvest and number of successful trappers, 1992-2024, in Units 7 & 15, Alaska

RY	# Trappers	Harvest	Harvest/Trapper
1996	22	47	2.1
1997	41	129	3.1
1998	38	143	3.8
1999	40	105	2.6
2000	32	82	2.6
2001	29	51	1.8
2008	39	94	2.4
2009	58	247	4.3
2010	78	419	5.4
2011	83	444	5.3
2012	89	345	3.9
2013	46	101	2.2
2020	30	114	3.8
2021	35	116	3.3
2022	50	214	4.3
2023	51	234	4.6
2024	51	258	5.1

Table 141-1. Lynx harvest per successful trapper, 1996-2024, in Units 7 & 15, Alaska

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Lynx harvest may increase during years in which trapping season is open. The board does not have the authority to restrict the department's ability to close seasons during low abundance years, so the proposal presents no biological concern. If the board adopts the proposal, the department recommends the date be changed to the last day of February to allow for opportunity on February 29<sup>th</sup> during leap years. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish trap setbacks of 100-yards on both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed in Unit 7 unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater or under ice.

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.

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 Hwy to end.

West Juneau Bench Road/Chunkwood Road – 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.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Alaska are listed in 5 AAC 92.550.

(9) Unit 7:

(A) all land within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses and the one wildlife overpass on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(B) those portions within 50 yards of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, North Cooper Creek, and South Cooper Creek campgrounds are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 50 yards of the trails if the traps are:

(i) elevated three feet above hard ground;

(ii) enclosed;

(iii) under water; or

(iv) under ice.

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may reduce user group conflict and is unlikely to impact furbearer harvest or reduce opportunity significantly.

**BACKGROUND:** Trails across the Kenai have been established by many different user groups including Alaska Natives, homesteaders, miners, trappers, mushers, mineral exploration, snowmachiners, skiers, cyclists and other recreationalists. Use of established trails has changed over time as the population on the peninsula has increased and the public's interests have changed (e.g. more snowmachiners and fewer dog mushers). Conflicts between user groups have increased as the human population and outdoor recreation have increased.

Many of the areas where conflicts arise have regulations under different authorities to restrain pets to minimize user conflicts and for safety. The department does not maintain a record of pets caught in traps and reporting is inconsistent. Some reports on the Kenai indicate that incidents occurred on or near multi-use trails or trailheads, along with some on private land.

Most users groups have a base organization that encourages ethical and cooperative use of trails such as the Alaska Trappers Association, Snowmads, Cabin Hoppers, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club or the Homer Cycling club. Not all users, however, are members of such organizations nor subscribe to these organizations' codes of ethics. As such, educational efforts do not always reach all users, and suggested guidelines are not followed by all users causing conflicts to arise.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding this proposal because it is allocative. The department is generally opposed to a reduction in opportunity where a harvestable surplus exists and instead encourages trappers to be cognizant of potential conflicts and to follow the trapper's Code of Ethics.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a trap setback of 100 yards from trails and trail heads listed below in Unit 7 unless traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice.

Crescent Creek Trail, USGS Map Seward, B7, C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Crescent Creek Trail. 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.

Lower Russian Lake Trail USGS Map Seward B8, Kenai B1 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Russian Lakes Trail. 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.

Bean Creek Trail- starting at its trailhead at mile 0.5 of the west end of Slaughter Ridge Road to its intersection of the main Resurrection Pass Trail above Juneau Falls.

Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek/ Coyote Notch Trail System- This trail is referred to as the Quartz Creek Trail on the 2004 plat approved by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the Russian Gap Subdivision. This trail 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.

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

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 Trail head at mile 39.5 of the Seward Highway. These trails loop along the cleared area to the northeast of the parking lot between Quartz Creek and the Seward Highway.

Stetson Creek Parking area and trail- Stetson Trail parking area at milepost 50.7 of Sterling Highway. Setback of 100 yards around clearing beyond gate under the power line and first 400 yards up the trail.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Alaska are listed in 5 AAC 92.550.

(9) Unit 7:

(A) all land within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses and the one wildlife overpass on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(B) those portions within 50 yards of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, North Cooper Creek, and South Cooper Creek campgrounds are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 50 yards of the trails if the traps are:

(i) elevated three feet above hard ground;

(ii) enclosed;

(iii) under water; or

(iv) under ice.

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may reduce user group conflict and is unlikely to impact furbearer harvest, or reduce opportunity significantly.

**BACKGROUND:** Trails across the Kenai have been established by many different user groups including Alaska Natives, homesteaders, miners, trappers, mushers, mineral exploration, snowmachiners, skiers, cyclists and other recreationalists. Use of established trails has changed over time as the population on the peninsula has increased and the public's interests have changed (e.g. more snowmachiners and fewer dog mushers). Conflicts between user groups have increased as the human population and outdoor recreation have increased.

Many of the areas where conflicts arise have regulations under different authorities to restrain pets to minimize user conflicts and for safety. The department does not maintain a record of pets caught in traps and reporting is inconsistent. Some reports on the Kenai indicate that incidents occurred on or near multi-use trails or trailheads, along with some on private land.

Most user groups have a base organization that encourages ethical and cooperative use of trails such as the Alaska Trappers Association, Snowmads, Cabin Hoppers, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club or the Homer Cycling club. Educational efforts do not always reach all users, and suggested guidelines are not followed by all users causing conflicts to arise.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding this proposal because it is allocative. The department is generally opposed to a reduction in opportunity where a harvestable surplus exists, and instead encourages trappers to be cognizant of potential conflicts and to follow the trapper's Code of Ethics.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 92.550 Areas closed to trapping.** Establish trapping setbacks along Kenai Lake beaches in Unit 7 as follows:

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a trap 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 (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 in Unit 7. Except traps that are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice.

- Kenai Lake Beaches: 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 (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road). *Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.*
- Kenai Lake Beach (Waikiki Beach): ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road. *Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.*

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Alaska are listed in 5 AAC 92.550.

(9) Unit 7:

(A) all land within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses and the one wildlife overpass on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(B) those portions within 50 yards of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, North Cooper Creek, and South Cooper Creek campgrounds are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 50 yards of the trails if the traps are:

- (i) elevated three feet above hard ground;
- (ii) enclosed;
- (iii) under water; or
- (iv) under ice.

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may reduce user group conflict and is unlikely to impact furbearer harvest or significantly impact opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Trails across the Kenai have been established by many different user groups including Alaska Natives, homesteaders, miners, trappers, mushers, mineral exploration, snowmachiners, skiers, cyclists and other recreationalists. Use of established trails has changed over time as the population on the peninsula has increased and the public's interests have changed (e.g. more snowmachiners and fewer dog mushers). Conflicts between user groups have increased as the human population and outdoor recreation have increased.

Many of the areas where conflicts arise have regulations under different authorities to restrain pets to minimize user conflicts and for safety. The department does not maintain a record of pets caught in traps and reporting is inconsistent. Some reports on the Kenai indicate that incidents occurred on or near multi-use trails or trailheads, along with some on private land.

Most user groups have a base organization that encourages ethical and cooperative use of trails such as the Alaska Trappers Association, Snowmads, Cabin Hoppers, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club or the Homer Cycling club. Educational efforts do not always reach all users, and suggested guidelines are not followed by all users causing conflicts to arise.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding this proposal because it is allocative. The department is generally opposed to a reduction in opportunity where a harvestable surplus exists, and instead encourages trappers to be cognizant of potential conflicts and to follow the trapper's Code of Ethics.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Require signs be posted at all access points to active trapping in Unit 7.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require signs to be posted at all active trapping access points in Unit 7. Trapping sign requirements would include 1) be at least 8” x 11”, 2) brightly colored (orange or yellow), 3) waterproof/tear proof, and 4) posted at eye level clearly denoting active trapping in the area. Must include Alaska Public Safety Information network (ASPIN) ID number or contact information for the trapper.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current methods and means restrictions for trapping can be found in 5AAC92.080 and 5 AAC 92.095. There are no signage requirements in Unit 7.

Area-specific state, federal, and municipal trapping restrictions occur throughout Alaska. The department does not maintain a catalogue of federal, municipal, or private land restrictions.

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would have no effect on the take of furbearers or trapping opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Trails across the Kenai have been established by many different user groups including Alaska Natives, homesteaders, miners, trappers, mushers, mineral exploration, snowmachiners, skiers, cyclists and other recreationalists. Use of established trails has changed over time as the population on the peninsula has increased and the public's interests have changed (e.g. more snowmachiners and fewer dog mushers). Conflicts between user groups have increased as the human population and outdoor recreation have increased.

Many of the areas where conflicts arise have regulations under different authorities to restrain pets to minimize user conflicts and for safety. The department does not maintain a record of pets caught in traps and reporting is inconsistent. Some reports on the Kenai indicate that incidents occurred on or near multi-use trails or trailheads, along with some on private land.

Most users groups have a base organization that encourages ethical and cooperative use of trails such as the Alaska Trappers Association, Snowmads, Cabin Hoppers, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club or the Homer Cycling club. Educational efforts do not always reach all users, and suggested guidelines are not followed by all users causing conflicts to arise.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal as there are no biological concerns, and issues related to traps being set out of season are enforcement issues. Marking tools used to take fish and game resources is not without precedent. For example, shellfish traps and pots must be marked with an angler's first initial and last name, home address, and vessel registration number (AK number).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish trap setbacks of 100-yards on both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed in Unit 7. Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50-yards from the road or pullout.

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.

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 Hwy to end.

Russian Gap Road – The entire distance from Sterling Hwy to end.

All vehicle pullouts along the Sterling Highway.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Alaska are listed in 5 AAC 92.550.

(9) Unit 7:

(A) all land within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses and the one wildlife overpass on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(B) those portions within 50 yards of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, North Cooper Creek, and South Cooper Creek campgrounds are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 50 yards of the trails if the traps are:

(i) elevated three feet above hard ground;

(ii) enclosed;

(iii) under water; or

(iv) under ice.

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal may reduce user group conflict and is unlikely to impact furbearer harvest or significantly reduce opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Trails across the Kenai have been established by many different user groups including Alaska Natives, homesteaders, miners, trappers, mushers, mineral exploration, snowmachiners, skiers, cyclists and other recreationalists. Use of established trails has changed over time as the population on the peninsula has increased and the public's interests have changed (e.g. more snowmachiners and fewer dog mushers). Conflicts between user groups have increased as the human population and outdoor recreation have increased.

Many of the areas where conflicts arise have regulations under different authorities to restrain pets to minimize user conflicts and for safety. The department does not maintain a record of pets caught in traps and reporting is inconsistent. Some reports on the Kenai indicate that incidents occurred on or near multi-use trails or trailheads, along with some on private land.

Most users groups have a base organization that encourages ethical and cooperative use of trails such as the Alaska Trappers Association, Snowmads, Cabin Hoppers, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club or the Homer Cycling club. Educational efforts do not always reach all users, and suggested guidelines are not followed by all users causing conflicts to arise.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding this proposal because it is allocative. The department is generally opposed to a reduction in opportunity where a harvestable surplus exists and instead encourages trappers to be cognizant of potential conflicts and to follow the trapper's Code of Ethics.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a trap identification regulation for Unit 7.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

There is no state requirement for trap identification in Unit 7.

...

Unit 7 is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Identification tags providing either the trappers name or Alaska Public Safety Information Network (ASPIN) ID would be required for all traps set in Unit 7. For nonresidents the department would be required to assign a personal Identification number (PIN) when a trapping license was issued.

**BACKGROUND:** Conflicts between trappers and other users have occurred on the Kenai Peninsula for many years. One of the common suggestions to alleviate conflicts and to identify the trap owner, is to require trappers to mark their gear with an identifier. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge adopted Refuge specific regulations, requiring trappers to have identification on all traps and snares used.

In 2016 the board repealed trap identification regulations in Region I that read: Trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trapper’s name and address, or the trapper’s permanent identification number, or is set within 50 yards of a sign that lists the trapper’s name and address, or the trapper’s permanent identification number; the trapper must use the trapper’s Alaska driver’s license number or state identification card number as the required permanent identification number; and if a trapper chooses to place a sign at a snaring site rather than tagging individual snares, the sign must be at least 3 inches by 5 inches in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one-half inch high and one-eighth inch wide in a color that contrasts with the color of the sign.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** this proposal as there are no biological concerns, and issues related to traps being set out of season are enforcement issues. Marking tools used to take fish and game resources is not without precedent. For example, shellfish traps and pots must be marked with an angler’s first initial and last name, home address, and vessel registration number (AK number).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 92.550 Areas closed to trapping.** Close all beaver trapping within the Deep Creek and Anchorage River drainage south to but excluding the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C for 5 years.

**PROPOSED BY: Homer Advisory Committee**

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages in Unit 15C for five years with a required review before re-opening.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Unit 15 can be found in 5 AAC 92.550

(4) Unit 15

(D) the Kenai Moose Research Center consists of that area within the outer boundary fences of the Kenai Moose Research Center, located west and south of Coyote and Vixen Lakes is closed to Trapping.

Area-specific state, federal, and municipal trapping restrictions occur throughout Alaska. The department does not maintain a catalogue of federal, municipal, or private land restrictions.

(E) all lands within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(F) those portions within 100 yards of the Diamond Creek, Grewing Glacier, and Grewing Saddle trails are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 100 yards of the trails if the traps are:

- (i) elevated three feet above hard ground;
- (ii) enclosed;
- (iii) under water; or
- (iv) under ice

...

This portion of Unit 15C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for beaver in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Beaver trapping would be closed in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031 and a review of beaver populations levels would be conducted before harvest was reopened.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically the Anchor River drainage has supported a significant harvest of beaver. In 1976, almost half (64 of 136) of the beaver taken in Unit 15 came from the Anchor River drainage system. The last documented harvest of beavers in this unit was 1 beaver in 2011. The most recent take prior to 2011 was in 2006 when 4 beavers were taken.

Beaver harvest across Unit 15C has declined significantly in recent years from an average of 22 beaver per year (2012-2016) to 4 in recent years (2020-2024).

The department does not conduct surveys for beaver on a regular basis on the Kenai Peninsula. In 2018, a beaver survey was flown covering the Anchor River and surrounding drainages. One active site was found within the Anchor River drainage. Surrounding drainages held multiple active sites.

Beaver are a keystone species manipulating their environment for their own benefit. Beaver impound water and trap nutrients creating riparian habitat beneficial to moose, migratory birds, juvenile salmon, and other wildlife species. Their manipulations, however, are also known to cause problems with anadromous fish passage, roadways, and private property. While dams can often be navigated by migratory fish at higher water or via overflow channels, the department has taken measures in the past to actively reduce beaver populations in streams associated with salmon migration. New techniques available today make such actions less necessary. Beaver dams generally improve habitat for rearing salmonids by storing water that can be used by juvenile salmon for overwintering ponds, particularly coho salmon, regulate water temperature, and assist in wetland formation and maintenance upstream of the structure. To deal with problems caused by beaver the department issues permits for the take of nuisance beaver as necessary, and beaver deception devices can be installed at culverts to prevent blockage. No nuisance beaver permits have been requested or issued for the Anchor River drainage in recent history.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because it will eliminate beaver trapping and unnecessarily restrict harvest opportunity. As noted in the background section, active beavers were observed in drainages near the Anchor River and it is unknown why beavers have not recolonized the river system.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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 5 years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Soil and Water Conservation District

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages in Unit 15C for five years. During this period the department may review beaver populations in the area.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Unit 15 can be found in 5 AAC 92.550

(4) Unit 15

(D) the Kenai Moose Research Center consists of that area within the outer boundary fences of the Kenai Moose Research Center, located west and south of Coyote and Vixen Lakes is closed to Trapping.

Area-specific state, federal, and municipal trapping restrictions occur throughout Alaska. The department does not maintain a catalogue of federal, municipal, or private land restrictions.

(E) all lands within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(F) those portions within 100 yards of the Diamond Creek, Grewing Glacier, and Grewing Saddle trails are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 100 yards of the trails if the traps are:

- (i) elevated three feet above hard ground;
- (ii) enclosed;
- (iii) under water; or
- (iv) under ice

...

This portion of Unit 15C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for beaver in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Beaver trapping would be closed in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031. During this period the department may review beaver populations levels in the area.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically the Anchor River drainage has supported a significant harvest of beaver. In 1976, almost half (64 of 136) of the beaver taken in Unit 15 came from the Anchor River drainage system. The last documented harvest of beavers in this unit was 1 beaver in 2011. Prior to 2011 the most recent harvest occurred in 2006 when 4 beavers were taken.

Beaver harvest across Unit 15C has declined significantly in recent years from an average of 22 beaver per year (2012-2016) to 4 in recent years (2020-2024).

The department does not conduct surveys for beaver on a regular basis on the Kenai Peninsula. In 2018, a beaver survey was flown covering the Anchor River and surrounding drainages. One active site was found within the Anchor River drainage. Surrounding drainages held multiple active sites.

Beaver are a keystone species manipulating their environment for their own benefit. Beavers impound water and trap nutrients creating riparian habitat beneficial to moose, migratory birds, juvenile salmon, and other wildlife species. Their manipulations, however, are also known to cause problems with anadromous fish passage, roadways, and private property. While dams can often be navigated by migratory fish at higher water or via overflow channels, the department has taken

measures in the past to actively reduce beaver populations in streams associated with salmon migration. New techniques available today make such actions less necessary. Beaver dams generally improve habitat for rearing salmonids by storing water that can be used by juvenile salmon for overwintering ponds (particularly coho salmon), regulate water temperature, and assist in wetland formation and maintenance upstream of the structure. To deal with problems caused by beavers, the department issues permits for the take of nuisance beaver as necessary and beaver deception devices can be installed at culverts to prevent blockage. No nuisance beaver permits have been requested or issued for the Anchor River drainage in recent history.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity. As noted in the background section, active beavers were observed in drainages near the Anchor River and it is unknown why beavers have not recolonized the river system.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Close beaver trapping in the Anchor River Drainage in Unit 15C for a minimum of three years.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current areas closed to trapping in Unit 15 can be found in 5 AAC 92.550

(4) Unit 15

(D) the Kenai Moose Research Center consists of that area within the outer boundary fences of the Kenai Moose Research Center, located west and south of Coyote and Vixen Lakes is closed to Trapping.

Area-specific state, federal, and municipal trapping restrictions occur throughout Alaska. The department does not maintain a catalogue of federal, municipal, or private land restrictions.

(E) all lands within one-fourth mile of the two wildlife underpasses on the Sterling Highway are closed to trapping;

(F) those portions within 100 yards of the Diamond Creek, Grewing Glacier, and Grewing Saddle trails are closed to trapping; however, trapping is allowed within 100 yards of the trails if the traps are:

- (i) elevated three feet above hard ground;
- (ii) enclosed;
- (iii) under water; or
- (iv) under ice

This portion of Unit 15C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for beaver in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Beaver trapping would be closed in the Anchor River Drainage from 2026 to 2029. During this period the department may review beaver populations in the area.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically the Anchor River drainage has supported a significant harvest of beaver. In 1976, almost half (64 of 136) of the beaver taken in Unit 15 came from the Anchor River drainage system. The last documented harvest of beavers in this unit was 1 beaver in 2011. Prior to 2001 the most recent harvest occurred in 2006 when 4 beavers were taken.

Beaver harvest across Unit 15C has declined significantly in recent years from an average of 22 beaver per year (2012-2016) to 4 in recent years (2020-2024).

The department does not conduct surveys for beaver on a regular basis on the Kenai Peninsula. In 2018, a beaver survey was flown covering the Anchor River and surrounding drainages. One active site was found within the Anchor River drainage. Surrounding drainages held multiple active sites.

Beaver are a keystone species manipulating their environment for their own benefit. Beavers impound water and trap nutrients creating riparian habitat beneficial to moose, migratory birds, juvenile salmon, and other wildlife species. Their manipulations, however, are also known to cause problems with anadromous fish passage, roadways, and private property. While dams can often be navigated by migratory fish at higher water or via overflow channels, the department has taken measures in the past to actively reduce beaver populations in streams associated with salmon migration. New techniques available today make such actions less necessary. Beaver dams generally improve habitat for rearing salmonids by storing water that can be used by juvenile salmon for overwintering ponds (particularly coho salmon), regulate water temperature, and assist in wetland formation and maintenance upstream of the structure. To deal with problems caused by beavers, the department issues permits for the take of nuisance beaver as necessary and beaver deception devices can be installed at culverts to prevent blockage. No nuisance beaver permits have been requested or issued for the Anchor River drainage in recent history.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity. As noted in the background section, active beavers were observed in drainages near the Anchor River and it is unknown why beavers have not recolonized the river system.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 154– 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.**

Rescind the special bag limit restrictions for sea ducks in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Waldvogel

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would align the sea duck bag and possession limits for 15C with those in remainder units in the Gulf Coast Hunt Zone for resident and nonresident hunters by rescinding the special bag limit restrictions for long-tailed ducks, harlequin ducks, and eiders (king and common). The proposal also requests removing the resident and nonresident 1 per day, 2 in possession restriction on long-tailed ducks in Units 7 and 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The regulations for remainder units (Units 5, 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Island only), 14, and 16) in the Gulf Coast Hunt Zone are as follows: residents are allowed 10 per day, 20 in possession of sea ducks, of which no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession may be harlequin ducks or long-tailed ducks; and nonresidents are allowed 8 per day, 20 in possession but no more than 4 each of any sea duck species per season, and no more than 20 sea ducks of all species may be taken per season.

The following are the regulations for bag limits of sea ducks in Units 7 and 15:

**5 AAC 85.065(a)(4) Migratory game birds (except falconry)**

**(B) Sea Ducks**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 7 and remainder of 15		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 per day, 20 in possession, of which no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession, may be harlequin ducks and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession, may be long-tailed ducks	Sept. 1 – Dec. 16 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 8 per day, 20 in possession; and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession, may be		Sept. 1 – Dec. 16

long-tailed ducks; however, no more than 4 each of any sea duck species may be taken per season; and no more than 20 sea ducks of all species may be taken per season

Unit 15(C), that portion in Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 per day, 20 in possession, of which no more than 2 per day, 4 in possession, may be harlequin ducks, no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession may be long-tailed ducks, and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession may be an eider

Sept. 1 – Dec. 16  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

8 per day, 20 in possession, of which no more than 2 per day, 4 in possession, may be harlequin ducks, no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession, may be long-tailed ducks, and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession, may be an eider; however, no more than 4 each of any sea duck species may be taken per season; and no more than 20 sea ducks of all species may be taken per season

Sept. 1 – Dec. 16

The Alaska Board of Game (board) made a positive customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds in all units with a harvestable surplus, including the portion of 15C outside of the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area (NSA). The board has not determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence. Other portions of Unit 15, and all of Unit 7, are

located within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai NSA, therefore there are no subsistence uses for migratory game birds in these areas.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The proposed regulation would provide additional opportunity for sea duck hunters in Units 7 and 15 (including 15C), resulting from liberalized daily bag and possession limits for harlequin ducks, long-tailed ducks, and eiders. Resident hunters would legally be permitted to harvest no more than 6 per day and have 12 in possession of harlequin ducks and long-tailed ducks, and no more than 10 per day, 20 in possession of king and common eiders. Nonresident hunters would be legally permitted to harvest 8 per day but no more than 4 each of any sea duck species per season and no more than 20 sea ducks of all species per season.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1999, the board adopted moderate restrictions to sea duck bag and possession limits in response to general concerns over large-scale and long-term declining trends in some species of sea ducks in Alaska. The limits were reduced for residents from 15 per day, 30 in possession to 10 per day, 20 in possession; and restricted nonresidents to no more than 4 each of scoters, eiders, harlequin and long-tailed ducks per season and a per season total possession limit of 20. In addition, limits for harlequin ducks and long-tailed ducks were reduced by considering them under the general duck limit. In 2001, the board further clarified these regulations for residents and nonresidents but included a restriction that limited residents to no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession for harlequin ducks or long-tailed ducks. The department noted these modifications were appropriate and represented a practical balance of precaution over resource concerns and retention of sea duck harvest opportunity in Alaska, including the needs of subsistence users.

In subsequent board cycles, the public expressed concerns over perceived localized depletions of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay. In response, in 2010 the board further reduced the resident/nonresident limits in Unit 15C for harlequin ducks and long-tailed ducks to no more than 2 per day, 4 in possession and for eiders to no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession. In 2023, the board further reduced resident/nonresident limits of long-tailed ducks to no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession in Units 7 and 15.

The biology and distribution of sea ducks complicate efforts to assess their status and trends; currently, there are only a few surveys that are well-suited or specific to monitoring sea ducks. However, continental-scale (Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey [BPOP]) or regional breeding pair surveys (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Arctic Coastal Plain) provide some information on sea duck populations in Alaska. Long-term annual indices from these surveys have shown population declines in many species between the 1970s and mid-1990s; for example, eiders, scoters, and long-tailed ducks seemingly experienced declines of more than 50%. Reasons for these declines are unknown. Since the 1990s, many sea duck population trends have either stabilized or are increasing, although abundances remain below historical population levels. Data from regional surveys indicated long-term trends for king and common eiders increased at average annual rates of

2.5% and  $\geq 4\%$ , respectively. In contrast, long-term (1964–2024) trend data from the Alaska strata of the BPOP indicates long-tailed ducks declined at an average annual rate of 2.69%. There is no statewide survey data available for harlequin ducks.

Because of continued public interest in the waterfowl resources in Unit 15C, the department conducted periodic aerial and boat-based surveys of wintering waterfowl in Kachemak Bay in 1999-2003, 2012-2014, and 2018-2019. Initially, the objective of the surveys was to obtain estimates of abundance and trends for waterfowl species wintering in Kachemak Bay. However, the survey design did not account for imperfect detection and double counting of birds. Thus, data were analyzed as trends in abundance indices over the duration of the survey as opposed to true abundance. Results indicated an annual increase of 1.2% in the abundance index for harlequin ducks and an annual decrease of 0.37% for long-tailed ducks. Survey observations of king and common eiders were numerically insufficient to reliably calculate trends in abundance indices.

The annual harvest of sea ducks during the fall-winter period in Alaska is estimated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s national harvest survey, which itself is informed by the Harvest Information Program (HIP). Hunters in Alaska register for HIP with the purchase of a state duck stamp. The national harvest survey is designed to provide species-specific harvest estimates at nationwide and statewide scales. The long-term (1999-2024) average annual statewide harvest estimate for long-tailed ducks was 809 and the latest 3-year (2022-2024) average annual statewide harvest estimate was 1,706. For harlequin ducks the long-term average annual harvest estimate was 1,658 and the recent 3-year average was 1,113. Harvest estimates for eiders are grouped across species (king and common) and the long-term annual average was 259 and the 3-year average was 157.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding this proposal. However, the department notes that sea duck management is directed primarily at the statewide level with consideration for regional scale management if feasible. The department has no practical or reliable means of monitoring population trends or harvest at small geographic scales (e.g., unit or subunit) that might direct localized regulatory decisions, including limited population data from the units covered by this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 155 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special Provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG852.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a maximum number of permits that can be awarded to nonresidents of “up to 20%” for the East Fork Eklutna goat hunt DG852, when at least 5 or more permits are available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Goat hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(7)...		
Unit 14(C), the drainages of Eagle River, Bird Creek, Glacier Creek, and the East Fork of the Eklutna River	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15

1 goat by drawing permit only;  
up to 150 permits may be issued;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited;

Unit 14(C) is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for mountain goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DG852 (less than 5); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change. Nonresident opportunity would not be offered if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation for the drawing goat hunt DG852. DG852 is in Unit 14C and includes the drainage of the East Fork of the Eklutna River. The last time at least 5 permits were issued was in 2016. Since then, only 3-4 permits have been issued each year. The numbers of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 155.1.

**Table 155.1.** Resident and nonresident permit applications and allocation (2017-2025), DG852. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	915	7	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	3
2018	963	23	2	20	2	1	25	1	25	4
2019	922	10	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	3
2020	980	24	2	24	2	0	0	0	0	3
2021	1095	20	2	20	2	0	0	0	0	3
2022	1032	43	4	25	2	0	0	0	0	3
2023	1338	26	2	25	2	1	33	1	33	3
2024	1392	35	3	22	2	0	0	0	0	3
2025	1389	20	1	20	1	0	0	0	0	3

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative in nature and will not create a biological concern. The department uses its discretionary authority to divide the hunt area in regulation into the three hunt areas DG852, DG854, and DG858. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 1 and 4% of the drawing applications, and have been awarded 0 to 1 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special Provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG854.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a maximum number of permits that can be awarded to nonresidents of “up to 20%” for the Eagle River goat hunt DG854, when at least 5 or more total permits are available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Goat hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(7)  Unit 14(C), the drainages of Eagle River, Bird Creek, Glacier Creek, and the East Fork of the Eklutna River	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15

1 goat by drawing permit only;  
up to 150 permits may be issued;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited;

Unit 14(C) is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goats in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a small number of nonresident permits may be available based on historical permit issuance for DG854 (10 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change. If the total number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter, nonresident opportunity would not be offered. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation for the drawing goat hunt DG854. DG854 is in Unit 14C, in the Eagle River drainage upstream from and including Icicle Creek but excluding Raven Creek drainage. The numbers of eligible applicants and winners by residency are shown in Table 156.1.

**Table 156.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation (2017-2025), DG854. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1135	88	8	4	< 1	1	10	0	0	10
2018	1097	75	7	31	3	1	10	0	0	10
2019	1410	56	4	33	2	0	0	0	0	10
2020	1366	78	6	21	2	0	0	0	0	9
2021	1506	69	5	44	3	0	0	0	0	10
2022	1567	36	2	34	2	0	0	0	0	10
2023	1634	128	8	38	2	1	11	0	0	9
2024	1847	137	7	45	2	1	10	0	0	10
2025	1977	216	11	53	3	1	10	0	0	10

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative in nature and will not create a biological concern. The department uses its discretionary authority to divide the hunt area in regulation into the three hunt areas DG852, DG854, and DG858. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 11% of the drawing applications and have been awarded 0 to 1 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special Provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG856.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a maximum number of permits that can be awarded to nonresidents of “up to 20%” for the Glacier Creek goat hunt DG856, when at least 5 or more total permits are available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Goat hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

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

Units and Bag Limits (7)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 14(C), the drainages of Eagle River, Bird Creek, Glacier Creek, and the East Fork of the Ekluna River	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15

1 goat by drawing permit only;  
up to 150 permits may be issued;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited;

Unit 14(C) is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DG856 (5 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change. A nonresident hunt would not be offered if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no non-resident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG856. DG856 is in Unit 14C, just northwest of the town of Girdwood, encompassing the

drainages of Glacier Creek and Winner Creek. This is the smallest of the goat hunt areas in Unit 14C with goats moving back and forth into the California Creek (outside of the hunt area). The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 157.1.

**Table 157.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation (2017-2025), DG856. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	412	15	4	15	4	0	0	0	0	5
2018	448	14	3	13	3	0	0	0	0	4
2019	352	8	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	4
2020	311	24	8	24	8	0	0	0	0	5
2021	488	1	< 1	1	< 1	0	0	0	0	5
2022	444	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2023	360	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
2024	465	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
2025	405	7	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	5

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative in nature and will not create a biological concern. The department uses its discretionary authority to divide the hunt area in regulation into the three hunt areas DG852, DG854, and DG858. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 8% of the drawing applications and have been awarded 0 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special Provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG858.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a maximum number of permits that can be awarded to nonresidents of “up to 20%” for the Bird Creek goat hunt, DG858, when at least 5 or more permits are available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Goat hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(7)		
Unit 14(C), the drainages of Eagle River, Bird Creek, Glacier Creek, and the East Fork of the Eklutna River	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15

1 goat by drawing permit only;  
up to 150 permits may be issued;  
the taking of nannies with kids  
is prohibited;

Unit 14(C) is within the Anchorage-MatSu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DG858 (5 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change. A nonresident hunt would not be offered if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG858. DG858 is in Unit 14C, accessed off the Seward Highway and includes the drainages of Bird and Penguin Creeks. The last time 5 permits were issued was in 2018. Since then, only 304 permits have been issued each year. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 158.1.

**Table 158.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation (2017-2025), DG858.  
 NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	916	8	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	5
2018	1004	5	< 1	4	< 1	0	0	0	0	5
2019	927	8	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	4
2020	881	29	3	29	3	0	0	0	0	4
2021	933	18	2	18	2	0	0	0	0	4
2022	949	14	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	4
2023	1062	7	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	4
2024	1010	14	1	14	1	0	0	0	0	3
2025	1041	17	2	17	2	1	25	1	25	4

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative in nature and will not create a biological concern. The department uses its discretionary authority to divide the hunt area in regulation into the three hunt areas DG852, DG854, and DG858. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 3% of the drawing applications and have been awarded 0 permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Create late-season archery only registration hunts for goat in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to establish late season, registration archery only goat hunts for the DG852, DG854, DG856, and DG858 hunt areas.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current mountain goat hunt regulations for Game Management Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.040 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), the drainages of Eagle River, Bird Creek, Glacier Creek, and the East Fork of Eklutna River		
1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued; taking of nannies With kids is prohibited;	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 15
...		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for mountain goat in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this would allow archery hunters to harvest the remaining available goat points for a specific hunt area with suggested season dates of Nov. 1–14. This is an increase in opportunity and could result in overharvest beyond the established harvest objective if the registration hunt cannot be closed by EO in a timely manner.

**BACKGROUND:** Drawing permit numbers are based on the number of goats seen during aerial surveys. From these overall numbers, the number of goat points available for each hunt area is determined, which can be seen in Tables 159.1-4. Average historic hunter success is also taken into consideration to provide as much opportunity as possible, because mountain goat harvest is managed by assigning points to both billie and nanny goats. Billie goats are assigned 1 goat point and nannies are assigned 2 goat points. Generally, the division provides 6 goat points per 100 mountain goats detected during aerial surveys of hunt areas.

**Table 159.1.** Number of permits and available goat points for the DG852 hunt area in East Fork Eklutna for regulatory years 2020–2024.

Year	# of Permits	# of Goat Points taken	# of Goat Points available
2020	3	1	3
2021	3	4*	3
2022	3	4*	3
2023	3	3	3
2024	3	1	3

- \*2 Nannies taken

**Table 159.2.** Number of permits and available goat points for the DG854 hunt area in the Eagle River drainage for regulatory years 2020–2024.

Year	# of Permits	# of Goat Points taken	# of Goat Points available
2020	10	6*	5
2021	10	3	5
2022	10	3	5
2023	10	3	5
2024	10	4	5

\*Nanny taken

**Table 159.3.** Number of permits and available goat points for the DG856 hunt area of Glacier Creek for regulatory years 2020–2024.

Year	# of Permits	# of Goat Points taken	# of Goat Points available
2020	5	1	1
2021	5	0	1
2022	5	1	1
2023	5	0	1
2024	5	0	1

**Table 159.4.** Number of permits and available goat points for the DG858 hunt area of Bird Creek from for regulatory years 2020–2024.

Year	# of Permits	# of Goat Points taken	# of Goat Points available
2020	4	1	1
2021	4	1	1
2022	4	1	1
2023	4	0	1
2024	4	3*	1

\*Higher than average hunter success

Currently, the only late season goat hunts in Unit 14C are in the Lake George and 20-Mile goat hunt areas for residents only, when announced, with season dates of Nov. 1–Nov. 15 if additional harvest is warranted. The last time a late season goat hunt was opened was in 2011 in the 20-Mile area and no goats were harvested.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If adopted, the department would determine if the opening of a late season hunt is warranted based on the remaining number of goat points available for a given hunt. Additionally, the department suggests a season end date of November 15 instead of November 14 to be consistent with the other late season goat hunts in Unit 14C. The Department would need guidance on permit issuance (online, in-person, etc.) and up to language for the number of possible permits to issue for these last season hunts.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM422, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM422 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

Only certified muzzleloader hunters are eligible to apply for DM422.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31
...		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a small number of nonresident permits may be available based on historical permit issuance for DM422 (15 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. If the total number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter, the hunt would not be offered. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM422. DM422 is in Unit 14C, and located within the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) military installation. Season dates are Sept. 1 – Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 – Jan. 15. The number of eligible applications can be found in Table 160.1.

**Table 160.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM422. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	429	14	3	0	0	2	13	0	0	15
2018	442	22	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
2019	661	27	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
2020	563	23	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
2021	748	44	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
2022	609	29	5	0	0	1	7	0	0	15
2023	593	48	8	0	0	2	13	0	0	15
2024	880	60	7	0	0	1	8	0	0	13
2025	950	98	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 3 and 10% of the drawing applications for DM422 and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 161 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM423, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM423 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

Only certified muzzleloader hunters are eligible to apply for DM423.

For regulatory year 2026, the bag limit for DM423 is 1 antlerless moose (by discretionary permit authority).

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.045**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		

1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued

Sept. 1 – Mar. 31  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

...  
Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DM423 (3 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. A hunt would not be offered if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter. Even if a year came to pass that nonresident permits would exist due to the adoption of this proposal, there would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM423. DM423 is in Unit 14C and located within the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) military installation. Season dates are Sept. 1 – Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 – Jan. 15. The number of eligible applications for DM423 can be found in Table 161.1.

**Table 161.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM423. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	249	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2018	111	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2019	182	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2020	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2021	144	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2022	108	11	10	0	0	2	67	0	0	3
2023	149	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2024	120	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2025	151	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 10% of the drawing applications for DM423 and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available (0 permits were awarded to nonresidents in 8 out of the 9 years).

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM424, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM424 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

Only certified bowhunters are eligible to apply for DM424.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only. up to 185 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31
...		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a small number of nonresident permits may be available based on historical permit issuance for DM424 (40 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. If the total number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter, the hunt would not be offered. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM424. DM424 is in Unit 14(C) and located within the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) military installation. Season dates are Sept. 1 – Nov. 15. The number of eligible applications for DM424 can be found in Table 162.1.

**Table 162.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM424. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1353	49	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
2018	1345	68	5	0	0	1	3	0	0	37
2019	1972	105	5	0	0	2	5	0	0	37
2020	1906	153	8	0	0	2	5	0	0	39
2021	1965	136	7	0	0	1	3	0	0	39
2022	2150	208	10	0	0	2	5	0	0	37
2023	2200	195	9	0	0	6	15	0	0	40
2024	2975	292	10	0	0	2	7	0	0	28
2025	2529	203	8	0	0	6	21	0	0	28

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 4 and 10% of the drawing applications for DM424, and have been awarded between 0 and 6 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM427, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM427 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups. The department uses discretionary authority to split the hunt area below into an early season (DM446) and a late season (DM447) hunt.

Only certified bowhunters are eligible to apply for DM427.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

...

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a small number of nonresident permits may be available based on historical permit issuance for DM427 (25 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM427. DM427 is in Unit 14C and located within the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) military installation. Season dates are Dec. 15 – Jan. 15. The number of eligible applications for DM427 can be found in Table 163.1.

**Table 163.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM427. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	752	20	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
2018	569	18	3	0	0	2	9	0	0	23
2019	958	46	5	0	0	2	8	0	0	25
2020	792	37	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	24
2021	731	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
2022	823	25	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
2023	1038	73	7	0	0	2	8	0	0	25
2024	990	68	7	0	0	1	7	0	0	15
2025	1126	53	5	0	0	2	13	0	0	15

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 3 and 7% of the drawing applications for DM427, and have been awarded no more than 2 of the permits available in any given year.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM428, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM428 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups. The department uses discretionary authority and guidance from the board to split the hunt below into multiple drawing permits hunts (DM421-DM430).

Only certified bowhunters are eligible to apply for DM428.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence & General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>...</p> <p>Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area</p>	<p>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)</p>	<p>Sept. 1 – Mar. 31</p>
<p>1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued</p> <p>...</p>		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there may be no permits or a very small number of permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DM428 (10 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM428. DM428 is in Unit 14C, and located within the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) military installation. Season dates are Sept. 1 – Sept. 30. The number of eligible applications for DM428 can be found in Table 164.1.

**Table 164.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM428. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	390	22	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2018	306	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2019	475	20	4	0	0	1	10	0	0	10
2020	395	32	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2021	450	51	11	0	0	2	22	0	0	9
2022	368	61	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2023	484	63	13	0	0	1	10	0	0	10
2024	559	65	12	0	0	1	10	0	0	10
2025	618	60	10	0	0	1	14	0	0	7

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 4 and 17% of the drawing applications for DM428, and have been awarded 2 permits in one (2021) of the nine years, and 0 or 1 permits in the other 8 years.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 165 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM430, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM430 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups. The department uses discretionary authority and guidance from the board to split the hunt below into multiple drawing permits hunts (DM421-DM430).

Only certified bowhunters are eligible to apply for DM430.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31
...		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DM430 (less than 10); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM430. DM430 is in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) military installation. Season dates are Oct. 15 – Nov. 15. The number of eligible applications for DM430 can be found in Table 165.1.

**Table 165.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM430. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	253	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2018	142	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2019	246	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2020	218	19	9	0	0	1	33	0	0	3
2021	187	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2022	193	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2023	256	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2024	201	33	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2025	285	45	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 3 and 16% of the drawing applications for DM430 and have been awarded 1 permit in one year (2020) of this nine year period.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 166 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM446, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM446 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups. The department uses discretionary authority to split the hunt area below into an early season (DM446) and a late season (DM447) hunt.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
...		
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct 1. – Nov. 30
...		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there may be no permits or a very small number of permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DM446 (10 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM446. DM446 is in Unit 14C, in the Ship Creek drainage. This hunt is accessed via several locations spanning from South Fork Eagle River valley to Indian Pass. Season dates are Sept. 1 – Sept. 15. The number of eligible applications for DM446 can be found in Table 166.1.

**Table 166.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM446. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	320	42	13	0	0	1	11	0	0	9
2018	235	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2019	404	78	19	0	0	4	50	0	0	8
2020	395	89	23	0	0	3	33	0	0	9
2021	513	141	27	0	0	3	43	0	0	7
2022	330	64	19	0	0	2	22	0	0	9
2023	470	78	17	0	0	1	11	0	0	9
2024	516	58	11	0	0	1	11	0	0	9
2025	563	77	14	0	0	1	10	0	0	10

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 3 and 27% of the drawing applications for DM446, and have been awarded between 0 and 4 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 167 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM447, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM447 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups. The department uses discretionary authority to split the hunt area below into an early season (DM446) and a late season (DM447) hunt.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
...		
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct 1. – Nov. 30
...		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there may be no permits or a very small number of permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DM447 (10 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM447. DM447 is in Unit 14C in the Ship Creek drainage. This hunt is accessed via several locations spanning from South Fork Eagle River valley to Indian Pass. Season dates are Sept. 16 – Sept. 30. The number of eligible applications for DM447 can be found in Table 167.1.

**Table 167.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM447. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	424	45	11	0	0	1	11	0	0	9
2018	348	35	10	0	0	1	10	0	0	10
2019	539	137	25	0	0	3	30	0	0	10
2020	506	116	23	0	0	1	11	0	0	9
2021	706	165	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
2022	632	168	27	0	0	2	20	0	0	10
2023	661	150	23	0	0	2	20	0	0	10
2024	820	158	19	0	0	2	20	0	0	10
2025	810	165	20	0	0	1	10	0	0	10

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 10 and 27% of the drawing applications for DM447 and have been awarded between 0 and 3 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 168 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM448, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DM448 to up to 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not issued, a nonresident permit will not be available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Moose hunts in Unit 14C are currently open to nonresidents and residents equally, with no allocation between the residency groups.

Only certified bowhunters are eligible to apply for DM448.

The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence & General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>...</p> <p>Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area</p>	<p>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)</p>	<p>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30</p>
<p>1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued</p> <p>...</p>		

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no permits available for nonresident hunters based on historical permit issuance numbers for DM448 (less than 10); permit numbers are based on current population levels and may change in the future, either up or down. The last time 10 permits were issued was in 2007. There would likely be no change in overall harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is not a nonresident allocation set for the drawing moose hunt DM448. DM448 is in Unit 14C in the Birchwood Management Area. This hunt is accessed by the Glenn Highway. Season dates are Sept. 1 – Sept. 30. The number of eligible applications for DM448 can be found in Table 168.1.

**Table 168.1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DM448. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	77	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2018	57	9	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2019	100	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2020	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2021	82	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2022	52	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2023	65	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2024	107	7	7	0	0	1	33	0	0	3
2025	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 16% of the drawing applications for DM448, and only 1 nonresident has been awarded a permit (2024) during this time period.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 169 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose and 5 AAC 92.530(2) Management Areas.** Create a moose drawing permit hunt within the Eagle River Management Area in Unit 14C, by bow and arrow only with season dates of Sept. 15 – Oct. 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a drawing hunt for bull moose in the Eagle River Management Area with season dates of Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, restricted to bow and arrow only.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current moose hunting regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045, 5 AAC 92.530, and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.045 (12)** – No season or bag limit exists for moose in the Eagle River drainage.

**5 AAC 92.530**

...

(2) the Eagle River Management Area:

(A) the area consists of the Eagle River drainage upstream from the Glenn Highway in Unit 14(C);

(B) the area is closed to hunting, except

(i) sheep hunting by permit;

(ii) black and brown bear hunting by permit; before hunting a bear, a person wishing to hunt must complete a hunter safety course for which a certification of completion is issued;

...

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this would create new moose hunting opportunities in the Eagle River Management Area, an area that has been closed to moose harvest for decades. A likely result would be an increase moose harvest. Eagle River is a heavily used area for non-consumptive users and creating a new hunt in the valley may increase reports of user conflicts.

**BACKGROUND:** In the proposed hunt area (South of Eagle River Road, North of Highland loop road, southeast of the confluence of the south fork of Eagle River and Eagle River) there is currently a black bear registration hunt, RL450. This hunt has season dates of Sept. 1 – May 31 and is restricted to bow and arrow, crossbow, and muzzleloader only and no successful harvest has been reported to date.

Access on the South Fork Eagle River side is extremely limited with two primary access points, both of which have very limited parking on residential streets. These access points are utilized by a large number of other user groups to access hikes and other viewing areas. Access from the mainstem Eagle River side requires use of a boat to cross mainstem Eagle River and a difficult hike across the valley floor.

The department has not conducted aerial moose surveys in the Eagle River Valley because the area is closed to the harvest of moose. Survey efforts are directed toward those areas in Unit 14C of high moose harvest and consumptive use.

Moose hunting under general season is open north of the Eagle River Management area from Sept. 1 – Sept. 30. The average yearly harvest under general season in Unit 14C is 30 antler restricted bulls.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. It is important to note that moose hunting has been closed in this drainage for many years. If adopted, the department would like the Board to consider “up to” language for the number of permits to be issued and that an exception for moose hunting be added to the Eagle River Management Area, similar to bear. This would give the department the ability to use its discretionary authority to create a hunt area in cooperation with Chugach State Park, likely following the current RL450 hunt area. Additionally, the department asks the board to consider aligning the season dates with the rest of Unit 14(C) moose which take place from September 1 - September 30 and aligning the bag limit to an antler restricted bull: spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side for consistency. Little is known about the population status of moose in this drainage or the current population trend. Additionally, all of the land in the Eagle River Management Area outside of private in-holdings is Chugach State Park land. Park regulation 11 AAC 12.190 prohibits the discharge of weapons within the Eagle River drainage; this hunt would require a special use permit for the discharge of weapons.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 170 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Close the Eklutna Lake Management Area archery-only registration moose hunt RM445 to nonresidents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to close the RM445 moose hunt in Unit 14C to nonresidents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 14(C), the Eklutna Lake Management Area		
1 bull by registration permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 6 bulls may be taken	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20

...  
Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would have little to no impact on overall harvest as nonresident hunters harvest an average of 1 bull annually in this hunt.

**BACKGROUND:** RM445 is a registration any-bull archery hunt, Sept. 1 – Oct. 20. Historically, this hunt is closed by Emergency Order after a quota of 4 bulls have been harvested and generally occurs prior to the codified season end date. Residents take the majority of harvest in RM445 with nonresidents averaging 1 bull moose a year. This harvest can be seen in Table 170.1. This hunt is primarily accessed by the ATV trail along Eklutna Lake, starting near the campground.

**Table 170.1.** Number of RM445 permits issued and harvest for residents and nonresidents in Unit 14C, for regulatory years 2021 – 2024.

	<b>2020</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>		<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>	
	# of Permits	Harvest								
<b>Resident</b>	273	9	208	5	185	7	213	3	215	3
<b>Non Res</b>	4	1	8	1	7	1	12	1	6	0
<b>% Non Res</b>	1%	10%	4%	17%	4%	13%	5%	25%	3%	0%

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Removing nonresidents from this hunt will shift a small amount of the moose harvest quota to residents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 171 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Create a new registration archery moose hunt in Unit 14C, East Fork Eklutna.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a new registration archery moose hunt in Unit 14C, East Fork Eklutna.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current moose hunt regulations for Unit 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows;		
...		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or	Aug. 22 – Aug. 29 (General hunt only)	Aug. 22 – Aug. 29
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept 1. – Sept. 30
...		

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would add additional hunters into the East Fork of Eklutna. East Fork of Eklutna is a relatively small hunt area. Issues to consider include hunter crowding and use of the area by both consumptive and non-consumptive users. Eklutna is a popular backpacking, camping, and day use area for all user groups. Additionally, Eklutna has one of the few trails that allows the use of ATV's into Chugach State Park land. Creation of a new hunt will likely result in additional harvest from the drainage. The additional harvest from this proposal combined with the existing

hunts in the drainage on a relatively small population could result in reduced numbers of animals available in subsequent years.

**BACKGROUND:** The Eklutna drainage was impacted with the rest of Unit 14C by the deep snow and late winters of 2022 and 2023, resulting in the loss of a number of short yearling moose. Moose minimum count survey numbers can be found in Table 171.1.

Currently, the area of East Fork Eklutna is considered part of the Remainder of Unit 14C for moose hunting. The current general season hunt is antler restricted and open to all weapons from Sept.1 – Sept. 30. There is also an Aug. 22 – Aug. 29 antler restricted, archery only hunt for Unit 14C Remainder. Over the past 5 years, 3 antler-restricted bulls have been reported harvested from the East Fork specifically. If adopted, this would create two moose hunts in the same area with different season end dates, weapons restrictions, legal animal and different permit types. Given the relatively small population of moose in the drainage and the existing harvest levels, no additional harvest is warranted in this drainage.

**Table 171.1.** Number of moose observed during minimum count surveys in the Eklutna drainage in Unit 14C from 2011 – 2023.

Survey Area	Year	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Total	Bulls : 100 Cows	Calves : 100 Cows
<b>Eklutna/Thunderbird</b>	2011	18	50	12	80	36	24
<b>Eklutna</b>	2021	11	41	8	63	27	20
<b>Eklutna</b>	2023	8	62	5	75	13	8

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal would add a layer of regulatory complexity to an area already open under the general season. If hunters want to use archery equipment in the East Fork Eklutna they can do so during the existing general season moose hunt. If adopted, the board should consider how the registration permit would be issued, if permit numbers would be limited, and resident and nonresident allocations.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 172 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to Bag Limit.** Include wounded moose to count toward bag limits for all hunts in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Colette Brandt, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require hunters to count a wounded moose toward their bag limit in any of the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) Management Area drawing moose hunts (DM421–DM424, DM426–DM428, and DM430) in Unit 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current wounding regulations can be found in 5 AAC 92.130 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

### **5 AAC 92.130**

...

(f) In Units 1-5 and Unit 8, a black or brown bear wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is taken. However, in Unit 1 – 5 and Unit 8, a brown bear wounded by a person does not count against that person's one bear every four regulatory years bag limit established in 5 AAC 92.132.

(g) In Unit 8, an elk wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the elk is taken

(h) In this section, "wounded" means there is a sign of blood or other sign that the animals has been hit by a hunting projectile.

...

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, hunters may place more emphasis on making a lethal shot, that hopefully reduce the potential for hunters to wound other moose prior to successfully harvesting an animal. Also, military training areas and hunting areas overlap on JBER. There is a potential for wounded moose dying and attracting bears into areas where military training operations may occur. Bears attracted to moose carcasses on military training areas can lead to bear-human conflicts. If including a wounded moose to count toward a bag limit were to be adopted, and if a result of this regulation was reduced wounding of moose and therefore reduced failure to recover wounded moose in this area, this could potentially contribute to minimizing bear-human conflicts in this area that are associated with bears being attracted to carcasses.

**BACKGROUND:** The JBER moose hunts represent a large portion of the moose harvested in Unit 14C annually (Table 172.1). The department recognizes that wounding does happen, however the reporting of wounded animals is not required and as a result there is not an accurate report of how often this happens for moose or any other species. As part of the requirements for military base access, JBER does track this specifically for the JBER Management Area and reports an average of 8 moose woundings occurring annually, with many of these being unrecovered.

**Table 172.1.** The number of harvested moose taken from the JBER Management Area in Unit 14(C) for regulatory years 2020 – 2024.

Regulatory Year	# of Moose Harvested
2020	51
2021	53
2022	53
2023	56
2024 <sup>A</sup>	28

<sup>A</sup> Permit numbers reduced due to winter kill

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal and can continue to manage the moose population with the existing regulations. The department **SUPPORTS** efforts to reduce wounding loss. Anecdotal reports of unrecovered moose throughout Unit 14C and JBER are received on a yearly basis; however, there is no requirement to report on wounded but unrecovered moose. As mentioned by the proposer, a moose that is injured and then dies near an urban interface has the potential of creating a public safety issue as a bear attractant.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 173 – 5 AAC 85.045 (5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Shift season dates for DM211 to later in the year to avoid overlap with the bull moose hunt (DM210) in the same area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would shift the season dates for DM211 from Aug. 20 – Oct 10, to Oct. 1 – Oct. 30.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current moose hunt regulations for Game Management Unit (GMU) 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.040 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5AAC 85.040**

**Units and Bag Limits**

(5)

...

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

**Resident  
Open Season  
(Subsistence and  
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident  
Open Season**

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

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

Aug. 20 – Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

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

Aug. 20 – Oct. 10

...

Unit 14(C) is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, shifting the season to later in the year could result in increased hunter success since the hunt will be happening during the course of the rut. It will be easier for hunters to spot moose as much of the vegetation will have died back or lost its leaves. This would also reduce the season from 52 days to 31 days. By October of most years, late fall cooling temperatures reduce glacial melt off which can lower water levels in the 20 Mile drainages and may limit accessibility for upper portions of the hunt area.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there are two drawing moose hunts in the 20-Mile/Portage/Placer drainages, DM210 (any bull) and DM211 (antlerless) with hunt areas in part of both Units 7 and 14C.

DM210 has season dates of Aug. 20 – Sept. 30 and DM211 has season dates of Aug. 20 – Oct. 10. The average 5-year percent success for permit holders in DM210 was 53% and 46% for DM211.

The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters, and sharp reductions during severe winters. The number of permits issued each year (Table 1) depends on the current population estimate, and bull:cow and calf:cow ratios.

Regulatory Year	# Bull Permits	# Antlerless Permits	# of Bulls Harvested	# of Cows Harvested
2020	30	30	14	10
2021	30	30	14	9
2022	40	35	17	12
2023	40	35	19	8
2024	40	35	16	18

**Table 1.** Moose harvest and permit numbers in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt areas in Units 7 and 14C for regulatory years 2020 – 2024.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. These hunts have been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunities with little or no controversy. The department receives few complaints from hunters about overcrowding under the current structure.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 174 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep, 5 AAC 92.050 Required permit hunt conditions and procedures, and 5 AAC 92.057 Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Restrict resident sheep harvest and opportunity, and reduce nonresident sheep allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jerry Herrod

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to prohibit residents from applying for any drawing permit for sheep in Units 7 and 14C for two years, if they were awarded a permit for sheep in Units 7 and 14C, change the resident bag limit in the general season sheep hunt in Unit 7 to one every two years, and reduce the nonresident sheep allocation to 5% in Units 7 and 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and the *2025-2026 Hunting Regulations*. Permit conditions and procedures can be found in 5 AAC 92.050, and the current Dall sheep allocation can be found in 5 AAC 92.057.

**5 AAC 85.055**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 7, that portion south of the Sterling Highway, west of the Seward Highway, and north and east of Kenai Lake; up to 50 permits may be issued		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by drawing permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger; every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only		Aug. 20—Sept. 20
Units 7 and 15(A), those portions east of Fuller Lake trail, south of Dike Creek, and a straight line from the sources of		

Dike Creek, east through the divide south of Trout Lake, to Juneau Creek, west of Juneau Creek, and north of Sterling Highway; up to 10 permits may be issued

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by drawing permit only      Aug. 20—Sept. 20  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger; every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only      Aug. 20—Sept. 30  
...

(7)

Unit 14(C), the Eklutna Lake Management Area

1 ram by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 35 permits will be issued

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only      Sept. 1 – Oct. 31  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only, every 4 regulatory years      Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

Reminder of Unit 14(C)  
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued total; or  
Aug. 10 – Oct. 31  
(General hunt only)

1 ram by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 120 permits will be issued total  
Oct. 1 – Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or Larger, every 4 regulatory Years, by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued total; or  
Aug. 10 – Oct. 31

1 ram with full-curl horn or Every 4 regulatory years, by Drawing permit only; up to 120 Permits will be issued total  
Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

...  
**5 AAC 92.050**

...  
(F) an individual who is a successful applicant for a specific drawing permit hunt is ineligible to apply for a permit for that specific hunt the following year;

...  
**5 AAC 92.057**

...

(4) Unit 14(C): the department shall issue a maximum of five percent of the archery drawing permits to nonresidents and a maximum of 13 percent of the remaining drawing permits to nonresidents;

...

(6) the department shall issue a maximum of 20 percent of the drawing permits allocated to nonresidents in (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection to nonresidents accompanied by a resident over 19 years of age who is the spouse or other relative of the applicant within the second degree of kindred, as described in AS 16.05.407(a).

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted resident hunters that harvested a sheep in Units 7 or 14C under a drawing permit or general season harvest ticket would not be allowed to apply for or receive a sheep drawing permit or hunt general season sheep in Units 7 or 14C the following regulatory year. This proposal would have no impact on the non-resident sheep archery allocation for Unit 14C but would reduce the overall maximum number of non-weapons restricted tags that guided nonresidents could receive from 13% to 5%. Between Unit 7 and 14C the impact on overall harvest would be very minimal if this proposal is adopted.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation for sheep in Unit 7. This would impact two drawing hunts, DS150 and DS156, and the remainder of Unit 7 under general season for sheep.

At the March 2009 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board passed Proposal 14 which allocated 5% of archery permits and 13% of remaining permits to nonresidents, and required the signed guide-client agreement at the time of application. At the March 2022 Statewide Board of Game meeting, the board passed Proposal 149 which allocated a maximum of 20% of the drawing permits to nonresidents accompanied by resident relatives within the second-degree of kindred.

In summary, in Unit 14C, nonresidents are limited to a maximum of 5% of permits for the archery sheep hunts and a maximum of 13% for the drawing permits in non-weapons restricted sheep hunts. Unit 14C also has an additional percentage breakdown for guided non-residents vs 2<sup>nd</sup> degree pf kindred guided nonresidents (2DK) across all sheep hunts. 2DK can receive a maximum of 20% of the available 5% of nonresident tags allowed based on the number of total available drawing archery permits.

For Unit 14C non-weapons restricted hunts, nonresidents are restricted to a maximum of 13% of the total available permits. Of that 13%, 2DK hunters may only have a maximum of 20% of

those permits. Under the current structure, the department is limited to issuing a single 2DK drawing permit for all the non-weapons restricted hunts combined.

Only 1 hunter harvested multiple times from different sheep drawing hunts in Units 7 or 14C over the last four regulatory years (Table 1).

Regulatory Year	# of sheep harvested by residents	# of resident hunters that harvested the following year
2020	19	0
2021	14	1
2022	9	1
2023	8	0

**Table 1.** Number of Dall sheep harvested by residents and the number of hunters that harvested again the following year in Units 7 and/or 14C for RY20–23.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The DS150 hunt area overlaps with Unit 15A but the proposal is only specific to Unit 7. The board would also need to consider how to address harvest tracking for the affected hunts if the proposal is adopted. Current harvest is tightly controlled in the drawing permit hunts, and low in the harvest ticket hunt area, and the proposed changes are not necessary from a management standpoint. Unit 14C permit allocation is extremely complex, and the board will need to consider if the increased level of complexity introduced by the proposal is desirable.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 175– 5 AAC 85.045 (5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt in Units 7 and 14C.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations are:

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

...

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

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued	Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts	Aug. 20—Oct. 10
---	-----------------

...

Units 7 and 14C are located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages.

**BACKGROUND:** The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters, and sharp reductions during severe winters. The number of permits issued (Table 1) depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, while accounting for estimated winter mortality. A November 2024 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer River drainages found 203 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 33 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 23 calves per 100 cows. This is the highest overall count in the Twentymile survey area since 2003. Permit numbers were increased in 2022 to

reduce the number of moose in these valleys since they are susceptible to sharp declines during severe winters when the population is too high. Since 2016, harvest and roadkill numbers have also remained relatively steady.

<b>Regulatory Year</b>	<b>Bull Permits</b>	<b>Antlerless Permits</b>	<b>Bulls Harvested</b>	<b>Cows Harvested</b>
2021	30	30	14	9
2022	40	35	17	12
2023	40	35	19	8
2024	40	35	16	19*

**Table 1.** Moose harvest in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C, RY21–24. \*One cow taken as illegal harvest.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to maintain antlerless hunts in Units 7 and 14C. These hunts have been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunities with little or no controversy. In addition, the harvest of antlerless moose has helped achieve the department’s goal of maintaining moose numbers at a level to avoid excessive die-offs during harsh winters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 85.045 (12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations are:

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>		

(12)

...

Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31
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Area

1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area

Sept. 1 – Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

No open season

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued

Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

1 bull by registration permit only

Oct. 1 – Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

Oct. 1 – Nov. 30

...

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork

antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20 – Nov. 15	No open season

...

Units 7 and 14C are located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for moose in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

Adoption of this proposal is necessary for antlerless hunts in Unit 14C to continue. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at a population level low enough to reduce conflicts with residents, over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. At this level, the moose population will be healthier due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages.

**BACKGROUND:** A combined 2024 aerial composition count of the JBER Management Area and the Ship Creek drainage (the area that provides the most hunting opportunity in Unit 14C) found 233 moose. An observed bull:cow ratio of 44 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 14 calves per 100 cows was an increase from 2023. Overall numbers and calf:cow ratios are still slightly down from before the winter of 2022 where the persistent, deep snow likely resulted in additional winter mortality and an increase in the late winter energetic demands on pregnant cows. Harvest numbers continue to remain relatively steady, and at this population level we have received fewer reports of human-moose conflicts and moose-vehicle collisions.

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality.

Regulatory Year	Either Sex Permits	Antlerless Permits	Cows Harvested
2021	50	26	24
2022	50	26	32
2023	50	26	32
2024**	28	25	9*

**Table 1.** Cow moose harvest in Unit 14C, RY21–24.

\*One illegal harvest

\*\* Permit numbers reduced due to winter mortality

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to reauthorize antlerless hunts in Unit 14C. These hunts have been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s largest human population center with little controversy while providing additional food security. In addition, the harvest of antlerless moose has helped achieve the department’s goal of maintaining moose numbers at a level that minimizes conflicts, moose-vehicle collisions, and winter die-offs, while still maintaining hunting opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Extend DS140 and DS240 sheep hunts in Unit 14C by 5 days.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to extend the season for DS140 and DS240 by 5 days, from Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 to Oct. 1 – Oct. 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.055**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(7)		
...		

Reminder of Unit 14(C)  
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be is-	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31 (General hunt only)
---	--

sued total; or

1 ram by bow and arrow only,  
by drawing permit only; up to  
120 permits will be issued to-  
tal

Oct. 1 – Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger, every 4 regulatory  
years, by drawing permit only;  
up to 240 permits will be is-  
sued total; or

Aug. 10 – Oct. 31

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
every 4 regulatory years, by  
drawing permit only; up to 120  
permits will be issued total

Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage- Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for sheep in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a season extension may provide for additional harvest opportunity, although that harvest is expected to be minimal.

**BACKGROUND:** The DS140/240 hunts are archery-only drawing hunts that occur in Unit 14C after the non-restricted weapons drawing sheep hunts, details of which can be found in Table 1. For these hunts, 57 permits have been issued for DS140 and 3 for DS240 annually for that last 10 years.

The 5-year average harvest is 3 rams for DS140 and 1 for DS240. Like any late season hunt, the weather plays a role in overall hunter success and varies from year to year. Hunt conditions were established with this in mind to maintain sustainable harvest levels since this is an “any ram” hunt with a very large hunt area.

<b>DS140/DS240</b>	
<b>Season Dates:</b>	October 1 – October 10
<b>Bag Limit:</b>	1 ram
<b>DS140</b>	Resident Only
<b>DS240</b>	Nonresident Only

<b>Weapons restricted</b>	Yes, bow and arrow only
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**Table 1.** Hunt conditions, season dates, and bag limit for DS140/240 in Unit 14C.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The Unit 14C sheep population declined substantially in the early 2000s but has since been stable at a lower population level. Under the current hunt structure, the department has been able to provide continued opportunity with little to no reduction in permit numbers, indicating that what is currently in place appears to be striking a sustainable balance for the time being. If harvest increases to an unsustainable level, the department has the ability to decrease the number of permits issued in future years.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Split the DS141 sheep hunt in Unit 14C into an early and late season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to split the current DS141 season into an early and late season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.055**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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...

(7)

Unit 14(C), the Eklutna Lake Management Area

1 ram by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 35 permits will be issued

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram by drawing permit only, Sept.1 – Oct. 31  
by bow and arrow only (General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram by drawing permit only, Sept.1 – Oct. 31  
by bow and arrow only, every 4  
regulatory years

...

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for sheep in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this would spread out hunters temporally, helping to reduce hunter overcrowding and conflicts with other user groups.

**BACKGROUND:** The DS141/241 hunts are archery-only drawing hunts that occur in the Eklutna Lake Management area outside of the Eklutna Lake Closed Area and the East Fork of Eklutna, the details of which can be found in Table 1. The department uses its discretionary authority to restrict the existing hunting seasons for DS141/241 to the month of September.

DS141/241	
<b>Season Dates:</b>	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
<b>Bag Limit:</b>	1 ram
<b>DS141</b>	Resident Only
<b>DS241</b>	Non-resident Only
<b>Weapons restricted</b>	Yes, bow and arrow only
<b>Hunt area</b>	West Eklutna

**Table 1.** Hunt conditions, season dates, and bag limit for DS141/DS241 in Unit 14C.

Twenty-four permits are issued annually for resident hunters and 1 permit for nonresidents. Over the last five regulatory years the highest number of animals harvested in a single year was 2 sheep in DS141.

The department has received reports of hunter crowding in the West Fork of the upper Eklutna River drainage and this would provide a tool to distribute hunters more broadly during the season.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The department can use its discretionary authority found in 5 AAC 92.052 to split the current hunt as requested and without regulatory change, however the request is allocative and the department is seeking guidance from the board. Direction will also be needed on the nonresident permit as only 1 permit is currently being issued for DS241.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Remove the East Fork of Eklutna from DS124-126 and DS224 hunt areas in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to remove the East Fork of Eklutna from DS124, DS125, DS126 and DS224 hunt areas in Unit 14C or add it to DS141/DS241.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.055**

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
--	---	------------------------------------

...

(7)

Unit 14(C), the Eklutna Lake Management Area

1 ram by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 35 permits will be issued

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 ram by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only

Sept.1 – Oct. 31  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram by drawing permit only,  
by bow and arrow only, every 4  
regulatory years

Sept.1 – Oct. 31

Reminder of Unit 14(C)  
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger by drawing permit only;  
up to 240 permits will be is-  
sued total; or

Aug. 10 – Oct. 31  
(General hunt only)

1 ram by bow and arrow only,  
by drawing permit only; up to  
120 permits will be issued to-  
tal

Oct. 1 – Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
larger, every 4 regulatory  
years, by drawing permit only;  
up to 240 permits will be is-  
sued total; or

Aug. 10 – Oct. 31

1 ram with full-curl horn or  
every 4 regulatory years, by  
drawing permit only; up to 120  
permits will be issued total

Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for sheep in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, harvest would be minimal and would not impact the overall sheep population within the upper Eklutna River drainage, and moving the proposed hunts moved to the DS141/241 hunt area may mitigate some of the reported hunter crowding issues in DS141/DS241.

**BACKGROUND:** The number of sheep observed in the East Fork of the upper Eklutna River drainage during minimum count sheep surveys (2020 – 2024) can be found in Table 1. Previously, the East Fork of Eklutna had its own sheep permit hunt. After persistent low survey counts, the hunt was closed to sheep harvest in 2011. In 2023, the board passed a proposal adding the East Fork of Eklutna to the DS124, DS125, DS126 and DS224 hunt areas rather than re-establishing the East Fok of Eklutna hunt. In addition to harvest from the DS124-126 and DS224 hunts, sheep may be harvested by bow and arrow only in this drainage under DS140/DS240 drawing permits. Harvest taking place in the Eklutna River drainage from these hunts can be found in Tables 2 and 3.

Regulatory Year	Full Curl rams	Sublegal rams	Ewes	Lambs	Total sheep
2020*	-	-	-	-	-
2021	3	5	6	4	18
2022	1	11	27	3	42
2023	4	5	9	5	23
2024*	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 1.** Sheep observed in the East Fork of the upper Eklutna River drainage within Unit 14C, RY20–24.

\*Surveys not flown

Regulatory Year	DS124 Harvest	DS125 Harvest	DS126 Harvest	DS224 Harvest	DS024 Harvest
2020	1	0	0	1	-
2021	0	1	1	1	-
2022	0	1	1	1	-
2023	0	0	1	-	0
2024	0	0	0	1	-

**Table 2.** Sheep harvest in DS124/125/126/224 hunts within the Northeast portion of Unit 14C, RY20–24.

Regulatory Year	DS140/DS240 Harvest	DS141/DS241 Harvest
2020	1	0
2021	0	1
2022	0	2
2023	4	1
2024	3	0

**Table 3.** Sheep harvest within the Eklutna River drainage in DS140/DS240 (both East fork and West fork) and DS141/DS241 (West fork only) archery-only hunts in Unit 14C, RY20–24.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Reports of hunter crowding in the West Fork of the upper Eklutna River drainage have been received in previous years. If the East Fork of Eklutna was added to DS141/DS241 this would provide additional area for archery hunters to disperse.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep and 5 AAC 92.057 Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.**

Open DS123 in Unit 14C to residents and nonresidents, change the bag limit to any ram, expand the hunt area, and exempt the area from all Unit 14C residency allocations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Montgomery

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to expand the DS123 sheep hunt area, increase season length, modify the bag limit, and allow nonresidents to participate outside of the established nonresident allocation.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.055**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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...

Reminder of Unit 14(C)  
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued total; or	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31 (General hunt only)
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1 ram by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 120 permits will be issued total	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
---	---

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued total; or

Aug. 10 – Oct. 31

1 ram with full-curl horn or every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only; up to 120 permits will be issued total

Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

...

**5 AAC 92.057**

...

(4) Unit 14(C): the department shall issue a maximum of five percent of the archery drawing permits to nonresidents and a maximum of 13 percent of the remaining drawing permits to nonresidents;

...

(6) the department shall issue a maximum of 20 percent of the drawing permits allocated to nonresidents in (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection to nonresidents accompanied by a resident over 19 years of age who is the spouse or other relative of the applicant within the second degree of kindred, as described in AS 16.05.407(a).

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for sheep in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would allow the possibility of three permits (the new DS123 and potentially up to two Chugach Sheep Governor’s permits) to hunt from Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 in all non-weapons restricted hunt areas in Unit 14C (ten days earlier than any other hunters) with a bag limit of one “any ram”. The change to an “any ram” bag limit will likely increase the harvest success rate to near 100%.

If the hunt area of DS123 is expanded, this would overlap with all other non-weapons restricted sheep hunt areas and hunters with differing bag limits. The hunt area would go from the smallest sheep hunt area in Unit 14C (42 sq. miles) to one of the largest (678 sq. miles). The proposal would also remove this permit from the allocation set in 5AAC 92.057; the new DS123 permit would not be considered as part of the total permits when calculating the nonresident permit allocation under 5 AAC 92.057. This would add several layers of regulatory complexity to this hunt, leading to the high possibility of unintended consequences and administrative challenges.

**BACKGROUND:** The area now known as DS123 was first created in 2006, with a smaller footprint than what is designated as the current DS123 hunt area. In 2013, the DS123 hunt was revisited again and expanded to include Ram Valley and Falls Creek, creating the current DS123 hunt boundaries. The current DS123 hunt area is the smallest sheep hunt currently in Unit 14C and due to that small area only one drawing resident permit is issued, and interest is high..

Currently, DS123 has season dates of Aug. 10 – Sept. 30, a bag limit of one ram with full-curl horns or larger and is not weapons restricted. Over the past six years, three sheep have been harvested under this drawing permit.

There are no hunts in Unit 14C for sheep with a start date before August 10. Currently the only hunts for sheep that start August 1 are youth hunts. As proposed, the permit holder would not be able to utilize aircraft to spot sheep because the hunt would occur within the time period that prohibits the use of aircraft for locating sheep.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal and **OPPOSED** to changing the bag limit to any ram due to conservation concerns, and the additional level of complexity that comes with adopting it. The Unit 14C sheep population declined substantially in the early 2000s but has since been tentatively stable at a lower population level. Under the current hunt structure, the department has been able to provide continued opportunity with little to no reduction in permit numbers, indicating that what is currently in place appears to be maintaining a sustainable balance. Allowing an additional ram to be taken out of the other hunt areas could result in a reduced number of permits in the other areas. Currently Unit 14C sheep nonresident drawing permit allocation are divided between 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of kindred (2DK) and guided nonresidents. Discussion is needed to determine what the nonresident eligibility (2DK vs guided nonresident vs both) would be for this permit, if adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 92.050 Required permit hunt conditions and procedures; and 5 AAC 92.130 Restriction to bag limit.** Allow 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of kindred (2DK) hunters to hunt on behalf of a resident drawing permit holder for sheep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Montgomery

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to allow nonresident hunters within 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of kindred of the resident sheep drawing permit holder to hunt on the permit holders behalf.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current required permit hunt conditions can be found in 5 AAC 92.050 and the restriction to bag limits in 5AAC 92.130.

**5 AAC 92.050- Required permit hunt conditions and procedures**

Sets how permits are applied for and issued.

**5 AAC 92.130- Restrictions to bag limit**

States who the bag limit for a harvested animal belongs to.

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for Dall sheep in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, resident hunters who win a drawing permit for sheep in Unit 14C could allow a nonresident relative within 2DK to hunt and harvest a sheep on the resident’s drawing permit. The nonresident would have to purchase a nonresident hunting license and locking tag. A harvested sheep would count against the bag limit for both hunters. This would likely have little to no impact on the overall sheep harvest in Unit 14C since there would be no change to the overall number of permits issued.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, for general season, youth hunters under the age of 10 make take game under on behalf of a licensed hunter at least 18 years of age, and they must be under the direct, immediate supervision of that hunter. When an animal is harvested, it counts toward the adult’s bag limit, and is recorded on the adult’s permit.

For big game permit hunts, hunters age 10–17 that have successfully completed basic hunter education may hunt on behalf of an adult permit holder, under the direct, immediate supervision of that adult. No additional permits are issued to the youth hunter in this case.

For youth specific hunts, the bag limit counts against both the youth and the accompanying adult, except for deer. No additional permit is issued to the adult.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal due to its allocative nature. Issuing an additional permit to a nonresident within the second degree of kindred could result in double reporting, or worse, could result in two sheep being harvested. The board has previously deliberated similar proposals and has stopped short of allowing adult permit holders to hunt on behalf of other adults, with very few exceptions such as transferring Tier II permits for active duty military members, and allowing some Tier II permits to harvest game on behalf of other household members.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 182 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Require nonresident sheep drawing permits to be issued in certain Unit 14C hunt areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Montgomery

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to require that at least 1 guided nonresident drawing permits be issued for each of the Northeast, Northwest, Upper Eagle River, and Southwest hunt areas, unless there are less than 4 permits available.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.055**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		

Reminder of Unit 14(C)  
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued total; or	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31 (General hunt only)
--	--

1 ram by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 120 permits will be issued total	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
---	---

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued total; or

Aug. 10 – Oct. 31

1 ram with full-curl horn or every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only; up to 120 permits will be issued total

Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for sheep in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a guided nonresident permit would be issued in each sheep hunt areas every year, unless there are less than 4 permits available in each hunt area.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, there was no differentiation in the Unit 14C sheep drawing hunts between guided nonresidents and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of kindred (2DK) nonresidents; any nonresident drawing hunt was open to all nonresidents. At the 2023 Southcentral Board meeting, the Board adopted a proposal that split guided and 2DK nonresident hunters into separate allocations. The 2DK allocation would be based on a percentage of the already established allocation found in 5 AAC 92.057. As a result, nonresidents are restricted to a maximum of 13% of the total available permits. Of that 13%, 2DK hunters may have a maximum of 20% of those permits. For Unit 14C non-weapons restricted hunts, this translates into only one 2DK permit and six guided nonresident tags based on current permit numbers. To provide nonresidents the opportunity to hunt different portions of Unit 14C and keep permit numbers the same in each of these current hunt areas, the department moves the available nonresident permits annually between these areas (Table 1).

Area	2023			2024			2025			2026		
	# Res Tags	# NR-Guided	# 2DK	# Res Tags	# NR-Guided	# 2DK	# Res Tags	# NR-Guided	# 2DK	# Res Tags	# NR-Guided	# 2DK
Northeast Early	3		1	3	1		3			3		
Northeast Mid	3			3			3			3	1	

<b>Northeast Late</b>	3	3	3	3
<b>Northwest Early</b>	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1
<b>Northwest Mid</b>	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1
<b>Northwest Late</b>	6 1	6 1	6 1	6 1
<b>Upper Eagle River Early</b>	1	1	1	1
<b>Upper Eagle River Mid</b>			1	1
<b>Upper Eagle River Late</b>	2	2	1	1
<b>Southwest Early</b>	8 1	8 1	8 1	8 1
<b>Southwest Mid</b>	8 1	8 1	8 1	8 1
<b>Southwest Late</b>	8 1	8 1	8 1	8

**Table 1.** Drawing sheep permit allocation for RY23–26 in Unit 14C. Early season dates: Aug. 10–22, Mid-season dates: Aug. 23 –Sept. 4, Late season dates: Sept. 5–17.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Current hunt areas and season dates were created using discretionary authority to spread harvest and hunters across Unit 14C. Without these, hunters would likely target only a few specific drainages. The board will need to determine how this should fit with the existing allocations in the area, or if this is being offered as a replacement for the existing regulations. The Unit 14C sheep population declined substantially in the early 2000s but has since been tentatively stable at a lower population level. Under the current hunt structure, the department has been able to provide continued opportunity with little to no reduction in permit numbers, indicating that what is currently in place appears to be striking a sustainable balance.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 183 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Extend all hunting seasons for black bear and brown bear in Unit 14C to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Extend all black bear and brown bear seasons in Unit 14C to June 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.015 for black bear, 5 AAC 85.020 for brown bear, and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.015**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area	Sept. 1 – June 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – June 15
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; by shotgun only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	
1 bear by drawing permit only, shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow only; weekdays only; up to 20 permits may be issued in the McHugh Creek area and up to 20 permits may be issued in the Upper Campbell Creek area		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)	No Closed Season (General hunt only)	No Closed Season
1 bear		

**5 AAC 85.020**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(13)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Chugach State Park Management Area and that portion of the Eagle River drainage above the Icicle Creek drainage	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – May 31
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; up to 15 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Eklutna Lake Management Area within Chugach State Park	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – May 31
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; up to 15 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), all drainages into McHugh Creek, in that portion of the Anchorage Management Area		
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; by shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow only; week	Oct. 1- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1-Oct.31

days only, up to 5 permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 14(C)  
1 bear every regulatory year

Sept. 1 – June 15

Sept. 1 – June 15

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for black bear and brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the black bear hunts RL450, DL457, Eklutna Lake Management Area, and the Chugach State Park (CSP) Management Area along with three brown bear hunts (DB468, DB470, and DB477) in Unit 14C would be extended to June 15. Several of these hunts are in areas of high non-consumptive use and this proposal would keep hunters in the field longer as the summer hiking season ramps up in Unit 14C. This is an increase in opportunity and will likely result in additional harvest. Extending the season in several of these hunts would likely require the department to use discretionary authority and shorten the season dates to receive special use permits from CSP to allow for the discharge of firearms, like other hunts held in the CSP Management Area.

**BACKGROUND:** Bear baiting is only allowed in Unit 14C remainder which currently has no closed season for black bear. The bag limit for black bear in Unit 14C is one bear under drawing permit, registration permit, or general season harvest ticket depending on the specific area. During RY24, 11 black bears were harvested between June 1 – 15 in parts of Unit 14C where the season was still open (DL455, Unit 14C remainder). The current 5-year harvest average is 74 black bears and 6 brown bears (Tables 1 and 2).

Unit wide, black bear harvest increased during the covid pandemic resulting in the high harvest numbers (Table 3). This was accompanied by a steady increase in % female harvest, reaching a peak in RY23 with a 55% female harvest. The following regulatory year showed a substantial drop in black bear harvest across the unit. The department does not have information on the number of black bears in the population; harvest and sealing data is the primary source of information for black bears in Unit 14C.

Very little population information exists for Unit 14C brown bears; however, given the size of the unit and forage availability it is likely that it does not hold the same density of brown bears as other parts of Alaska. While there are salmon runs, they are relatively small in comparison and only a few watersheds allow for the passage of salmon far enough up the river to be accessible to brown bears.

Hunt	2020 Harvest		2021 Harvest		2022 Harvest		2023 Harvest		2024 Harvest	
	Male	Female								
RL450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RL460	1	1	5	0	4	3	4	9	2	1
DL455	0	1	0	3	1	3	1	2	1	2
DL457	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
General Season	57	30	30	20	46	26	31	33	33	18
Total	58	32	35	23	52	32	36	44	36	21
% of Total	64%	36%	60%	40%	62%	38%	45%	55%	63%	37%
Grand Total	90		58		84		80		57	

**Table 1.** Black bear harvest by sex in Unit 14C by hunt for RY20–24.

Hunt	2020 Total Harvest	2021 Total Harvest	2022 Total Harvest	2023 Total Harvest	2024 Total Harvest
DB468	1	0	1	1	0
DB470	1	0	5	3	1
SB470	0	0	0	1	0
General Season	3*	3	6*	4	4
Total	5 (20%)	3 (33%)	12 (33%)	9 (44%)	5 (20%)

**Table 2.** Brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt for RY20–24 with percent female harvest.

\*One bear illegal harvest

June Harvest	2020 Harvest		2021 Harvest		2022 Harvest		2023 Harvest		2024 Harvest	
	Male	Female								
Black Bear	4	3	5	3	7	5	1	1	6	5
Brown Bear	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1

**Table 3.** Black bear and brown bear harvest by sex from June 1–15 in Unit 14C for RY20–24.

Many of the areas in which these hunts occur are drainages where special use permits are needed from CSP. An example of this is the McHugh Creek drainage, DL457. This hunt was adopted by the board in 2019 and was passed with season dates of Sept. 1 – May 31. However, for the special use permit to be issued for DL457, the department agreed to shorten the season to the current dates of Oct. 1 – 31. When the board created DB477, the proposal was adopted with October dates to match what CSP and the department had agreed upon for the special use permit issued for DL457.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Outside of general season hunts for both species, season dates, hunt areas, and permit conditions were written cooperatively with CSP for the hunts to be held. Specifically, these times frames and hunt areas were agreed upon to help reduce conflicts between user groups. Based on the current structure and lack of complaints, this approach has been successful.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Create a black bear drawing hunt within the Eagle River Management Area in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a new black bear drawing hunt with weapons restrictions (archery, muzzleloader, or shotgun only), resident only, in the Highland Mountain area within the Eagle River Management Area from Oct. 1 – 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current black bear hunt regulations for Game Management Unit (GMU) 14(C) can be found in 5 AAC 85.015 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.015**

...

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence &amp; General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident open Season</b>
Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area		
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; by shotgun only; up to 25 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – June 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – June 15
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area		
1 bear by drawing permit only, shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow only;	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	

weekdays only; up to 20 permits may be issued in the McHugh Creek area and up to 20 permits may be issued in the Upper Campbell Creek area

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

No Closed Season  
(General hunt only)

No Closed Season

1 bear

### 5 AAC 92.530

...

(2) the Eagle River Management Area:

(A) the area consists of the Eagle River drainage upstream from the Glenn Highway in Unit 14(C);

(B) the area is closed to hunting, except

(i) sheep hunting by permit;

(ii) black and brown bear hunting by permit; before hunting a bear, a person wishing to hunt must complete a hunter safety course for which a certification of completion is issued;

...

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for black bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this would open a new area for black bear hunting in the Eagle River drainage. This increase in opportunity would likely result in some additional harvest. Given the relatively small size of the area, it is likely only a small number of permits could be issued to prevent overcrowding and minimize user conflicts. The addition of hunters into this drainage may result in some user conflict as trail improvement on the backside of the hunt area has allowed for greater access for all user groups.

**BACKGROUND:** There are two existing black bear hunts in the Eagle River Management Area, RL450 and RL460. Hunt conditions and season dates can be found in Table 1. Harvest in

RL460 makes up all of the black bear hunting mortality for the Eagle River Management Area with an average harvest of 5 bears/year (Table 2).

Den entrance for black bears generally occurs in the first week of October in Unit 14C. The only other hunts with October season dates are in the McHugh drainage (DL457 and DB477): one black bear and no brown bears have been harvested in these hunts.

Hunt	RL450	RL460
Bag Limit	One bear	One bear
Season Date	Sept. 1 – May 31	Sept. 1 – June 15
Hunt Type	Registration	Registration
Weapons Restrictions?	Yes, muzzleloader, archery or crossbow	None
Hunt Area	Lower Eagle River, Harp Mountain Area	Upper Eagle River, upstream of Icicle Creek

**Table 1.** Hunt conditions for RL450 and RL460 in the Eagle River Management Area.

	RL450	RL460
Year	# of Harvested Bears	# of Harvested Bears
2020	0	2
2021	0	5
2022	0	7
2023	0	13
2024	0	2

**Table 2.** Harvested black bears in RL450 and RL460 for RY20–24.

The department does not have information on the number of black bears in the population; harvest and sealing data is the primary source of information for black bears in Unit 14C.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal because it creates an additional hunting opportunity and harvest would likely be small enough not to present a conservation concern, and can be limited through the number of permits issued, which may also alleviate any conflicts between resource users. All of the land in the Eagle River Management Area outside of private in-holdings is part of Chugach State Park. Park regulation 11 AAC 12.190 prohibits the discharge of weapons within the Eagle River drainage, and this hunt would require a special use permit for the discharge of weapons. Current regulations allow the department to create this hunt without a specific regulatory change, however the department is seeking input from the board. If adopted, “up to” language for permit numbers should be considered.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Increase the number of drawing permits for the DL455 black bear hunt in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Colette Brandt, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER)

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the number of available permits for DL455 from 25 to 50.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current black bear hunt regulations for Game Management Unit (GMU) 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.015 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Unit 14(C), JBER Manage- ment Area		
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; by shotgun only; up to 25 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – June 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – June 15

...

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for black bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This would increase the maximum amount of available drawing permits for DL455 from 25 to 50, which could result in an increase in the number of bears harvested.

**BACKGROUND:** Since the hunt began in 2016, 25 permits have been issued for DL455 with a yearly average of 11 hunters participating (44% of permit holders) and an average of one bear harvested (Table 1). Over time, participation in hunts on JBER has been limited by areas closed for training during hunting seasons, expansion and development throughout JBER reducing huntable areas, and a required access fee for hunters. There is no biological concern for increasing black bear hunting opportunities in this area and it is likely that any increase in harvest will be small due to other limitations in accessing the hunt area.

Regulatory Year	# Draw Permits	# of Males Harvested	# of Females Harvested
2020	25	0	1
2021	25	0	3
2022	25	1	3
2023	26	1	2
2024	25	1	2

**Table 1.** Black bears harvest in JBER Management Area and permit numbers from RY16–25.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Additional hunting opportunity exists and the department will retain the ability to reduce the number of permits offered if harvest increases to a level that is unsustainable.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to Bag Limit.** Include wounded black bears toward the bag limit for DL455.

**PROPOSED BY:** Colette Brandt, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER)

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would count wounded and unrecovered black bear toward a hunter’s bag limit for DL455 on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current wounding regulations 14C can be found in 5 AAC 92.130 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 92.130**

...

(f) In Units 1-5 and Unit 8, a black or brown bear wounded by a person counts against that person’s bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is taken. However, in Unit 1 – 5 and Unit 8, a brown bear wounded by a person does not count against that person’s one bear every four regulatory years bag limit established in 5 AAC 92.132.

(g) In Unit 8, an elk wounded by a person counts against that person’s bag limit for the regulatory year in which the elk is taken

(h) In this section, “wounded” means there is a sign of blood or other sign that the animals has been hit by a hunting projectile.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a wounded black bear would count against a permittee’s bag limit in DL455 and a hunter would not be able to continue hunting in DL455. However, hunters could still participate in black bear hunts in areas with a multiple bear bag limit, including those adjacent to Unit 14C.

**BACKGROUND:** The DL455 hunt was passed in 2016 with a fall-only season. Shortly after, the season was extended to include both fall and spring dates through board action. Annual harvest remains low even with the extended season dates (Table 1). The reporting of wounded bears is not required for other hunts in Unit 14C and the department does not have a specific record of how often this happens. However, JBER requires reporting of wounding loss specifically for this hunt and has recorded at least 3 bears wounded and unrecovered by hunters since 2016.

<b>Regulatory Year</b>	<b># Males Harvested</b>	<b># of Females Harvested</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>
<b>2020</b>	0	1	1
<b>2021</b>	0	3	3
<b>2022</b>	1	3	4
<b>2023</b>	1	2	3
<b>2024</b>	1	2	3

**Table 1.** Total harvest of black bear in DL455 in Unit 14C for RY20–24.

As mentioned by the proposer, a bear that is injured and then dies near the urban interface may create a public safety issue with the public or military personnel as an attractant for other animals.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Anecdotal reports of unrecovered bears throughout Unit 14C, including JBER, are received on an annual basis.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 187 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Increase the bag limit for black bear to three, in Unit 14C Remainder.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the black bear bag limit from one bear to three bears in Unit 14C Remainder.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current black bear hunt regulations for Game Management Unit (GMU) 14C can be found in 5 AAC 85.015 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.015**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C) 1 bear every regulatory year	Sept. 1 – June 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – June 15
...		

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for black bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, hunters would be allowed to harvest up to three bears every regulatory year in Unit 14C Remainder under general season harvest ticket regulations; the bag limit is currently one bear every regulatory year. This increase in opportunity could increase the overall harvest of black bears in Unit 14C.

**BACKGROUND:** Black bear hunting in Unit 14C Remainder is currently managed under a general season harvest ticket strategy. Beginning in RY20, harvest of both black and brown bears over bait was allowed (excluding the Glacier Creek drainage). Between RY20–24, 56 black bears have been harvested at bait sites.

Salvage of black bear meat is required in all areas of the state during Jan. 1 – May 31 and edible meat must be salvaged and removed from the field. In Unit 14C, the skull must be salvaged and removed from the field year-round for sealing, and during June 1 – Dec. 31, either the hide with claws attached (for sealing) or the meat must also be salvaged and removed from the field. If salvaging the meat, the hide and/or skull may not be transported from the field until the edible meat has been salvaged.

Harvest across the unit has fluctuated over the last several years with an increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. In RY23, female black bear harvest increased resulting in the one of the highest percentages of female harvest in the last decade (Table 1). The subsequent year, overall harvest dropped substantially and ADFG staff reported fewer incidental black bear sightings while conducting aerial surveys for other species.

Hunt	2020 Harvest		2021 Harvest		2022 Harvest		2023 Harvest		2024 Harvest	
	Male	Female								
RL450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RL460	1	1	5	0	4	3	4	9	2	1
DL455	0	1	0	3	1	3	1	2	1	2
DL457	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
General Season	57	30	30	20	46	26	31	33	33	18
Total	58	32	35	23	52	32	36	44	36	21
% of Total	64%	36%	60%	40%	62%	38%	45%	55%	63%	37%
Total	90		58		84		80		57	

**Table 1.** Harvest of black bear by sex in Unit 14C Remainder for RY20–24.

The department does not have specific information on the number of black bears in the population; harvest and sealing data is the primary source of information for black bears in Unit 14C.

Areas adjacent to Unit 14C Remainder currently have a bag limit of three black bears every regulatory year; however, it is not common for an individual hunter to harvest three black bears in a year.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C brown bear drawing hunt DB468, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DB468 to up to 20% of the available permits.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.061 states how a nonresident may apply for and obtain a drawing brown bear permit but does not set specific allocations in Unit 14C for brown bear.

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a small number of nonresident permits may be available based on historical permit issuance for DB468 (20 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change in the future. If the total number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter, the hunt would not be offered. There would likely be no change in overall harvest and little to no impact on the brown bear population.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing brown bear hunt DB468. DB468 is in Unit 14C and takes place in the Eklutna Management Area. This area is accessed by Eklutna Lake road. Season dates are Sept. 1 – May 31.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Tags Awarded
2017	168	4	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	19
2018	266	3	1	3	1	1	5	1	5	20
2019	233	2	1	2	1	1	5	1	5	19
2020	269	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	20
2021	255	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	20
2022	237	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
2023	401	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
2024	453	6	1	2	< 1	1	5	1	5	20
2025	467	12	3	12	3	1	6	1	6	18

**Table 1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DB468. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 3% of the drawing applications for DB468, and have been awarded between 0 and 1 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 189 – 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C brown bear drawing hunt DB470, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DB470 to up to 20% of the available permits.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.061 states how a nonresident may apply for and obtain a drawing brown bear permit but does not set specific allocations in Unit 14C for brown bear.

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, a small number of nonresident permits may be available based on historical permit issuance for DB470 (15 or less); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change. If the total number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter, the hunt would not be offered. There would likely be no change in overall harvest and little to no impact on the brown bear population.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing brown bear hunt DB470. DB470 is in Unit 14C and takes place in the Chugach State Park Management Area. Season dates are Sept. 1 – May 31. The number of eligible applications for DB470 can be found in Table 1.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Tags Awarded
2017	1070	34	3	22	2	0	0	0	0	15
2018	1357	80	6	41	3	2	13	1	7	15
2019	1447	59	4	23	2	0	0	0	0	14
2020	1266	77	6	35	3	0	0	0	0	14
2021	1654	76	5	22	1	0	0	0	0	15
2022	1677	86	5	47	3	0	0	0	0	14
2023	1747	67	4	48	3	1	7	0	0	14
2024	2221	48	2	34	2	0	0	0	0	14
2025	2247	111	5	75	3	0	0	0	0	15

**Table 1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DB470. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 6% of the drawing applications for DB470, and have been between 0 and 13% of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 190 – 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C brown bear drawing hunt DB477, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DB477 to up to 20% of the available permits.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.061 states how a nonresident may apply for and obtain a drawing brown bear permit but does not set specific allocations in Unit 14C for brown bear.

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, no nonresident permits would be available based on historical permit issuance for DB477 (3 permits); permit numbers are based on current population levels and are subject to change. If the total number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter, the hunt would not be offered. There would likely be no change in overall harvest and little to no impact on the brown bear population.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing brown bear hunt DB477. This hunt takes place in the McHugh Creek drainage in Unit 14C. Season dates are Oct. 1 – Oct. 31. The number of eligible applications can be found in Table 1. DB477 was created at the 2023 Southcentral Board meeting and has only been held for the last two regulatory years (RY24–25).

**Table 1.** Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DB477. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Tags Awarded
2024	282	6	2	6	2	0	0	0	0	3
2025	279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. Since the hunt was created, nonresidents have submitted between 0 and 6% of the applications, and have been awarded zero permits.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 191 –5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Create an archery-only, drawing permit hunt for brown bear in Unit 14C

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Harris

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create an archery-only drawing permit brown bear hunt in the Chugach State Park Management Area from Sept. 1 – May 31, open to both residents and nonresidents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.020 for brown bear and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.020**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(13)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Chugach State Park Management Area and that portion of the Eagle River drainage above the Icicle Creek drainage	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – May 31
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; up to 15 permits may be issued		
...		

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this would create a new archery-only drawing brown bear hunt in the same area as DB470 with the same bag limit and season dates. This would add more hunters into the field and could result in hunter conflict but also conflict with other user groups. Harvest would likely be minimal given the difficulty of harvesting a brown bear with archery equipment. Additionally, layering two drawing hunts on top of each other would add regulatory complexity.

**BACKGROUND:** A drawing brown bear hunt, DB470, currently exists in the proposed hunt area within the Chugach State Park Management Area.

The area for DB470 is described as, “Those portions of Chugach State Park in the Peters Creek, Little Peters Creek, Thunderbird Creek, upper Ship Creek (upstream from JBER and excluding Tokle Creek drainage), Indian Creek, Bird Creek (excluding Bird Creek Regional Park), and upper Eagle River (above Icicle Creek drainages).” Chugach State Park prohibits discharge of weapons within 1/2 mile of the Seward Highway, and the discharge of firearms within 1/4 mile of developed facilities, and the discharge of bows within 300 yards of developed facilities.

DB470 is a non-weapons restricted hunt with season dates of Sept. 1 – May 31 and a 1 bear every year bag limit. Permittees may choose to hunt with archery equipment under the current regulations. The department has issued the maximum number of permits allowed under regulation (15 permits) for the last ten years. In addition to the DB470 permits, in many recent years an additional brown bear permit has been issued for this area through the Governor’s permit system (SB470) (Table 1).

Twenty permits are issued for D468, which takes place in the area adjacent to DB470 including those portions of Chugach State Park within the Eklutna Lake Management Area. DB468 is a weapons-restricted hunt, limited to archery only.

Very little population information exists for Unit 14C brown bears, however, given the size of the unit and forage availability it is likely that it does not hold the same density of brown bears as other parts of Alaska. While there are salmon runs, they are relatively small in comparison and only a few watersheds allow for the passage of salmon far enough up the river to be accessible to brown bears. Only three brown bears have been harvested with archery equipment in all of the Unit 14C hunts combined during the last 5 years.

Hunt	2020 Total Harvest	2021 Total Harvest	2022 Total Harvest	2023 Total Harvest	2024 Total Harvest
DB468	1	0	1	1	0
DB470	1	0	5	3	1
SB470	0	0	0	1	0
General Season	3*	3	6*	4	4
<b>Total</b>	5 (20%)	3 (33%)	12 (33%)	9 (44%)	5 (20%)
<b>Taken by bow and arrow</b>	1	0	1	1	0

**Table 1.** Brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt type for RY20–24 with percent female in ().

\*One illegal take

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The current DB470 hunt is not weapons-restricted, and hunters may choose to use archery equipment. If the board intends to adopt the proposal it will need to decide what the bag limit should be and how many permits should be available in regulation.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 192 –5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Create an archery only brown bear registration hunt in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Trevor Embry

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a archery-only registration brown bear hunt in the Chugach State Park Management Area from Sept. 1 – May 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.020 for brown bear and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.020**

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>		

...

(13)

...

Unit 14(C), Chugach State Park Management Area and that portion of the Eagle River drainage above the Icicle Creek drainage 1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; up to 15 permits may be issued	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – May 31
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...

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this would create an archery-only registration brown bear hunt in the same area as DB470 with the same bag limit and season dates. This would add more hunters into the field and could result in hunter conflict but also conflict with other user groups. Harvest would likely be minimal given the difficulty of harvesting a brown bear with archery equipment. Additionally, layering two drawing hunts on top of each other would add regulatory complexity.

**BACKGROUND:** A drawing brown bear hunt, DB470, currently exists in the proposed hunt area within the Chugach State Park Management Area.

The area for DB470 is described as, “Those portions of Chugach State Park in the Peters Creek, Little Peters Creek, Thunderbird Creek, upper Ship Creek (upstream from JBER and excluding Tokle Creek drainage), Indian Creek, Bird Creek (excluding Bird Creek Regional Park), and upper Eagle River (above Icicle Creek drainages).” Chugach State Park prohibits discharge of weapons within 1/2 mile of the Seward Highway, and the discharge of firearms within 1/4 mile of developed facilities, and the discharge of bows within 300 yards of developed facilities.

DB470 is a non-weapons restricted hunt with season dates of Sept. 1 – May 31 and a 1 bear every year bag limit. Permittees may choose to hunt with archery equipment under the current regulations. The department has issued the maximum number of permits allowed under regulation (15 permits) for the last ten years. In addition to the DB470 permits, in many recent years an additional brown bear permit has been issued for this area through the Governor’s permit system (SB470) (Table 1).

Twenty permits are issued for D468, which takes place in the area adjacent to DB470 including those portions of Chugach State Park within the Eklutna Lake Management Area. DB468 is a weapons-restricted hunt, limited to archery only.

Very little population information exists for Unit 14C brown bears, however, given the size of the unit and forage availability it is likely that it does not hold the same density of brown bears as other parts of Alaska. While there are salmon runs, they are relatively small in comparison and only a few watersheds allow for the passage of salmon far enough up the river to be accessible to brown bears. Only three brown bears have been harvested with archery equipment in all of the Unit 14C hunts combined during the last 5 years.

Hunt	2020 Total Harvest	2021 Total Harvest	2022 Total Harvest	2023 Total Harvest	2024 Total Harvest
DB468	1	0	1	1	0
DB470	1	0	5	3	1
SB470	0	0	0	1	0
General Season	3*	3	6*	4	4
<b>Total</b>	5 (20%)	3 (33%)	12 (33%)	9 (44%)	5 (20%)
<b>Taken by bow and arrow</b>	1	0	1	1	0

**Table 1.** Brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt type for RY20–24 with percent female in ().

\*One illegal take

.Given the small amount of population information available for Unit 14C brown bears, any quota for this proposed hunt would be very low while participation and success rates are established. Limiting the number of registration permits may also be considered.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. The current DB470 hunt is not weapons-restricted, and hunters may choose to use archery equipment. An unlimited registration permit could lead to very short seasons and closures by emergency order if hunter success is high.

The Board should also consider if there are limitations to how the new registration permit would be issued, residents vs. non-residents, and where the permit would be issued (in person or online).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 193 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Convert DB468 from a drawing permit to a registration permit for brown bear in the Eklutna Lake Management Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunter Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to convert the DB468 drawing hunt to a registration hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.020 for brown bear and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.020**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(13)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Eklutna Lake Management Area within Chugach State Park	Sept. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – May 31
1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; up to 15 permits may be issued		
...		

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this would convert the drawing hunt DB468 to a registration brown bear hunt while retaining the current season dates and bag limit. Depending on how this new registration hunt is administered (specifically unlimited vs. limited quantities of available registration permits), this could add

additional hunters into the field resulting in hunter crowding conflict but also conflict with other user groups. Harvest would likely be minimal given the difficulty of harvesting a brown bear with archery equipment.

**BACKGROUND:** A drawing brown bear hunt, DB468, currently exists in the proposed hunt area within the Eklutna Lake Management Area. DB468 is an archery-only brown bear hunt with season dates of Sept. 1 – May 31 and a 1 bear every regulatory year bag limit. The department has issued the maximum number of permits allowed under regulation (20 permits) for the last ten years (Table 1).

Very little population information exists for Unit 14(C) brown bears, however, given the size of the Unit and forage availability it is likely that 14(C) does not hold the same density of brown bears as other parts of Alaska. While there are salmon runs, they are relatively small in comparison and only a few watersheds allow for the passage of salmon far enough up the river to be accessible to brown bears. Only three brown bears have been harvested with archery equipment in all of the Unit 14C hunts combined during the last 5 years.

Hunt	2020 Total Harvest	2021 Total Harvest	2022 Total Harvest	2023 Total Harvest	2024 Total Harvest
DB468	1	0	1	1	0
DB470	1	0	5	3	1
SB470	0	0	0	1	0
General Season	3*	3	6*	4	4
<b>Total</b>	5 (20%)	3 (33%)	12 (33%)	9 (44%)	5 (20%)
<b>Taken by bow and arrow</b>	1	0	1	1	0

**Table 1.** Brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt type for RY20–24 with percent female in ().

\*One illegal take

Additionally, given the small amount of population information available for Unit 14C brown bears, any quota for this proposed hunt would be very low while participation and success rates are established. Limiting the number of registration permits may also be considered.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. An unlimited registration permit could lead to very short seasons and closures by emergency order if hunter success is high. DB468 is a relatively small hunt area that is heavily used by other resource users. The small number of drawing permits issued now is intended to minimize conflicts between user groups and crowding, and if the board chooses to change to a registration permit it will be important to continue to issue a limited number of permits. The department has concerns that advertising a registration permit in this small area may lead to hunters thinking there is an increase in opportunity over a drawing permit, when in fact the

department may need to issue fewer than 20 permits if all hunters that receive permits hunt and are successful.

The Board should also consider if there are limitations to how the new registration permit would be issued, residents vs. non-residents, and where the permit would be issued (in person or online).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Extend the brown bear season in Unit 14C remainder.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Harris

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to extend the brown bear season in the remainder of Unit 14C for brown bears from June 15 to June 30, adding 15 days.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current hunting seasons and bag limits can be found in 5 AAC 85.020 for brown bear and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 85.020**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(13)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C) 1 bear every regulatory year	Sept. 1 – June 15	Sept. 1 – June 15

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for brown bear in this area.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this would increase the current season by 15 days. This will increase opportunity and likely result in some additional brown bear harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Very little population information exists for Unit 14C brown bears, however, given the size of the unit and forage availability it is likely that it does not hold the same density of brown bears as other parts of Alaska. While there are salmon runs, they are relatively small in comparison and only a few watersheds allow for the passage of salmon far enough up the river to be accessible to brown bears.

Unit 14C remainder brown bear, hunters are allowed 1 bear every regulatory year under general season regulations. In 2019, the remainder for Unit 14C was opened to baiting for both black and brown bears with dates of April 15 – June 30. Harvest in the remainder is relatively low and stable over the last several years (Table 1). Over the last 5 years, the average brown bear harvest between June 1 – June 15 is less than one bear per year.

<b>Hunt</b>	<b>2020 Total Harvest</b>	<b>2021 Total Harvest</b>	<b>2022 Total Harvest</b>	<b>2023 Total Harvest</b>	<b>2024 Total Harvest</b>
<b>DB468</b>	1	0	1	1	0
<b>DB470</b>	1	0	5	3	1
<b>SB470</b>	0	0	0	1	0
<b>General Season</b>	3*	3	6*	4	4
<b>Total</b>	5 (20%)	3 (33%)	12 (33%)	9 (44%)	5 (20%)
<b>Taken by bow and arrow</b>	1	0	1	1	0

**Table 1.** Brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt type for RY20–24 with percent female in ().

\*One illegal take

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal because additional harvest is expected to be low, and additional opportunity is available. The potential for user conflicts in the area is high, as the proposed area includes Girdwood and all trails along the Seward Highway.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 195 –5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Allow same day airborne in Unit 14C remainder at bait stations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to allow the take of black and brown bear at bait stations on the same day a hunter has flown as long as the hunter is 300 feet away from the aircraft.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations for the use of bait or scent lures can be found in 5 AAC 92.044 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 92.044**

...

(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C), a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a black bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures if the hunter possesses a permit issued by the department if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking; in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 18, 19, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), that portion of 20(D) north of the Tanana River, 20(E), 20(F), 21, 23, 24(B), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a black bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures if the hunter possesses a permit issued by the department if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this would make it more efficient for hunters who fly into their bait stations to harvest both brown and black bears in Unit 14C remainder. If adopted, the proposal will likely provide for a small increase in overall black and brown bear harvest numbers.

**BACKGROUND:** Beginning in 2019, the Remainder of Unit 14C was opened to baiting for both black and brown bears. In Unit 14C remainder, hunters are allowed 1 bear every regulatory year under general season regulations for both black and brown bears. Harvest in the remainder of Unit 14C is relatively low and stable over the last several years for brown bear which can be found in Table 1. However, the number of females in the harvest has increased over the last two regulatory years for brown bears.

Unit-wide black bear harvest increased during the covid pandemic resulting in the high harvest numbers seen in Table 2. This was accompanied by a steady increase in % female harvest, reaching a peak in RY2023 with a 55% female harvest. The following regulatory year showed a 50% drop in black bear harvest across the Unit.

The 5-year average for total harvest is 72 black bears and 6 brown bears in Unit 14C (Table 1 and Table 2).

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for black and brown bear in this area.

Table 1. Total brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt for RY20–24 with percent female harvest in parentheses.

Hunt	2020 Total Harvest	2021 Total Harvest	2022 Total Harvest	2023 Total Harvest	2024 Total Harvest
DB468	1	0	1	1	0
DB470	1	0	5	3	1
SB470	0	0	0	1	0
General Season	3*	3	6*	4	4
<b>Total</b>	5 (20%)	3 (33%)	12 (33%)	9 (44%)	5 (20%)

\*Includes one illegal harvest.

Table 2. Total black bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt for RY20–24.

Hunt	2020 Harvest		2021 Harvest		2022 Harvest		2023 Harvest		2024 Harvest	
	Male	Female								
RL450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RL460	1	1	5	0	4	3	4	9	1	1
DL455	0	1	0	3	1	3	1	2	1	2
DL457	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
General Season	57	30	30	20	46	26	31	33	32	12
<b>Total</b>	58	32	35	23	52	32	36	44	34	15
% of Total	64%	36%	60%	40%	62%	38%	45%	55%	64%	36%
Grand Total	90		58		84		80		49	

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this methods and means proposal. Black and brown bear populations are not heavily harvested, and additional opportunity likely exists. The remainder of Unit 14C is not easily accessible, and limited places exist to land aircraft.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Restrict bear baiting around Knik River road.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to prohibit the baiting of bears within five miles of Knik River Road.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations for the use of bait or scent lures can be found in 5 AAC 92.044 and in the *2025-2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

**5 AAC 92.044**

(1) a person may establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(A),14(B), that portion of the remainder of 14(C), excluding Glacier Creek drainage outside of the Chugach State Park, 15, 16, 18, 19(A), 19(D), 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), that portion of 20(D) north of the Tanana River, 20(E), 20(F), 21(C), 21(D), 23, 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), only if that person obtains a permit.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this would reduce hunter opportunity to take a bear over bait by limiting some of the road accessible areas where bear baiting is allowed. This closure may reduce some harvest but is expected to have little impact on overall harvest numbers.

**BACKGROUND:** In Unit 14C remainder for both brown and black bears, hunters are allowed 1 bear every regulatory year under general season. Additionally in 2019, the Unit 14C remainder area was opened to baiting for both black and brown bears. Harvest in the remainder is relatively low and stable over the last several years for brown bear (Table 1). However, the number of females in the harvest has increased over the last 2 regulatory years for brown bears.

Unit-wide black bear harvest increased during the covid pandemic resulting in the high harvest numbers seen in Table 2. This was accompanied by a steady increase in % female harvest, reaching a peak in RY2023 with a 55% female harvest. The following regulatory year showed a 50% drop in black bear harvest across the Unit. The department does not have information on the number of black bears in the population.

The 5-year average harvest is 72 black bears and 6 brown bears in all of Unit 14C (Table 1 and Table 2).

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for black or brown bear in this area.

Table 1. Total brown bear harvest in Unit 14C by hunt for RY20–24 with percent female harvest in ( ).

Hunt	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	2022 Total Harvest	2023 Harvest	2024 Harvest
DB468	1	0	1	1	0
DB470	1	0	5	3	1
SB470	0	0	0	1	0
General Season	3*	3	6*	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 (20%)</b>	<b>3 (33%)</b>	<b>12 (33%)</b>	<b>9 (44%)</b>	<b>6 (60%)</b>

\*Illegal bear taken

Table 2. The total harvest of black bear in Unit 14C for RY20–24.

Hunt	2020 Harvest		2021 Harvest		2022 Harvest		2023 Harvest		2024 Harvest	
	Male	Female								
RL450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RL460	1	1	5	0	4	3	4	9	2	1
DL455	0	1	0	3	1	3	1	2	1	2
DL457	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
General Season	57	30	30	20	46	26	31	33	33	18
Total	58	32	35	23	52	32	36	44	36	21
% of Total	64%	<b>36%</b>	60%	<b>40%</b>	62%	<b>38%</b>	45%	<b>55%</b>	63%	<b>37%</b>
Grand Total	90		58		84		80		57	

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this methods and means proposal. Few human/bear conflict reports are received each year from the Knik River Road area, but these have all been reported in conjunction with unsecured livestock, birdfeeders, or the improper handling of garbage.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Require trap identification in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a trap identification regulation for Unit 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There is no state requirement for trap identification in Unit 14C, except for that portion of Chugach State Park outside of the Eagle River, Anchorage, and Eklutna management areas where a person using traps or snares in the area must register with the Department of Natural Resources Chugach State Park area office, under 5AAC 92.550.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

Identification tags providing either the trapper’s name or personal identification number (PIN) would be required for all traps and snares set in Unit 14C, outside of the Chugach State Park Management Area.

**BACKGROUND:** Unit 14C supports a diverse set of user groups. Conflicts between trappers and other users have been reported previously. There are many consumptive and non-consumptive users utilizing the extensive trail systems throughout the Unit. One of the common suggestions to alleviate some of the conflicts is to require trappers to mark their gear with a unique identifier.

Requiring trap identification tags can be helpful in certain circumstances. Trap identification tags may increase compliance with trapping regulations and discourage setting traps in irresponsible locations. Common concerns expressed by the public about the requirement of trap identification tags include (1) tampering of legal sets, and theft of traps for use in illegal trapping activities, (2) harassment of trappers by people who disagree with trapping, and (3) potentially reduced trapping success as a result of animals detecting trap tags via smell or sight.

In 2016, the Board of Game removed trap identification regulations in Region I that read: “Trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trapper’s name and address, or the trapper’s permanent identification number, or is set within 50 yards of a sign that lists the trapper’s name and address, or the trapper’s permanent identification number; the trapper must use the trapper’s Alaska driver’s license number or state identification card number as the required permanent identification number; and if a trapper chooses to place a sign at a snaring site rather than tagging individual snares, the sign must be at least 3 inches by 5 inches in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one-half inch high and one-eighth inch wide in a color that contrasts with the color of the sign.”

Unit 14C is located entirely within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, therefore there are no customary and traditional use findings for furbearers in this area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal as there is no biological concern, and issues related to traps being set out of season are enforcement issues.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 198 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Shorten the deer hunting season for nonresidents in the remainder of Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to shorten the nonresident deer hunting season in Unit 8 Remainder by 36 days to end November 25 instead of December 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in

Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would shorten the nonresident hunting season for deer in the Remainder of Unit 8 (non-road system) by 36 days and may decrease nonresident deer harvest in the remainder area. A shortened nonresident deer season will likely have minimal impact on the overall population but would result in reduced harvest opportunity for nonresidents.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, residents and nonresidents had the same hunting season and bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8. At the March 2023 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal to reduce the nonresident bag limit to what it is today.

Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents, and income generated from services provided for resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where deer originated in southeast Alaska; much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2019-2020, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has largely recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons of moderate winter conditions.

During the 8 years prior to the nonresident bag limit change in RY23 (RY15-RY22), an average of 4,093 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 72%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 5,165 deer, of which 84% are male. Between RY15 and RY22, on average 49% of successful hunters harvested 1 deer, 27% harvested 2 deer, and 24% harvested 3 deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 8-year averages for these months (RY15-RY22) totaling 25.2%, 43.2%, and 18.1% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Successful nonresident hunters harvested approximately 1.4 deer/year for the 8 years (RY15–RY22) prior to the nonresident bag limit change in 2023. From RY15–RY22 nonresidents comprised about 27.3% of deer hunters annually (average 1,112) of which approximately 71% were successful, resulting in an average 8-year, nonresident harvest of 1,114 deer/year (Range 795–1,468) of which 92% are bucks. However, the total number of nonresident hunters appears to fluctuate with weather (i.e., winter severity) and deer population forecasts. Nonresident hunter participation decreases significantly following harsh winters when deer hunting forecasts are bleak. Successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.8 deer/year during the same 8-year period (RY15–RY22). Residents comprise 72% of deer hunters of which ~72% of those who hunt are successful, resulting in an average 8-year, resident harvest of 4,039 deer/year (Range 2681–6661) of which approximately 81% are bucks. Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size.

Since the nonresident bag limit change in 2023, successful nonresident hunters have harvested approximately 1.0 deer/year for the last 2 regulatory years (RY23–RY24). From RY23–RY24 nonresidents comprised about 35.9% of deer hunters annually (average 1,445) of which approximately 54% were successful, resulting in an average 2-year, nonresident harvest of 790 deer/year (range 786–793) of which 99% are bucks. During this same time period (RY23–RY24), successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year and comprised about 63.9% of deer hunters annually (average 2,573) of which approximately 65% were successful.

This resulted in an average 2-year resident harvest of 2,890 deer/year (range 2,870–2,909) of which 77% were bucks.

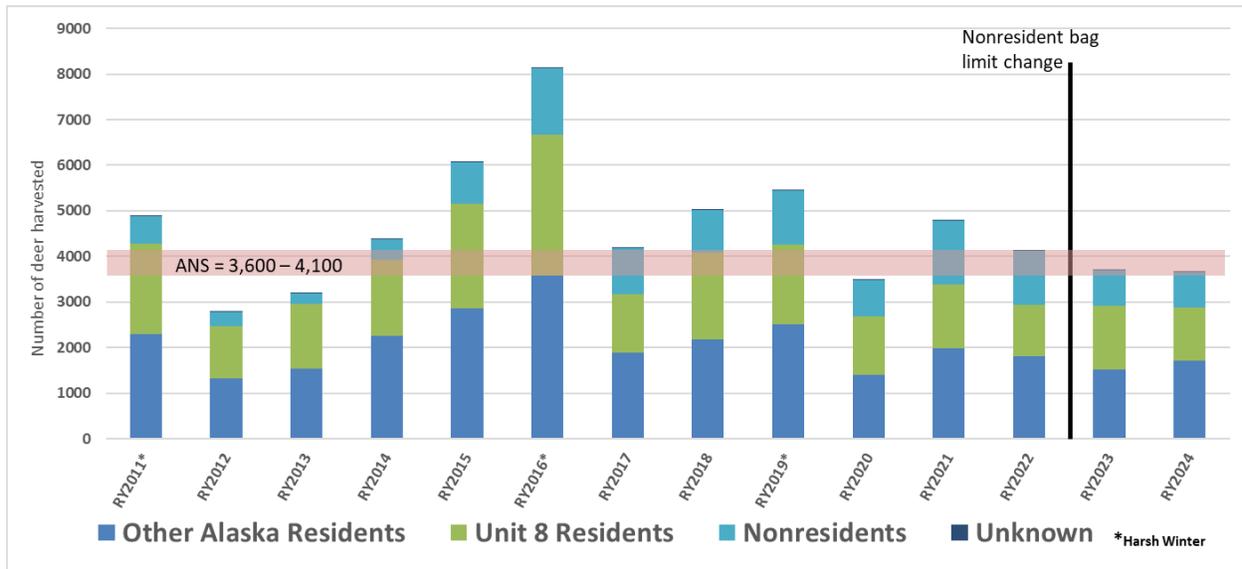


Fig. 1. Unit 8 deer harvest by residency.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from October 1 – January 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of reducing the nonresident season for deer in the remainder of Unit 8, and is **OPPOSED** to unnecessary reductions in opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 199 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Increase the deer bag limit in Unit 8 remainder for nonresidents from 1 buck to 2 or 3 deer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Carlson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder from 1 buck to 2 or 3 deer with bucks only available for harvest before October 1.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(6) Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay		
1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31
Remainder of Unit 8		
RESIDENT HUNTERS		
3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS		
1 buck		Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the Remainder of Unit 8 (i.e., non-road system) from 1 buck to 2 or 3 deer, with bucks only available for harvest prior to October 1. This proposal could increase harvest in the remainder area but is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, residents and nonresidents had the same hunting season and bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8. At the March 2023 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal to reduce the nonresident bag limit to what it is today based on concerns for declining deer abundance due to severe winter weather.

Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Sitka black-tailed deer surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. For example, in the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for southwest Kodiak communities, residents of Old Harbor, Akhiok, and Larsen Bay harvested between 29 – 40 lb. of deer per capita (source: Community Subsistence Information System). Income generated from services provided for resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska) much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2019-2020, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

During the 8 years prior to the nonresident bag limit change in RY23 (RY15-RY22), an average of 4,093 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 72%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual

harvest of 5,165 deer, of which 84% are male. Between RY15 and RY22, on average 49% of successful hunters harvested one deer, 27% harvested two deer, and 24% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 8-year averages (RY15-RY22) totaling 25.2%, 43.2%, and 18.1% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Successful nonresident hunters harvested approximately 1.4 deer/year for the 8 years (RY15–RY22) prior to the nonresident bag limit change in 2023. From RY15–RY22 nonresidents comprised about 27.3% of deer hunters annually (average 1,112) of which approximately 71% were successful, resulting in an average 8-year, non-resident harvest of 1,114 deer/year (Range 795–1,468) of which 92% are bucks. However, the total number of nonresident hunters appears to fluctuate with weather (i.e., winter severity) and deer population forecasts. Nonresident hunter participation decreases significantly following harsh winters when deer hunting forecasts are bleak compared to hunter desires. Successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.8 deer/year during the same 8-year period (RY15–RY22). Residents comprise 72% of deer hunters of which ~72% of those who hunt are successful, resulting in an average 8-year, resident harvest of 4,039 deer/year (Range 2681–6661) of which approximately 81% are bucks. Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size.

Since the nonresident bag limit change in 2023, successful nonresident hunters have harvested approximately 1.0 deer/year for the last 2 regulatory years (RY23–RY24). From RY23–RY24 nonresidents comprised about 35.9% of deer hunters annually (average 1,445) of which approximately 54% were successful, resulting in an average 2-year, nonresident harvest of 790 deer/year (range 786–793) of which 99% are bucks. During this same time period (RY23–RY24), successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year and comprised about 63.9% of deer hunters annually (average 2,573) of which approximately 65% were successful. This resulted in an average 2-year resident harvest of 2,890 deer/year (range 2,870–2,909) of which 77% were bucks.

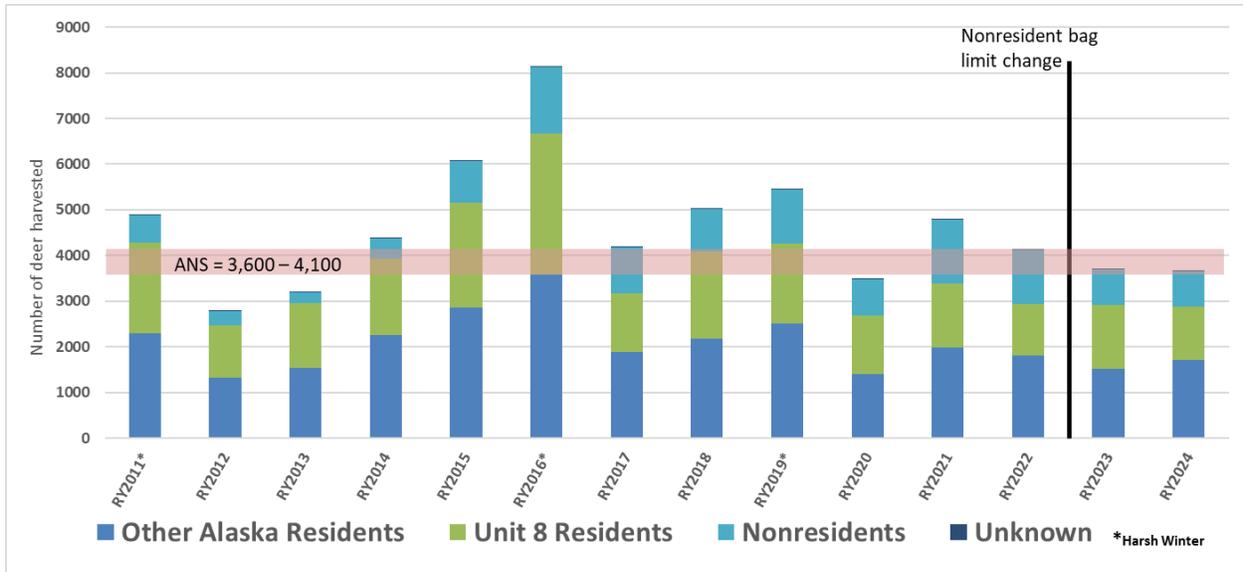


Fig. 1. Unit 8 deer harvest by residency.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from October 1 – January 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to change the nonresident bag limit back to what it was, prior to 2023, because an increased bag limit for nonresidents is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population, and the proposal is allocative. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 200 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Increase the deer bag limit in Unit 8 remainder for nonresidents from 1 buck to 2 bucks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roark Brown

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder from 1 buck to 2 bucks.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(6) Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay		
1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31
Remainder of Unit 8		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS</b>		
3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS</b>		
1 buck		Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the Remainder of Unit 8 (non-road system) from 1 buck to 2 bucks. This proposal could increase nonresident harvest in the remainder area but is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, residents and nonresidents had the same hunting season and bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8. At the March 2023 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal to reduce the nonresident bag limit to what it is today based on concerns with declining deer abundance due to severe winter weather.

Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. For example, in the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for southwest Kodiak communities, residents of Old Harbor, Akhiok, and Larsen Bay harvested between 29 – 40 lb. of deer per capita (Community Subsistence Information System). Income generated from services provided from resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska); much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

During the 8 years prior to the nonresident bag limit change in RY23 (RY15-RY22), an average of 4,093 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 72%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 5,165 deer, of which 84% are male. Between RY15 and RY22, on average 49% of

successful hunters harvested one deer, 27% harvested two deer, and 24% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 8-year averages (RY15-RY22) totaling 25.2%, 43.2%, and 18.1% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Successful nonresident hunters harvested approximately 1.4 deer/year for the 8 years (RY15–RY22) prior to the nonresident bag limit change in 2023. From RY15–RY22 nonresidents comprised about 27.3% of deer hunters annually (average 1,112) of which approximately 71% were successful, resulting in an average 8-year, non-resident harvest of 1,114 deer/year (Range 795–1,468) of which 92% are bucks. However, the total number of nonresident hunters appears to fluctuate with weather (i.e., winter severity) and deer population forecasts. Nonresident hunter participation decreases significantly following harsh winters when deer hunting forecasts are bleak. Successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.8 deer/year during the same 8 year period (RY15–RY22). Residents comprise 72% of deer hunters of which ~72% of those who hunt are successful, resulting in an average 8-year, resident harvest of 4,039 deer/year (Range 2681–6661) of which approximately 81% are bucks. Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size.

Since the nonresident bag limit change in 2023, successful nonresident hunters have harvested approximately 1.0 deer/year for the last 2 regulatory years (RY23–RY24). From RY23–RY24 nonresidents comprised about 35.9% of deer hunters annually (average 1,445) of which approximately 54% were successful, resulting in an average 2-year, nonresident harvest of 790 deer/year (range 786–793) of which 99% are bucks. During this same time period (RY23–RY24), successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year and comprised about 63.9% of deer hunters annually (average 2,573) of which approximately 65% were successful. This resulted in an average 2-year resident harvest of 2,890 deer/year (range 2,870–2,909) of which 77% were bucks.

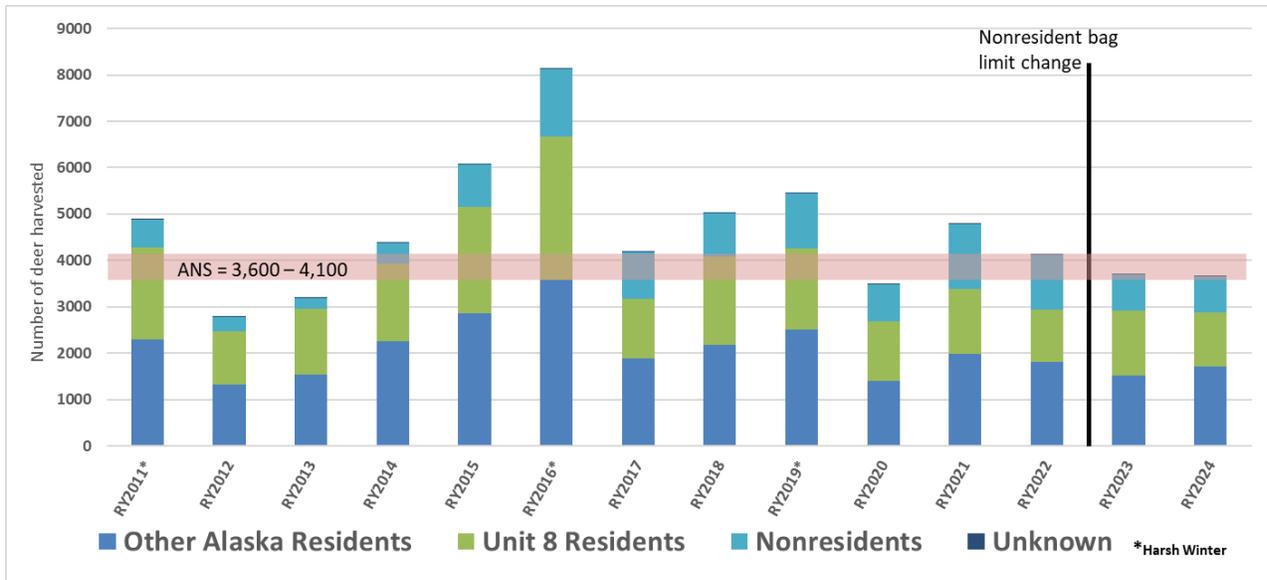


Fig. 1. Unit 8 deer harvest by residency.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 because an increased bag limit for nonresidents is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population, and this proposal is allocative. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Increase the deer bag limit in Unit 8 remainder for nonresidents from 1 buck to 2 bucks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Harris

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 remainder from 1 buck to 2 bucks.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(6) Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay		
1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31
Remainder of Unit 8		
RESIDENT HUNTERS		
3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS		
1 buck		Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 (non-road system) from 1 buck to 2 bucks. This proposal could increase nonresident harvest in the remainder area but is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, residents and nonresidents had the same hunting season and bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8. At the March 2023 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal to reduce the nonresident bag limit to what it is today based on concerns with declining deer abundance due to severe winter weather.

Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. For example, in the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for southwest Kodiak communities, residents of Old Harbor, Akhiok, and Larsen Bay harvested between 29 – 40 lb. of deer per capita (Community Subsistence Information System). Income generated from services provided from resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska); much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

During the 8 years prior to the nonresident bag limit change in RY23 (RY15-RY22), an average of 4,093 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 72%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 5,165 deer, of which 84% are male. Between RY15 and RY22, on average 49% of

successful hunters harvested one deer, 27% harvested two deer, and 24% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 8-year averages (RY15-RY22) totaling 25.2%, 43.2%, and 18.1% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Successful nonresident hunters harvested approximately 1.4 deer/year for the 8 years (RY15–RY22) prior to the nonresident bag limit change in 2023. From RY15–RY22 nonresidents comprised about 27.3% of deer hunters annually (average 1,112) of which approximately 71% were successful, resulting in an average 8-year, non-resident harvest of 1,114 deer/year (Range 795–1,468) of which 92% are bucks. However, the total number of nonresident hunters appears to fluctuate with weather (i.e., winter severity) and deer population forecasts. Nonresident hunter participation decreases significantly following harsh winters when deer hunting forecasts are bleak. Successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.8 deer/year during the same 8 year period (RY15–RY22). Residents comprise 72% of deer hunters of which ~72% of those who hunt are successful, resulting in an average 8-year, resident harvest of 4,039 deer/year (Range 2681–6661) of which approximately 81% are bucks. Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size.

Since the nonresident bag limit change in 2023, successful nonresident hunters have harvested approximately 1.0 deer/year for the last 2 regulatory years (RY23–RY24). From RY23–RY24 nonresidents comprised about 35.9% of deer hunters annually (average 1,445) of which approximately 54% were successful, resulting in an average 2-year, nonresident harvest of 790 deer/year (range 786–793) of which 99% are bucks. During this same time period (RY23–RY24), successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year and comprised about 63.9% of deer hunters annually (average 2,573) of which approximately 65% were successful. This resulted in an average 2-year resident harvest of 2,890 deer/year (range 2,870–2,909) of which 77% were bucks.

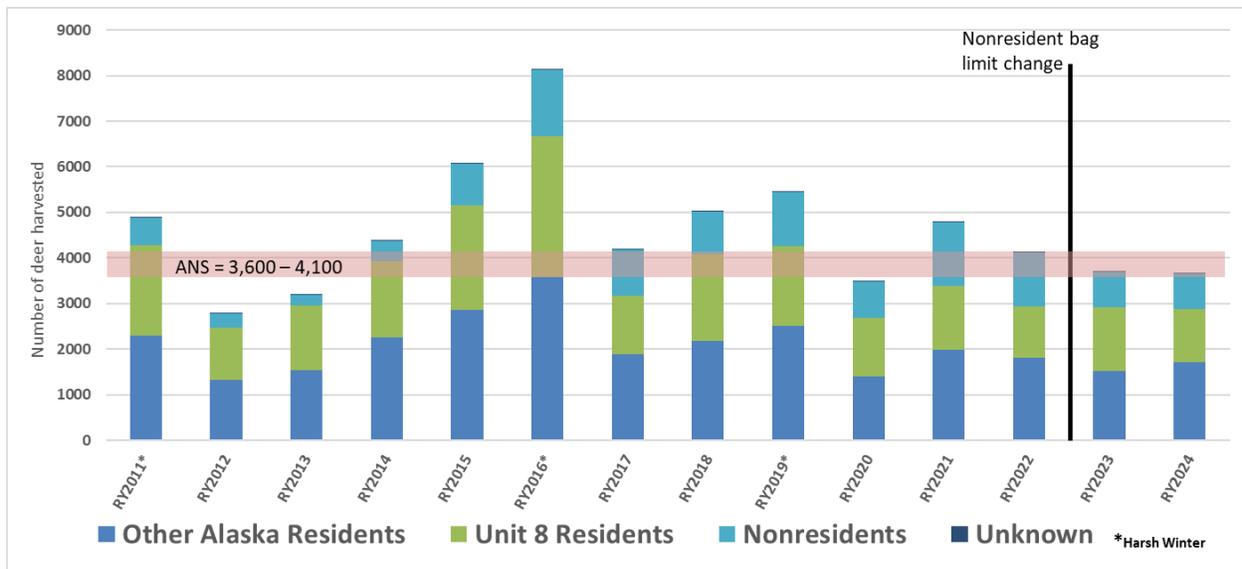


Fig. 1. Unit 8 deer harvest by residency.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 from 1 buck to 2 bucks because an increased bag limit for nonresidents is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population, and the proposal is allocative. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 202 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Change the bag limit for deer in portions of Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brandon Bartleson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a new deer management hunt area that is adjacent to the current road system deer management area and consists of guide use areas 01, 02, 26, 27, and 28. The bag limit for this area would be 3 deer total, of which 2 bucks can be harvested from August 1–December 1 and one antlerless deer from December 1–December 31. As written, this proposal would apply to both residents and nonresidents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to

Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would decrease the size of the Kodiak Road System Management Area (KRMA) and create a new hunt area adjacent to the KRMA encompassing guide use areas 01, 02, 26, 27, and 28 (Figure 1). Seasons and bag limits within the KRMA would remain unchanged and little, or no, effect on harvest. The total bag limit in the new hunt area would be 3 deer with 2 bucks available for harvest from Aug. 1–Dec. 1, and one antlerless deer from Dec. 1–Dec. 31. This proposal would likely have minimal biological impact on the overall deer population.

**BACKGROUND:** Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. In the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for Port Lions in 2022, residents harvested 15 lb of deer per capita, but residents noted during surveys that it was becoming increasingly difficult to acquire the deer

needed due to increased competition from nonlocal hunters. Income generated from services provided to resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska), much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2019-2020, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

Over the last 10 regulatory years (RY) (RY15-RY24), an average of 4,080 hunters (resident and nonresident) have entered the field annually with an average success rate of 69%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 4,870 deer, of which 83% are male. Between RY15 and RY24, on average 53% of successful hunters harvested one deer, 25% harvested two deer, and 19% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 10-year averages totaling 24.9%, 43.7%, and 18% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Deer harvest information in Unit 8 is summarized by survey areas. These areas include several Uniform Coding Units (UCU) that make up large watersheds. The boundaries of these survey areas do not align with the KRMA; survey areas 831, 832, 833 and 834 are entirely or partially included within the KRMA. Harvest statistics from these areas provide an estimate of harvest from that portion of the KRMA east of a line from the mouth of Elbow Creek to the mouth of Saltery Creek. Estimates of harvest from that portion of the KRMA surrounding the community of Port Lions are not available. Between RY15-RY24, an average of 580 deer were harvested annually in these survey areas (11% does and 89% bucks). In the same period, an average of 4,265 deer were harvested annually in the remaining survey areas in Unit 8 (18% does and 82% bucks). Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size. The addition of a new hunt area adjacent to the current road system management area is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from October. 1 – January. 31.

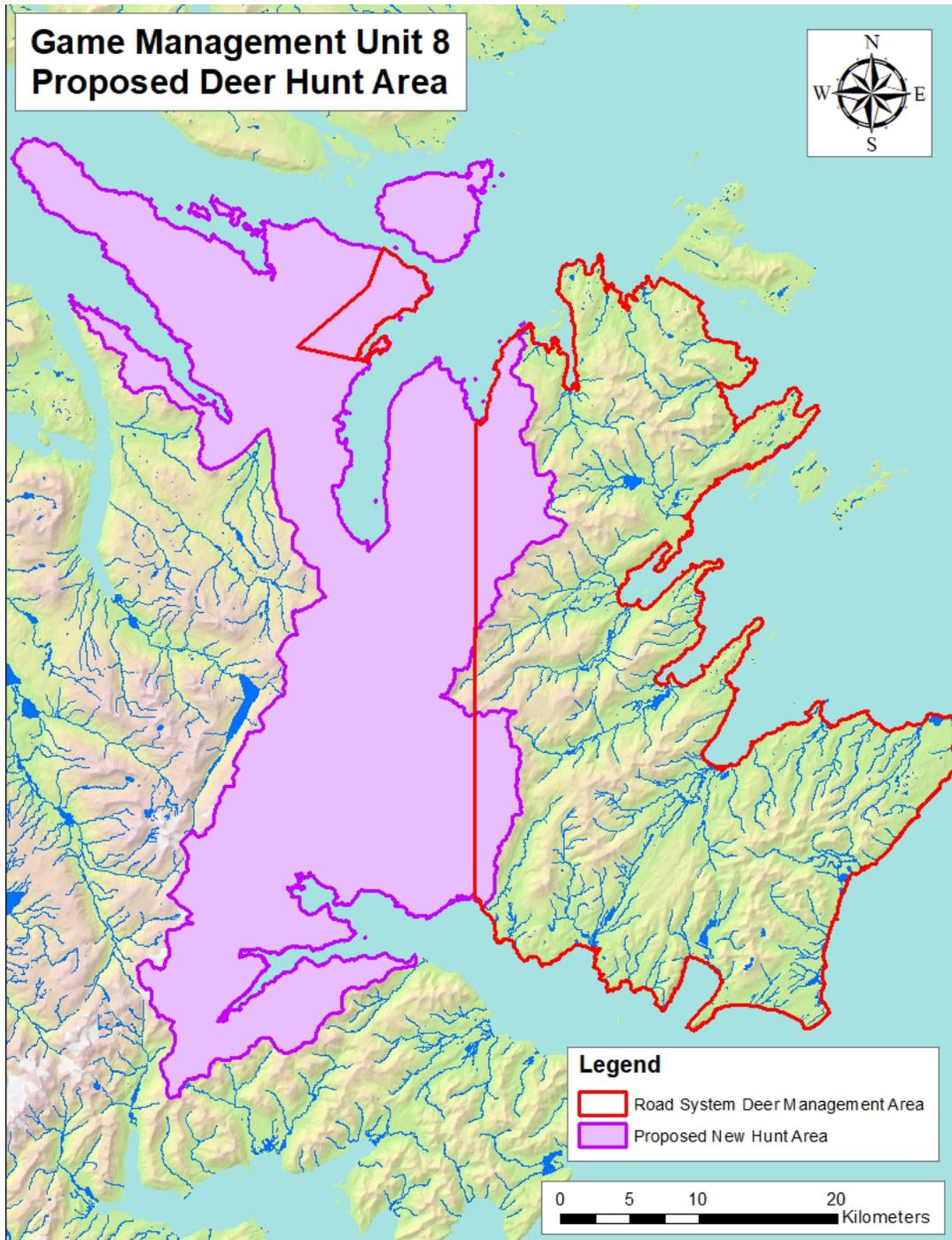


Figure 1. Proposed new deer hunt area comprised of guide use areas 01, 02, 26, 27, and 28 for the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 2026.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal to create a new deer management area adjacent to the current road system management area due to the increase in regulatory complexity. It is unlikely to have a significant biological impact on the overall deer population. The current Road System Deer Management Area was designed to provide a measure of protection in areas where deer historically received the heaviest hunting pressure and where winter losses were documented as the most severe.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 203 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 remainder from 1 buck to 3 deer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Zachary Porter

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 remainder from 1 buck to 3 deer total.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and

adjacent small islands in  
Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 (non-road system) from 1 buck to 3 deer total. This proposal may increase nonresident harvest in the remainder area but is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population or hunting opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, residents and nonresidents had the same hunting season and bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8. At the March 2023 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal to reduce the nonresident bag limit to what it is today based on concerns over declining deer abundance due to severe winter weather.

Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. For example, in the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for southwest Kodiak communities, residents of Old Harbor, Akhiok, and Larsen Bay harvested between 29 – 40 lb of deer per capita (Community Subsistence Information System). Income generated from services provided from resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska); much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced

snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

During the 8 years prior to the nonresident bag limit change in RY23 (RY15-RY22), an average of 4,093 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 72%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 5,165 deer, of which 84% are male. Between RY15 and RY22, on average 49% of successful hunters harvested one deer, 27% harvested two deer, and 24% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 8-year averages (RY15-RY22) totaling 25.2%, 43.2%, and 18.1% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Successful nonresident hunters harvested approximately 1.4 deer/year for the 8 years (RY15–RY22) prior to the nonresident bag limit change in 2023. From RY15–RY22 nonresidents comprised about 27.3% of deer hunters annually (average 1,112) of which approximately 71% were successful, resulting in an average 8-year, non-resident harvest of 1,114 deer/year (Range 795–1,468) of which 92% are bucks. However, the total number of nonresident hunters appears to fluctuate with weather (i.e., winter severity) and deer population forecasts. Nonresident hunter participation decreases significantly following harsh winters when deer hunting forecasts are bleak. Successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.8 deer/year during the same 8 year period (RY15–RY22). Residents comprise 72% of deer hunters of which ~72% of those who hunt are successful, resulting in an average 8-year, resident harvest of 4,039 deer/year (Range 2681–6661) of which approximately 81% are bucks. Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size.

Since the nonresident bag limit change in 2023, successful nonresident hunters have harvested approximately 1.0 deer/year for the last 2 regulatory years (RY23–RY24). From RY23–RY24 nonresidents comprised about 35.9% of deer hunters annually (average 1,445) of which approximately 54% were successful, resulting in an average 2-year, nonresident harvest of 790 deer/year (range 786–793) of which 99% are bucks. During this same time period (RY23–RY24), successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year and comprised about

63.9% of deer hunters annually (average 2,573) of which approximately 65% were successful. This resulted in an average 2-year resident harvest of 2,890 deer/year (range 2,870–2,909) of which 77% were bucks.

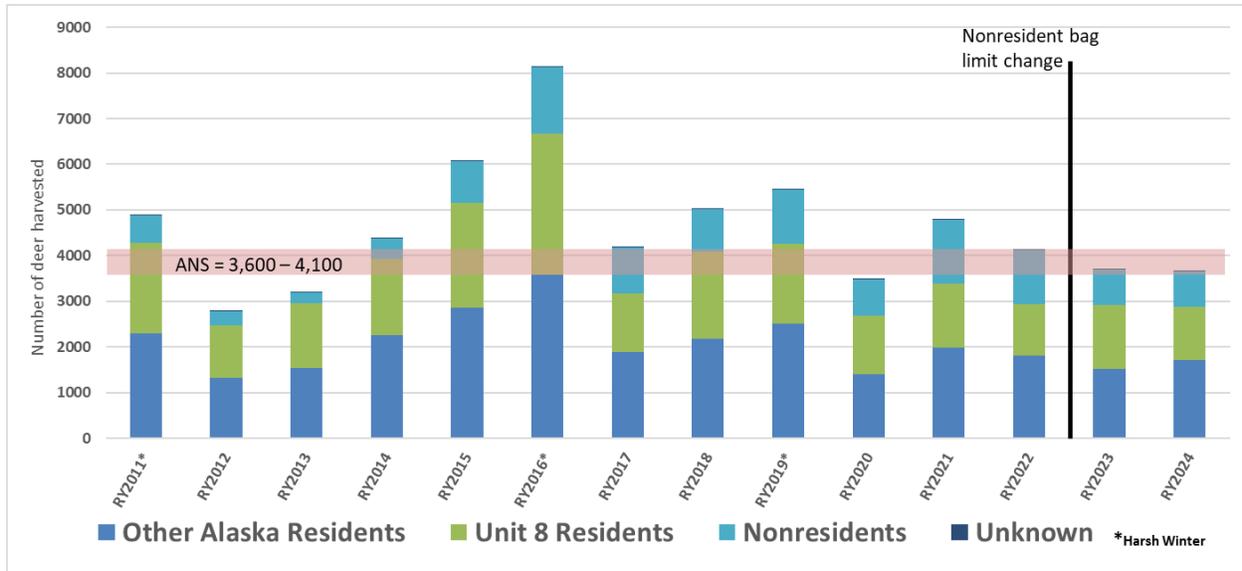


Fig. 1. Unit 8 deer harvest by residency.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 from 1 buck to 3 deer because an increased bag limit for nonresidents is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population, and the proposal is allocative. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 204 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Increase the deer bag limit in Unit 8 remainder for nonresidents from 1 buck to 2 bucks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Austin Atkinson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 remainder from 1 buck to 2 bucks.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(6) Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay		
1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31
Remainder of Unit 8		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS</b>		
3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS</b>		
1 buck		Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 (non-road system) from 1 buck to 2 bucks. This proposal may increase nonresident buck harvest in the remainder area but is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population or opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2023, residents and nonresidents had the same hunting season and bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8. At the March 2023 Southcentral Region Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal to reduce the nonresident bag limit to what it is today based on declining deer abundance due to severe winter weather.

Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. For example, in the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for southwest Kodiak communities, residents of Old Harbor, Akhiok, and Larsen Bay harvested between 29 – 40 lb. of deer per capita (Community Subsistence Information System). Income generated from services provided to resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska); much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

During the 8 years prior to the nonresident bag limit change in RY23 (RY15-RY22), an average of 4,093 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 72%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 5,165 deer, of which 84% are male. Between RY15 and RY22, on average 49% of

successful hunters harvested one deer, 27% harvested two deer, and 24% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 8-year averages (RY15-RY22) totaling 25.2%, 43.2%, and 18.1% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Successful nonresident hunters harvested approximately 1.4 deer/year for the 8 years (RY15–RY22) prior to the nonresident bag limit change in 2023. From RY15–RY22 nonresidents comprised about 27.3% of deer hunters annually (average 1,112) of which approximately 71% were successful, resulting in an average 8-year, non-resident harvest of 1,114 deer/year (Range 795–1,468) of which 92% are bucks. However, the total number of nonresident hunters appears to fluctuate with weather (i.e., winter severity) and deer population forecasts. Nonresident hunter participation decreases significantly following harsh winters when deer hunting forecasts are bleak. Successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.8 deer/year during the same 8 year period (RY15–RY22). Residents comprise 72% of deer hunters of which ~72% of those who hunt are successful, resulting in an average 8-year, resident harvest of 4,039 deer/year (Range 2681–6661) of which approximately 81% are bucks. Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size.

Since the nonresident bag limit change in 2023, successful nonresident hunters have harvested approximately 1.0 deer/year for the last 2 regulatory years (RY23–RY24). From RY23–RY24 nonresidents comprised about 35.9% of deer hunters annually (average 1,445) of which approximately 54% were successful, resulting in an average 2-year, nonresident harvest of 790 deer/year (range 786–793) of which 99% are bucks. During this same time period (RY23–RY24), successful resident hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year and comprised about 63.9% of deer hunters annually (average 2,573) of which approximately 65% were successful. This resulted in an average 2-year resident harvest of 2,890 deer/year (range 2,870–2,909) of which 77% were bucks.

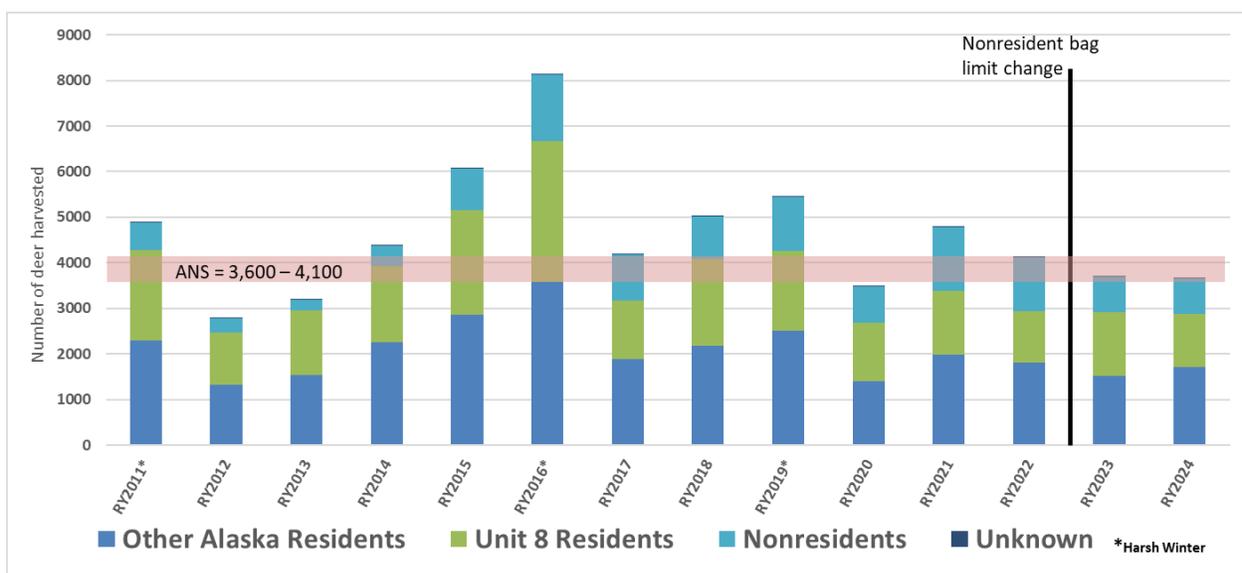


Fig. 1. Unit 8 deer harvest by residency.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in the remainder of Unit 8 from 1 buck to 2 bucks because an increased bag limit for nonresidents is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population, and the proposal is allocative. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 205 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Change season dates and bag limits for deer in a portion of Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lucas Smith

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a new deer management hunt area adjacent to the Kodiak Road System Management Area (KRMA) with unique season dates, bag limits, and antler restrictions. The newly created hunt area would include portions of Unit 8 accessible along established trails by off-road vehicles outside the KRMA in Ugak Bay, including Saltery Cove and Rough Creek. The new hunt area would also have distinct season dates and bag limits for youth hunters and hunters with disabilities.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

...

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and

east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create a new hunt area for deer adjacent to the Kodiak Road System Management Areas in portions of Unit 8 accessible along established trails by off-road vehicles outside the Kodiak Road System Management Area. The proposal will introduce an antler restriction for deer in the proposed area, and will create additional opportunity for youth and disabled hunters. The proposal does not specify if the changes are intended to apply to residents, nonresidents, or both. The newly created hunt area would have the following season dates, bag limits, and antler restrictions:

Residents and Nonresidents:  
 August 1 – October 31  
 3 bucks  
 No antler restrictions

No weapons restrictions

November 1 – November 30

3 adult deer

Harvested bucks must have minimum spike length of 3 inches, harvest of does with fawns and fawns prohibited

No weapons restrictions

December 1 – December 31

3 adult deer

Harvested bucks must have minimum spike length of 3 inches

Muzzleloader or primitive weapons only

Youth hunters and hunters with disabilities:

August 1 – December 31

3 deer of any sex or age

No weapons restrictions

If adopted, this proposal would increase regulatory complexity which may be difficult for hunters to understand, for the department to explain, and may make enforcement difficult.

**BACKGROUND:** Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. In the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for Port Lions in 2022, residents harvested 15 lb of deer per capita, but noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult to acquire the deer needed due to increased competition from nonlocal hunters. Income generated from services provided to resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska), much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the

last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions. Currently there are no biological concerns for deer in Unit 8.

Over the last 10 years (RY15-RY24), an average of 4,080 hunters (residents and nonresidents) have entered the field annually with an average success rate of 69%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 4,870 deer, of which 83% are male. Between RY15 and RY24, on average 53% of successful hunters harvested one deer, 25% harvested two deer, and 19% harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 10-year averages totaling 24.9%, 43.7%, and 18% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Deer harvest information in Unit 8 is summarized by survey areas. These areas include several Uniform Coding Units (UCU) that make up large watersheds. The boundaries of these survey areas do not align with the KRMA; survey areas 831, 832, 833 and 834 are entirely or partially included within the KRMA. Harvest statistics from these areas provide an estimate of harvest from that portion of the KRMA east of a line from the mouth of Elbow Creek to the mouth of Saltery Creek. Estimates of harvest from that portion of the KRMA surrounding the community of Port Lions are not available. Between RY15-RY24, an average of 580 deer were harvested annually in these survey areas (11% does and 89% bucks). In the same period, an average of 4,265 deer were harvested annually in the remaining survey areas in Unit 8 (18% does and 82% bucks). Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size. However, the new hunt area would create a unique hunting season for youth hunters and hunters with disabilities allowing increased hunting opportunities. Youth only deer hunting opportunities are currently available in the KRMA through a weapons restricted hunt during the period Nov. 16-Dec. 31. Disabled hunter opportunity is available, primarily through methods and means exemptions, for a variety of species in Unit 8.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

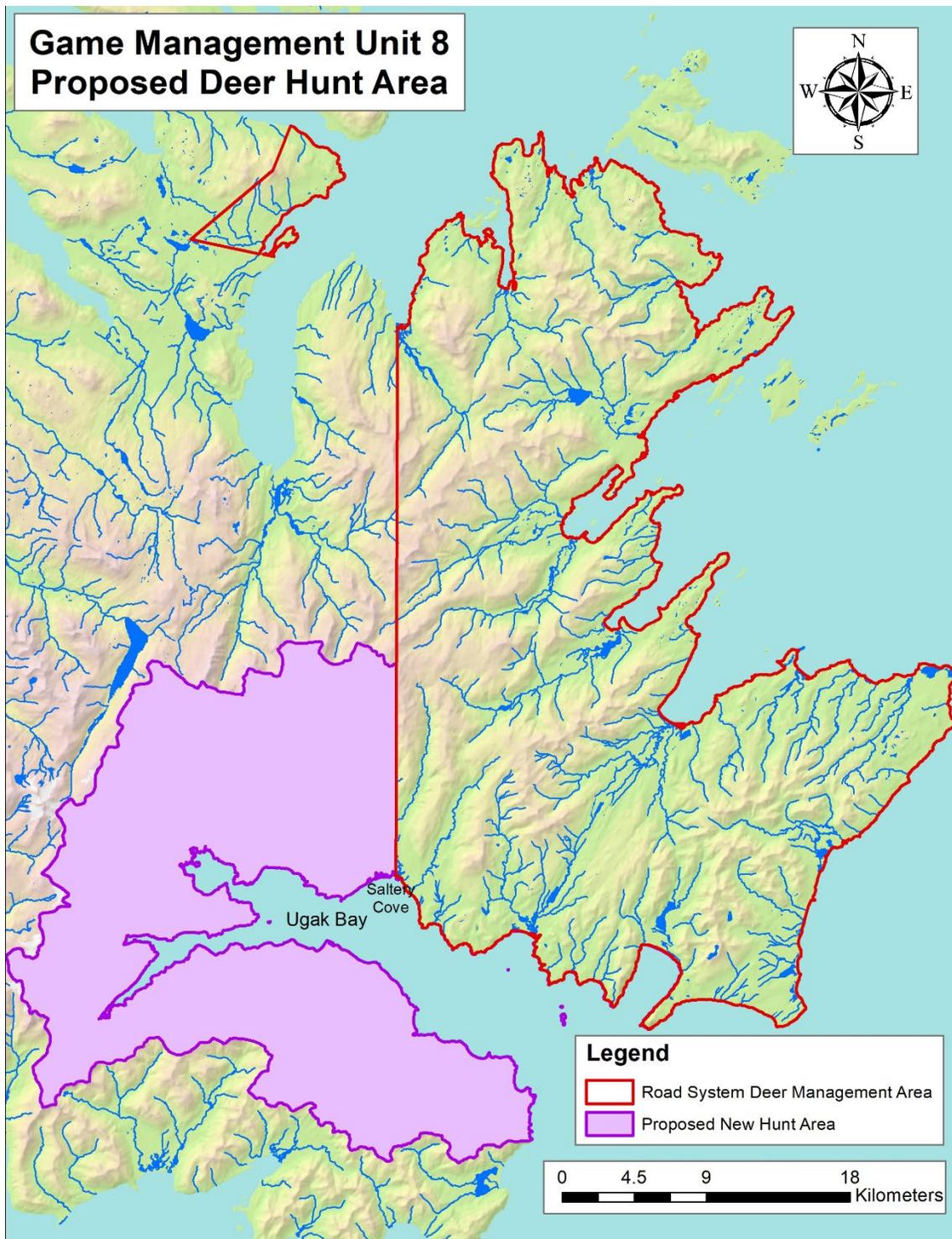


Figure 1. Proposed new deer hunt area comprised of off-road accessible areas in Ugak Bay, including Saltery Cove and Rough Creek for the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 2026.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on creating a new deer management hunt area adjacent to the current Unit 8 road system hunt area with unique season

dates, bag limits, and antler restrictions. This proposal would increase regulatory complexity and is likely to have minimal impact on the overall deer population. Antler restrictions for deer are not necessary as the herd has fully recovered from declines caused by severe winter weather. The department **SUPPORTS** providing additional opportunity for youth hunters or hunters with disabilities and is available to work with hunters to identify areas and develop future board proposals. If the board adopts the proposal it will need to discuss and determine if the changes are applicable to residents, nonresidents or both.

To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 206 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Change the boundary of the Kodiak Road System Management Area for deer hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Neff

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to move the southern terminus of the western boundary of the Kodiak Road System Management Area (KRMA) from the mouth of the Sallery creek to the mouth of Wild Creek.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

...

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from

Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would move the southern terminus of the western boundary of the KRMA from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Wild Creek (Figure 1). The northern terminus of the western boundary of the KRMA (mouth of Elbow Creek) would remain unchanged. This proposal would increase the size of the KRMA. If adopted this proposal is not anticipated to have a significant impact on harvest or hunting opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Deer are an important subsistence, economic, and recreational resource throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. Venison has surpassed marine mammals as a primary source of mammalian protein for community residents. In the most recent comprehensive subsistence update for the Kodiak road system, residents harvested 6 lb. of deer per capita (Community Subsistence Information System). Income generated from services provided to resident and nonresident deer hunters is a major factor in the local economy.

Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska), much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has fully recovered. This recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last 5 years. Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

Deer harvest information in Unit 8 is summarized by survey areas. These areas consist of several Uniform Coding Units (UCU) that make up large watersheds. The boundaries of these survey areas do not align with the KRMA; survey areas 831, 832, 833 and 834 are entirely or partially included within the KRMA. Harvest statistics from these areas provide an estimate of harvest from that portion of the KRMA east of a line from the mouth of Elbow Creek to the mouth of Saltery Creek. Estimates of harvest from that portion of the KRMA near the community of Port Lions are not available. On average over the last 5 years (RY20–RY24), 435 deer have been harvested annually from survey areas 831-834 and 3,507 deer have been harvested from the remaining survey areas in Unit 8 (810-830, 835). Compared to the previous 5-year period (RY15–RY19) when an average of 725 deer were harvested annually from survey areas 831-834 and 5,024 deer annually were harvested from the remaining survey areas in Unit 8 (810-830, 835). Hunter participation within survey areas 831-834 has decreased from slightly from 1028 hunters RY15–RY19 to 764 hunters in survey areas 831-834 during RY20–RY24. Overall, deer harvest on the road system has been fairly stable except for a few years of high harvest during RY15 and RY16 when the population was at its highest level since harvest reporting became mandatory. This increase in harvest was a function of an increase in hunter participation paired with several years of high overwinter deer survival.

The road system deer management area is open to both residents and nonresidents; seasons and bag limits are the same for both groups.

Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size. There are no current biological concerns

regarding the deer population on Kodiak. Changing the hunt boundary of the KRMA is likely to have minimal impact on the overall deer population.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

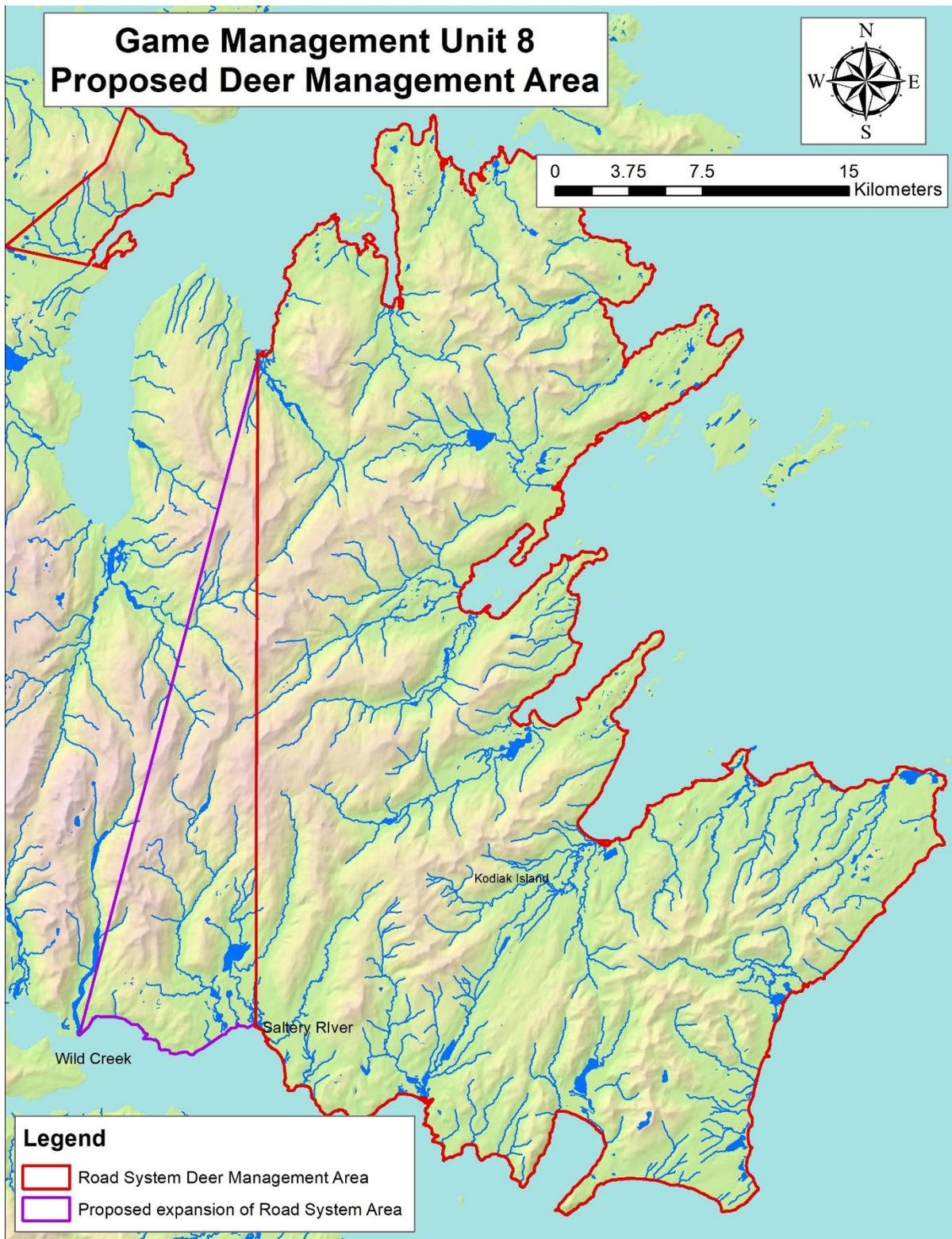


Figure 1. Proposed modified hunt boundaries for the road system deer management hunt area proposed for the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 2026.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is unlikely this proposal would significantly impact deer abundance or harvest. If adopted, the department will do outreach to ensure hunters and others are informed.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 207 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Require an antler restriction for deer in a portion of Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brandon Bartleson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a new deer management hunt area that is adjacent to the Kodiak Road System Management Area (KRMA), consisting of guide use areas 01, 02, 26, 27, and 28 and implement unique antler restrictions in this area such that bucks must have a fork on at least one side of their antlers before they are legal for harvest.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

...

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and

adjacent small islands in  
Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would decrease the size of the KRMA and create a new adjacent hunt area that encompasses guide use areas 01, 02, 26, 27, and 28 (Figure 1). Bag limits for the Kodiak Road System Management Area would remain unchanged. The newly created hunt area would establish antler restrictions that would define a legal animal as a buck with a forked antler on at least one side. If passed, this proposal would increase regulatory complexity, unnecessarily restrict reasonable opportunity for subsistence users as a result of the antler restrictions and may reduce the harvest of younger age-class bucks in the area.

**BACKGROUND:** Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas of southeast Alaska where Sitka Black-tailed deer are native, much of the Kodiak archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides also provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated

25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has largely recovered. The recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last few years. Supporting this assertion, deer mortality surveys conducted in 2024 and 2025 indicated minimal winter mortality (2 and 0 deer, respectively) in the primary area historically surveyed to assess winter mortality (i.e. Chief Cove). Observed winter mortality in 2024 and 2025 differed significantly from observed winter mortality in this area following years with harsh winter conditions (2006: 47 observed deer mortalities, 2008: 40, 2016: 30). Anecdotal reports and historical surveys indicate the deer population commonly recovers following 3-4 seasons with moderate winter conditions.

Although harvest of deer is an important consideration, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size. There are no current biological concerns regarding the deer population on Kodiak. The addition of a new hunt area adjacent to the current road system management area that has unique antler restrictions for bucks would presumably decrease the harvest of younger age class bucks but is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population. Currently there are no other antlered deer hunts in the state that restrict harvest by points or configuration.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of August 1-January 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

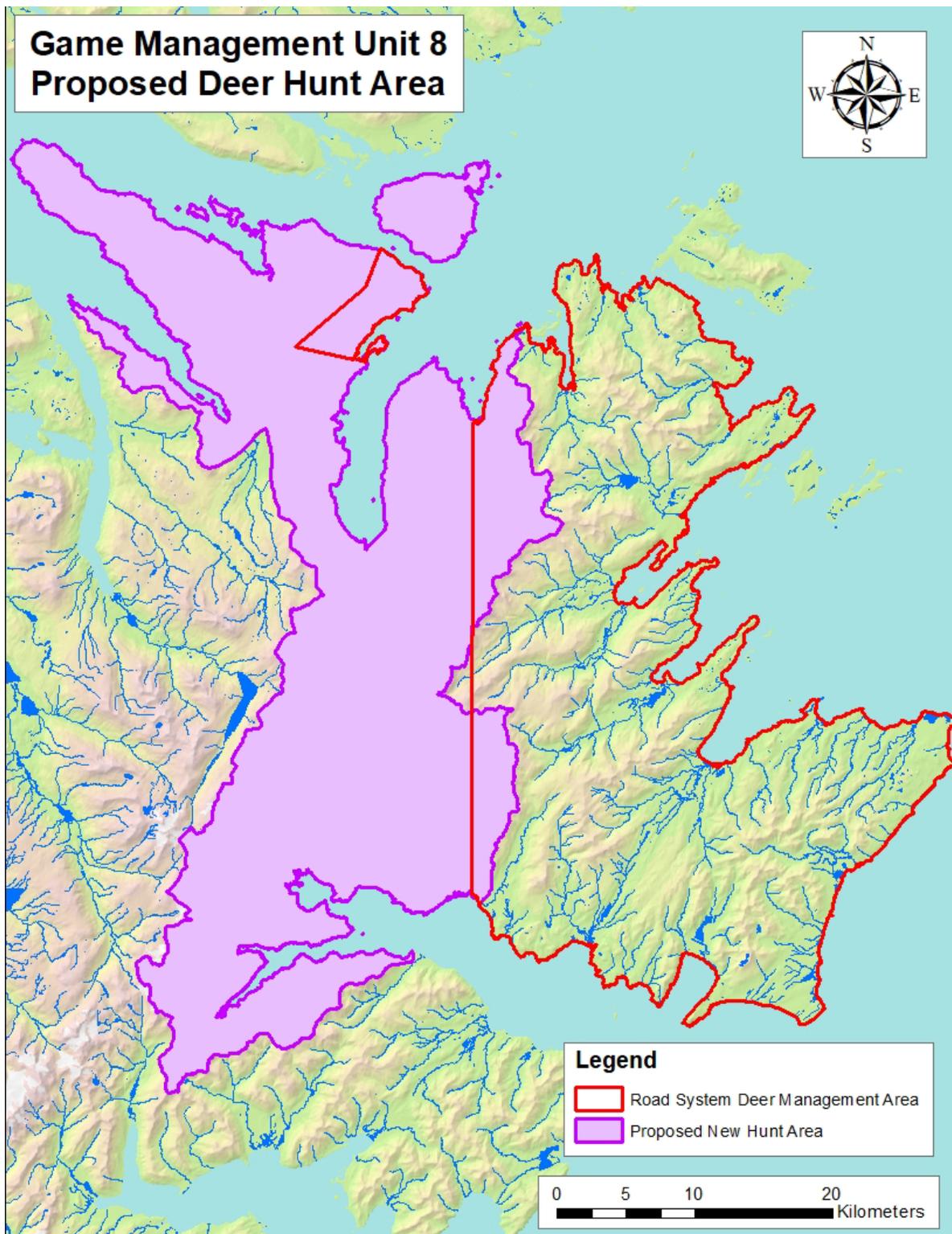


Figure 1. Proposed new deer hunt area comprised of guide use areas 01, 02, 26, 27, and 28 for the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 2026.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The proposal would increase regulatory complexity and reduce opportunity by implementing antler restrictions for bucks in this area. While antler/horn restrictions are common for some species throughout the state, there has never been an antler restriction for deer in Alaska and, in January 2025, the board did not adopt a proposal to create a similar antler restriction for deer in Unit 1. The implementation of this proposal would require the board to develop legal definitions for deer antlers. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would result in additional costs for the department in the form of educational materials to explain the new regulatory change to deer hunters.

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**PROPOSAL 208 – 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Prohibit the take of fawns or does with fawns in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jessie Juhlin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Harvesting fawns or does with fawns would not be allowed in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

...

(6)  
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of a line from the head of Settlers Cove to Crescent Lake (57° 52' N. lat., 152° 58' W. long.), and east of a line from the outlet of Crescent Lake to Mount Ellison Peak and from Mount Ellison Peak to Pokati Point at Whale

Passage, and that portion of Kodiak Island east of a line from the mouth of Saltery Creek to the mouth of Elbow Creek, and adjacent small islands in Chiniak Bay

1 buck; or	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
1 deer, by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14 Nov. 16 - Dec. 31

Remainder of Unit 8

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS

3 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 buck	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
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There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for deer in Unit 8, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 3,600–4,100 deer.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would prohibit the harvest of fawns or does with fawns in Unit 8 for both residents and nonresidents for the entirety of the deer hunting season. This proposal would reduce the opportunity for hunters to harvest female deer during late season hunts when juvenile deer are no longer dependent on does. Although this proposal would reduce female harvest and increase female survival, it is likely to have minimal impact on the overall population as deer survival is primarily influenced by winter severity. However, a reduction in female harvest in areas that regularly experience increased hunting pressure (i.e., bays) may result in localized increases in female survival and fawn recruitment. Deer “fawns” are not currently defined in codified regulations.

**BACKGROUND:** Although hunting is an important consideration, deer mortality in Unit 8 is thought to be primarily driven by winter severity. Unlike areas where they originated (southeast Alaska), much of the archipelago lacks dense coniferous forests which provide thermal cover, reduced snow depth, and vegetative forage during harsh winters. As a result, the deer population on the Kodiak archipelago is primarily affected by weather patterns and fluctuations in winter severity.

Annual winter mortality is assessed by searching for and examining deer carcasses in known coastal wintering areas. Winter conditions and physical appearance of deer are evaluated using aerial surveys. Local hunters and guides also provide anecdotal information on deer mortality, body condition, and general appearance throughout the season. The Unit 8 deer population experienced substantial winter mortality during the harsh winter of 2018-2019, with an estimated 25-30% loss of the overall population and up to a 60-70% reduction in some of the harder hit areas of the island. However, recent surveys (2020–2025) and reports from hunters and guides indicate the deer population throughout the archipelago has largely recovered. The recovery of the deer population is likely a result of moderate winter conditions experienced on Kodiak over the last few years.

Over the last 10 years (RY15–RY24), an average of 4,080 hunters (residents and nonresidents) entered the field annually with an average success rate of 69%. Successful hunters harvested approximately 1.7 deer/year, with an average annual harvest of 4,870 deer, of which 17% are female. Between RY15 and RY24, on average 53% of hunters harvested one deer, 25% of hunters harvested two deer, and 19% of hunters harvested three deer. Most deer harvest occurs during the months of October, November, and December with 10-year averages totaling 24.9%, 43.7%, and 18% of the annual harvest, respectively.

Sitka black-tailed deer parturition typically occurs in May with late parturition occasionally delayed into mid or late-June for some females. Fawn dependency on does is greatest immediately following parturition when milk production and yield peaks (commonly between 10 to 37 days post parturition) and when milk demands by offspring are greatest. About a month after parturition, milk production begins to decrease as fawns begin to consume green forage. Thereafter, milk production continues to decrease as juvenile deer continue to consume more green forage relative to milk. Lactation and consumption of milk by fawns rarely extends past 120 days (4 months) when juvenile deer are weaned and become completely reliant on vegetative forage. Limiting or preventing harvest of female deer during late season hunts is likely to have minimal impact on “fawn” survival as juvenile deer are no longer dependent on does.

Currently, does are available for harvest under weapons-restricted hunts within the Kodiak Road System Management Area from Nov. 1–Nov. 14 and during a weapons-restricted youth hunt from Nov. 16 – Dec. 31. Does are also available for harvest by residents (3 deer bag limit) in the remainder hunt area from Oct. 1–Dec. 31. The department collects data on the sex of deer through harvest reports but does not collect fawn harvest data. Although the harvest of deer is an important consideration for management, hunter harvest is presumed to have minimal impact on the overall population size. There are no current biological concerns regarding the deer population on Kodiak.

The current federal subsistence season for Unit 8 deer has a bag limit of four deer and season dates of Aug. 1-Jan. 31; however, antlerless deer may be taken only from Oct. 1 – Jan. 31.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal to reduce hunter opportunity by limiting female harvest during late season hunts. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 209 – 5AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Require all nonresidents hunting brown bear, elk, or mountain goats in Unit 8 to be accompanied by a guide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to require nonresident hunters to be accompanied in the field by a licensed Alaska big game guide when hunting elk, brown bear, or mountain goat in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**AS 16.05.407. Nonresident hunting big game animals must be accompanied.**

- (a) It is unlawful for a nonresident to hunt, pursue, or take brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep in this state, unless personally accompanied by
  - (1) a person who is licensed as
    - (A) a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter under AS 08.54 and who is providing big game hunting services to the nonresident under a contract with the nonresident; or
    - (B) a class-A assistant guide or an assistant guide under AS 08.54 and who is employed by a registered guide-outfitter or a master guide-outfitter who has a contract to provide big game hunting services to the nonresident; or
  - (2) a resident over 19 years of age who is
    - (A) the spouse of the nonresident; or
    - (B) related to the nonresident, within and including the second degree of kindred, by marriage or blood.

**5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.**

- (a) In the Unit 8 general brown bear drawing permit hunt, the department shall issue permits, and a hunter may apply for a permit, as follows:
  - (1) the department shall issue a maximum of 40 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and a minimum of 60 percent to residents; each guide may submit the same number of nonresident applications for a hunt as the number of permits available for that hunt;
  - (2) the department shall enter, in a resident drawing, each application from a resident and each application from a nonresident accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; for each season, the department shall issue a maximum of four permits to nonresident hunters accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of

kindred; however, the department may not issue, within one calendar year, more than one of these permits per individual hunt, as described in the permit hunt guide published each year by the department;

(3) the department shall enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each complete application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide; the department may enter an application and issue a drawing permit for the general hunt only to a successful nonresident applicant who presents proof at the time of application that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, as required under AS 16.05.407 or 16.05.408;

...

The Alaska Board of Game (board) has made negative customary and traditional use findings for elk, brown bear, and mountain goat in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would no longer be allowed to hunt brown bear or mountain goat with a resident relative meeting the requirements outlined in AS 16.05.407 (a)(2) and would be required to utilize the services of a guide when hunting these species in Unit 8. Nonresident hunters would also be required to be accompanied by a licensed Alaska big game guide while hunting elk in Unit 8.

**BACKGROUND:** Current regulations allow for the take of brown bear and mountain goat in Unit 8 by nonresident hunters accompanied in the field by a resident relative within the second degree of kindred (2DK). Nonresidents are not required to be accompanied in the field by either a licensed Alaska big game guide or a 2DK resident relative while hunting elk in Unit 8, or anywhere else in Alaska.

For Unit 8 brown bear, 5AAC 92.061 stipulates that guided nonresident hunters are only eligible for brown bear drawing permits DB101-128, DB131-DB158, DB161-DB163 and DB191-DB193. Nonresident hunters who intend to hunt with a 2DK resident relative are only eligible for brown bear drawing permits DB201-228, DB231-DB258, DB261-DB263 and DB291-DB293. Regulations further stipulate that of these drawing permits the department may only award 1 permit per drawing hunt area per calendar year and a total of 4 drawing permits per season to nonresident hunters accompanied by a 2DK resident relative. In most years the maximum number of drawing permits allowed by regulations (8) are awarded to nonresidents accompanied by a 2DK resident relative.

Unlike the drawing permit hunt areas, registration permit hunts RB230 and RB260, do not have a specific allocation for guided nonresident hunters or nonresident hunters accompanied by a 2DK resident relative. On average RY15-RY24, 22 nonresident hunters per regulatory year (range: 10-41) registered for these permits collectively. Of these nonresident registration permit holders, 93% hunted, 82% of which utilized the services of a licensed Alaska big game guide for their hunt. The remaining 18% of nonresident hunters are assumed to have been accompanied in the field by a 2DK resident relative.

Through a combination of drawing and registration permit hunts administered for brown bears in Unit 8 between RY15-RY24, an average of 9 nonresident hunters accompanied by a 2DK resident relative hunted brown bear annually (range: 5-14 nonresident hunters) with an average annual harvest of 3 bears per year, 71% of which were male bears.

Nonresident hunters may only hunt mountain goats in Unit 8 in the following hunts: DG471-DG474, DG476, DG478-DG479 or RG480. Late season registration goat hunts administered in the draw permit hunt areas after November 1 (RG471-RG474, RG476, RG478-RG479 and RG488-RG489) are only open to resident hunters. There is no specific allocation for guided nonresident hunters or nonresident hunters accompanied by 2DK resident relatives in any of the drawing or registration permit hunts for mountain goat open to nonresident hunters in Unit 8. On average RY15-RY24, 177 (range: 150-235) nonresidents were issued permits to hunt mountain goats in Unit 8. Nonresident hunters account for 18% of all the hunters in the field and 29% of the harvest in drawing and registration permit hunt areas with an open season for nonresidents. On average, 73% of nonresident hunters indicated that they utilized the services of an Alaska licensed guide.

Nonresidents are not required to be accompanied in the field by either a licensed Alaska big game guide or a 2DK resident relative while hunting elk in Unit 8.

Nonresident hunters may only hunt elk in Unit 8 with a drawing permit or registration permit RE755. There is no specific allocation for guided nonresident hunters or nonresident hunters accompanied by 2DK resident relatives in any of the drawing or registration permit hunts for elk open to nonresident hunters in Unit 8. On average RY15-RY24, 34 (range: 19-46) nonresidents were issued permits to hunt elk in Unit 8. Nonresident hunters account for 6% of all the hunters in the field and 9% of the harvest in drawing and registration permit hunt areas with an open season for nonresidents. On average, 18% of nonresident elk hunters indicated that they utilized the services of an Alaska licensed guide.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. Modification of AS 16.05.407 to include elk as a guide required species would require legislative action and is therefore outside of Board of Game authority. The board can and does allocate hunting opportunity between guided and non-guided nonresidents for many species. This approach would not require legislation.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 210 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk; 5 AAC 85.035.**  
**Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.** Reallocate Afognak Island elk permits and limit RE706 permits to one per household.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brooks Horan

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Adoption of this proposal would eliminate the 16 registration permits available annually for registration permit hunts RE752 and RE756. Hunting opportunities previously provided through these registration permits would once again be provided through drawing permits DE715, DE717, DE721 and DE723. Adoption of this proposal would also direct the department to make 8 permits for resident registration permit hunt RE706 available for in-person pickup only as follows: 4 permits in Port Lions and 4 permits in Ouzinkie with a limit of 1 permit per household.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations, Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

5AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...

(2)

Unit 8, Raspberry Island

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)
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1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)
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**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in	Oct. 1—Oct. 22
--	----------------

combination with the resident hunt

1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued

Oct. 23—Nov. 30

...

Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 25—Oct. 22

1 elk by registration permit only ; or

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

No Open Season

1 elk by registration permit only

Oct. 23—Nov. 30  
(General Hunt Only)

Oct. 23—Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 8

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 25—Oct. 22

1 elk by registration permit only ; or

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

No Open Season

1 elk by registration permit only

Oct. 23—Nov. 30  
(General Hunt Only)

Oct. 23—Nov. 30

5AAC 85.035. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

...

(L) In accordance with (M) of this paragraph, the department may issue up to four resident registration permits, with no more than registration permit per person, for the early season elk hunts in each of the following areas:

- (i) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait;
- (ii) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Ouzinkie;
- (iii) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait; and
- (iv) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Port Lions.

(M) for each resident registration permit issued by the department under (L) of this paragraph, the department will reduce the number of drawing permits available in the same area for the same early season elk hunt by one;

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** By eliminating registration permit hunts RE752 and RE756 hunting opportunities previously provided through these registration permits would once again be provided through drawing permits DE715, DE717, DE721 and DE723. These permits would be issued through the drawing application process and made available to both resident and nonresident hunters. Administering these hunts in this way would eliminate the need for resident hunters to travel to the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie to register for a permit.

Adoption of this proposal would also allocate eight (8) RE706 permits for in-person registration on a first-come first-served basis for Alaska residents in the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie, with a limit of one per household.

**BACKGROUND:** Afognak Island elk are managed using established harvest guidelines for individual herds and a 10-percent harvest objective for the overall elk population. A harvest objective is established annually for each herd based on available biological information to provide a sustainable level of harvest and maintain a stable to slightly increasing population.

Elk hunting opportunity in the Unit 8 Remainder hunt area is provided through an early season drawing permit hunt for elk of either sex (DE715) with an open season Sep. 25–Oct. 9 and a late season draw permit hunt for elk of either sex (DE717) Oct. 8–Oct. 22. Elk hunting opportunity in the Eastern Afognak hunt area is provided through an early season drawing permit hunt for elk of either sex (DE721) with an open season Sep. 25–Oct. 9 and a late season draw permit hunt for elk of either sex (DE723) Oct. 8–Oct. 22.

If the harvest objective for the area is not met during the drawing and registration permit hunts administered in these areas between Sep. 25–Oct. 22, additional hunting opportunity may be provided through a registration permit hunt for elk of either sex (RE755) Oct. 23–Nov. 30. Permits for this hunt are only available for in person registration at ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Kodiak, Palmer, Soldotna, Fairbanks and Homer. The registration permit hunt is subject to emergency order closures when the combined harvest from drawing and registration permit hunts reaches established harvest objectives. Opportunities to harvest elk during the RE755 registration permit hunt were available in the Unit 8 Remainder and Eastern Afognak hunt areas 7 of the last 10 years and 9 of the last 10 years (RY15-RY24), respectively.

Population estimates for individual elk herds on Afognak Island are based on minimum count aerial surveys completed annually in early fall (August-September). Elk population estimates in the Unit 8 Remainder hunt area averaged 420 elk (RY15-RY24). Harvest from the area averaged 37 elk annually during this same period. Annual draw permit issuance for DE715 and DE717 was 45 permits and 50 permits, respectively. Elk population estimates in the Eastern Afognak hunt area averaged 205 elk (RY15-RY24). Harvest from the area averaged 19 elk annually during this same period. Annual draw permit issuance for DE721 and DE723 was 37 permits per hunt. The hunting opportunity provided by the current hunt administration allows for the harvest of elk from these areas to reach the established harvest objective annually.

Proposal 209 was adopted at the 2023 Southcentral Board of Game meeting. This proposal directed the department to allocate a portion of the hunting opportunity previously provided through drawing permit hunts in the Unit 8 Remainder and Eastern Afognak hunt areas to resident-only registration permit hunts RE752 and RE756 with a corresponding reduction in the number of drawing permits available in these areas (DE715, DE717, DE721 and DE723). These hunts have an open season Oct. 8–Oct. 22, and a bag limit of one elk of either sex. Permits are available for in-person registration in the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie 3 business days prior to the start of the season with 4 permits for RE752 and 4 permits for RE756 available in each community. A department representative from the Kodiak ADF&G office travels to each community to issue the permits on the day of permit issuance. If travel to these communities is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, such as weather, the date permits are available is rescheduled to the next available business day. Hunters may possess RE752 or RE756, but not both, and only one permit may be issued per hunter.

During RY24 and RY25 (the first two years the hunts were administered), permit holders for RE752 and RE756 were predominately residents of Unit 8 communities (97%). Kodiak residents held the majority of the permits (50%) followed by residents of Port Lions (28%) and Ouzinkie (19%). In RY24 100% of the permit holders participated in the hunt with a 43% success rate. Preliminary results for RY25 are not available at this time.

Elk hunting opportunities in the Raspberry Island hunt area are provided through an early season drawing permit hunt for bull elk (DE702) with an open season Oct. 1–Oct. 12 and a late season

draw permit hunt for bull elk (DE704) with an open season Oct. 11–Oct. 22. Following the conclusion of the drawing hunts for bull elk, a late season hunt for cow elk is administered for both resident and nonresident hunters. Nonresident drawing permit hunt (DE706) has a bag limit of 1 cow elk with an open season Oct. 23–Nov. 30. Permits for this hunt are issued through the drawing application process. Resident registration permit hunt RE706 has a bag limit of 1 cow elk with an open season Oct. 23–Nov. 30. Permits for this hunt are available online and at the Kodiak ADF&G office.

The population objective for Raspberry Island is 150-200 elk with a bull:cow ratio of 20-25 bulls:100 cows. Historically, when the total population of elk on Raspberry Island approaches 230-250 animals the population suffers an abrupt decline. This abrupt reduction in the population has been documented multiple times since the 1960's (1965, 1987, 1996, 2018). The estimated number of bulls on Raspberry Island has stayed relatively consistent over time with drastic fluctuations primarily observed within the cow population. Multiple attempts have been made to decrease the cow population through hunter harvest by substantially increasing the number of DE706 permits from a low of 40 permits in RY14 to high of 150 permits RY20-RY23. Even with substantial increases in the number of permits available, the annual harvest averaged 9 cows per year in RY14–RY23. This was primarily attributed to an overall lack of participation (57% effort) during this same period. Proposal 70 at the 2023 Southcentral Board of Game meeting changed the resident hunting opportunity for cow elk on Raspberry Island from a drawing permit hunt to a registration permit hunt. Providing the opportunity to harvest antlerless elk through a registration hunt was intended to aid the department in achieving and maintaining the management objective of 150-200 elk with a 20-25:100 bull:cow ratio.

During RY23 and RY24 a record high number of cow elk were harvested during the DE706 hunt, reducing the overall size of the Raspberry Island elk herd to within our management objective of 150-200 elk. Consequently, the department limited the overall number of permits available for RE706 to 25 permits in RY24 and RY25. This was necessary to address concerns about overharvest, which may impede productivity and future growth, while also eliminating the need to limit harvest through emergency order closures. Due to the limited number of permits available, permits were made available online only on a first-come, first-served basis. All the available permits were issued within minutes of them becoming available. During the first year of the hunt, 52% of permit holders participated in the hunt and 3 cow elk were harvested. In the future, the department anticipates administering the hunt with an unlimited number of permits and the use of emergency order closures when necessary to reduce the population to within management objective.

Most of the land within the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation. Public access to portions of the hunt area is unrestricted, other areas require elk hunters to obtain a land use permit and an elk hunting endorsement. Camping in the area around Afognak Lake is only authorized for Afognak Native Corporation Shareholders.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. Existing hunting opportunities for elk in Unit 8 allow for the harvest of elk to reach the established harvest objective for individual herds and population as a whole.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 211 – 5AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Lengthen the elk registration hunt RE755 by one month, to close December 31.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alexis Kwachka

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Adoption of this proposal would extend the season for RE755 by 31 days, changing the closure from November 30 to December 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations. Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

5AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
...		
Unit 8, Southwest Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island and adjacent islands south and west of a line from the head of Back Bay (58° 05.38' N. lat., 152° 45.7' W. long.) to Hatch- ery Peak (58° 07.2' N. lat., 152° 47.5' W. long.) to the head of Malina Bay (58° 09.3' N. lat., 152° 51.0' W. long.)		
1 elk by drawing permit	Sept. 25—Oct. 22	Sept. 25—Oct. 22

only; up to 500 permits may be issued	(General hunt only)	
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.		
1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8		
1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Adoption of this proposal lengthen the hunting season for registration elk hunt RE755 on Afognak and Kodiak islands to include the month of December. This would allow elk that move from Raspberry or Afognak islands to be harvested on Kodiak Island, and provide additional elk hunting opportunity..

Allowing the harvest of elk on Kodiak Island reduces the likelihood that a breeding population of wild Roosevelt elk is established outside of the current range of the population. Allowing Roosevelt elk to become established on Kodiak Island may result in hybridization with the privately-owned, domestic herd of Rocky Mountain elk that currently exist and compromise the genetic integrity of the pure strain wild Roosevelt elk herd. In addition, there are some concerns regarding the potential for disease transmission between the domestic Rocky Mountain elk and the wild Roosevelt elk.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1928, under a goat-elk exchange program with the State of Washington, 8 Roosevelt elk calves (3 males and 5 females) were captured from Ho Valley on the Olympic Peninsula and shipped to Kodiak Island, Alaska. Because of grazing concerns from local ranchers, elk were removed from the Kodiak Island and released near Litnik Bay on Afognak Island in the spring of 1929. The population thrived in the 1930's and 1940's, and by the early 1950's the Afognak population was estimated at 300 animals with 2 elk observed for the first time on nearby Raspberry Island after swimming across the Raspberry Straits.

Similar to most cervids, elk are powerful swimmers. Hollow hair and ample fat provide buoyancy while swimming and insulate them from hypothermia in cold water environments. Elk have been documented swimming across lakes, rivers, and deep-sea ocean straits.

After becoming established on Afognak and Raspberry Islands, Roosevelt elk were and are occasionally observed on Kodiak Island. Around 2017, a local pilot reported and photographed a Roosevelt elk swimming in Karluk Lake and, around that same time, another resident reported observing "a few" elk near the Kupreanof Peninsula on the Kodiak mainland. However, reports of Roosevelt elk on Kodiak Island are not common and the frequency is undetermined.

In addition to Roosevelt elk occasionally occupying Kodiak Island, there is also a domestic herd of Rocky Mountain elk that reside on a grazing lease near Narrow Cape on the Kodiak Road System. The unmarked, privately-owned Rocky Mountain elk herd historically and consistently are not contained within the boundaries of the state grazing lease and are often observed roaming unrestrained across the landscape. On multiple occasions over the past 10 years, ADF&G has observed and documented Rocky Mountain elk roaming off the grazing lease. This lack of containment has led to concerns regarding disease transmission and hybridization between the domestic Rocky Mountain herd and Kodiak's wild Roosevelt elk population.

The establishment of Roosevelt elk on Kodiak increases the potential for hybridization to occur between the two genetically distinct populations thereby jeopardizing the genetic integrity of the Roosevelt elk population. Because most of the historical Roosevelt elk populations in North America have been hybridized with other elk species, the Kodiak Archipelago remains one of the last strongholds for this genetically unique population. Allowing the hybridization of Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk would not only jeopardize the genetic integrity of the Roosevelt elk

herd but may also reduce the appeal to many hunters who travel to Kodiak Island to specifically hunt this unique species of elk, the largest elk species in the world.

Afognak Island elk are managed using established harvest objectives for individual herds and a 10 percent harvest objective for the overall elk population. A harvest objective is established annually for each herd based on available biological information to provide a sustainable level of harvest and maintain a stable to slightly increasing population. Hunting opportunity is provided through a combination of drawing and registration permit hunts that occur throughout the range of the population Sep. 25–Oct. 22. The number of permits available for these hunts is set annually based on established harvest objectives. Additional hunting opportunity may be provided during the RE755 registration permit hunt if established harvest objectives have not been met for individual herds and the population as a whole. There is no limit on the number of permits available for the hunt, harvest is managed through targeted emergency order closures.

The current estimated population of elk in Unit 8 is 1,000-1,200 elk. Total combined average annual harvest (RY15-RY24) was 101 elk (range 80-123) with 63% bulls. A portion of the RE755 hunt area has been open annually since it was established in 2003 with an average annual harvest of 25 elk (RY15-RY24). During this same period, 63% of the harvest occurred Oct. 23–Oct. 31, 30% from Nov. 1–Nov. 10, 6% from Nov. 11–Nov. 20 and <1% Nov. 21–Nov. 30. A total of 10 elk have been harvested on the mainland of Kodiak RY15-RY24, 1 in 2016 and 9 in 2019.

Most of the land on Afognak Island is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation. Public access to portions of the hunt area is unrestricted, other areas require elk hunters to obtain a land use permit and an elk hunting endorsement. Camping in the area around Afognak Lake is only authorized for Afognak Native Corporation Shareholders.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to allow for additional opportunity when it exists. Existing hunting opportunities for elk in Unit 8 allow for the harvest of elk to reach the established harvest objective for individual herds and population. If adopted, the department does have the ability to close the season by emergency order if there are concerns of unsustainable harvest.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 212 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE702.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the Raspberry Island bull elk hunt, DE702.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Raspberry Island bull elk drawing hunts.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt		Oct. 1—Oct. 22
1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued		Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		

Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one non-resident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE702. DE702 is in Unit 8, Raspberry Island. The hunt area is only accessible by boat or aircraft and much of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Oct. 1–Oct. 12. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 212-1.

Table 212-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE702. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1636	178	11	5	42	12
2018	2148	369	17	3	27	11
2019	2734	421	15	2	17	12
2020	2682	460	17	0	0	10
2021	3549	613	17	1	17	6
2022	3390	628	19	0	0	5
2023	3414	655	19	2	33	6
2024	3763	636	17	0	0	5
2025	3597	499	14	3	50	6

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 11 and 19% of the drawing applications for this hunt and have been awarded between 0 and 5 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 213 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE704.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the Raspberry Island bull elk hunt, DE704.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Raspberry Island bull elk drawing hunts.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(2)		
Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt		Oct. 1—Oct. 22
1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued		Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		
Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west		

of Marmot Strait.

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing elk hunt DE704. DE704 is in Unit 8, Raspberry Island. The hunt area is only accessible by boat or aircraft and much of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Oct. 11–Oct. 22. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 213-1.

Table 213-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE704. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1311	141	11	1	10	10
2018	1469	104	7	1	8	12
2019	1487	114	8	2	17	12
2020	1940	202	10	0	0	10
2021	2227	204	9	1	25	4
2022	2379	246	10	0	0	5
2023	1967	162	8	0	0	5
2024	2318	178	8	2	40	5
2025	2561	242	9	1	20	5

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 8 and 11% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 0 and 2 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 214 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE711.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the Southwest Afognak bull elk hunt, DE711.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Southwest Afognak bull elk drawing hunts.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt		Oct. 1—Oct. 22
1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued		Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		
Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.		

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE711. DE711 is in Unit 8, Southwest Afognak Island, that portion of Afognak Island south and west of a line from the head of Back Bay to Hatchery Peak to the head of Malina Bay. The hunt area is primarily accessible by boat or aircraft. Most of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Sept. 25–Oct. 9. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 214-1.

Table 214-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE711. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	695	48	7	2	14	14
2018	883	77	9	1	7	14
2019	856	77	9	0	0	14
2020	1163	95	8	1	7	15
2021	1678	218	13	3	23	13
2022	1822	233	13	1	8	12
2023	2278	319	14	3	20	15
2024	2506	361	14	0	0	14
2025	3096	632	20	1	8	13

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 7 and 20% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 0 and 3 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 215 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE713.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the Southwest Afognak cow elk hunt, DE713.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Southwest Afognak cow elk drawing hunts.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt		Oct. 1—Oct. 22
1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued		Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		
Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.		

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE713. DE713 is in Unit 8, Southwest Afognak Island, that portion of Afognak Island south and west of a line from the head of Back Bay to Hatchery Peak to the head of Malina Bay. The hunt area is primarily accessible by boat or aircraft. Most of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Oct. 8–Oct. 22. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 215-1.

Table 215-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE713. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	366	9	2	2	2	90
2018	464	18	4	4	4	90
2019	505	62	12	11	10	106
2020	527	42	8	7	7	105
2021	705	36	5	3	3	111
2022	729	33	5	8	7	110
2023	716	29	4	5	5	104
2024	1288	56	4	7	7	106
2025	1139	79	7	7	6	114

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 12% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 2 and 11 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 216– 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE721.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the East Afognak elk hunt, DE721.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a non-resident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for East Afognak elk drawing hunts. 5 AAC 92.050 (2)(L) directs the department to make 8 permits from the East Afognak hunt area drawing permit allocation available as a resident-only registration permit hunt. Permits for this hunt are only available for in-person registration in the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt		Oct. 1—Oct. 22
1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued		Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		
Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.		

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

**5AAC 85.035.** Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

...

(L) In accordance with (M) of this paragraph, the department may issue up to four resident registration permits, with no more than registration permit per person, for the early season elk hunts in each of the following areas:

- (i) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait;
- (ii) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Ouzinkie;
- (iii) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait; and
- (iv) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Port Lions.

(M) for each resident registration permit issued by the department under (L) of this paragraph, the department will reduce the number of drawing permits available in the same area for the same early season elk hunt by one;

...

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE721. DE721 is in Unit 8, Eastern Afognak Island, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north south logging road (1100 Road) from the Danger Bay logging camp north to its Terminus at Discoverer Bay and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait. The hunt area is accessible by boat, aircraft and highway vehicles. A portion of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation and contains an extensive network of logging roads. Hunter access by motorized vehicles on private lands is subject to restrictions and requires prior authorization from the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Sept. 25–Oct. 9. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 216-1.

Table 216-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE721. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	541	37	7	2	5	38
2018	576	31	5	6	17	35
2019	604	41	7	1	3	34
2020	717	69	10	3	9	35
2021	1014	130	13	4	13	32
2022	913	112	12	2	6	33
2023	1060	132	12	3	11	27
2024	980	103	11	2	8	25
2025	1328	125	9	2	7	30

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 5 and 13% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 1 and 6 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 217 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE723.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the East Afognak elk hunt, DE723.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for East Afognak elk drawing hunts. 5 AAC 92.050 (2)(L) directs the department to make 8 permits from the East Afognak hunt area drawing permit allocation available as a resident-only registration permit hunt. Permits for this hunt are only available for in-person registration in the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

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

...

(2)

Unit 8, Raspberry Island

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)
--	---------------------------------------

1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)
---	--

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22
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1 antlerless elk by drawing	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
-----------------------------	-----------------

permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued

...

Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

5AAC 85.035. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

...

(L) In accordance with (M) of this paragraph, the department may issue up to four resident registration permits, with no more than registration permit per person, for the early season elk hunts in each of the following areas:

- (i) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait;
- (ii) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Ouzinkie;
- (iii) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait; and
- (iv) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Port Lions.

(M) for each resident registration permit issued by the department under (L) of this paragraph, the department will reduce the number of drawing permits available in the same area for the same early season elk hunt by one;

...

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE723. DE723 is in Unit 8, Eastern Afognak Island, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north south logging road (1100 Road) from the Danger Bay logging camp north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait. The hunt area is accessible by boat, aircraft and highway vehicles. A portion of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation and contains an extensive network of logging roads. Hunter access by motorized vehicles on private lands is subject to restrictions and requires prior authorization from the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Oct. 8–Oct. 22. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 217-1.

Table 217-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE723. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	527	30	6	1	3	35
2018	480	22	5	1	3	34
2019	750	41	5	1	3	36
2020	769	76	10	2	6	34
2021	858	70	8	3	10	29
2022	844	75	9	1	4	28
2023	841	44	5	2	6	31

2024	924	85	9	2	7	27
2025	1053	87	8	2	7	29

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 5 and 10% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 1 and 3 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 218 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE715.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the Unit 8 Remainder elk hunt, DE715.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Unit 8 Remainder elk drawing hunts. 5 AAC 92.050 (2)(L) directs the department to make 8 permits from the Unit 8 Remainder hunt area drawing permit allocation available as a resident-only registration permit hunt. Permits for this hunt are only available for in-person registration in the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie.

**5AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.**

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...

(2)

Unit 8, Raspberry Island

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull elk by drawing permit

Oct. 1—Oct. 22

only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt

(General hunt only)

1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;

Oct. 23—Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt

Oct. 1—Oct. 22

1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued

Oct. 23—Nov. 30

...

Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.

1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 25—Oct. 22

1 elk by registration permit only ; or

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

No Open Season

1 elk by registration permit only

Oct. 23—Nov. 30  
(General Hunt Only)

Oct. 23—Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 8  
1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500

Sept. 25—Oct. 22  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 25—Oct. 22

permits may be issued; or

1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

5AAC 85.035. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

...

(L) In accordance with (M) of this paragraph, the department may issue up to four resident registration permits, with no more than registration permit per person, for the early season elk hunts in each of the following areas:

- (i) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait;
- (ii) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Ouzinkie;
- (iii) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait; and
- (iv) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Port Lions.

(M) for each resident registration permit issued by the department under (L) of this paragraph, the department will reduce the number of drawing permits available in the same area for the same early season elk hunt by one;

...

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE715. DE715 is in Unit 8 Remainder. The hunt area is accessible by boat, aircraft and highway vehicles. A portion of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation and contains an extensive network of logging roads. Hunter access by motorized vehicles on private lands is subject to restrictions and requires prior authorization from the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Sept. 25–Oct. 9. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 215-1.

Table 218-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DE715. NR = non-resident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	527	8	2	1	3	35
2018	665	17	3	2	6	36
2019	706	30	4	1	2	43
2020	1111	84	8	3	7	42
2021	1340	154	11	12	26	46
2022	1359	155	11	4	10	42
2023	1541	154	10	12	27	45
2024	2009	207	10	2	5	40
2025	2133	296	14	6	15	40

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 2 and 14% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 1 and 12 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 219 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE717.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for the Unit 8 Remainder elk hunt, DE717.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for elk drawing hunts in Unit 8 but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Unit 8 Remainder elk drawing hunts. 5 AAC 92.050 (2)(L) directs the department to make 8 permits from the Unit 8 Remainder hunt area drawing permit allocation available as a resident-only registration permit hunt. Permits for this hunt are only available for in-person registration in the communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie.

**5AAC 85.035.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Open Season  
(Subsistence and Nonresident

Units and Bag Limits	General Hunts)	Open Season
...		
(2)		
Unit 8, Raspberry Island		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the nonresident hunt	Oct. 1—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless elk by registration permit only;	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull elk by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued in combination with the resident hunt		Oct. 1—Oct. 22
1 antlerless elk by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits will be issued		Oct. 23—Nov. 30
...		
Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait.		
1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22

permits may be issued; or

1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30
Remainder of Unit 8 1 elk by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	Sept. 25—Oct. 22
1 elk by registration permit only ; or	Sept. 25—Oct. 22 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
1 elk by registration permit only	Oct. 23—Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Oct. 23—Nov. 30

5AAC 85.035. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

...

(L) In accordance with (M) of this paragraph, the department may issue up to four resident registration permits, with no more than registration permit per person, for the early season elk hunts in each of the following areas:

- (i) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait;
- (ii) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Ouzinkie;
- (iii) Unit 8, Eastern Afognak, that portion of Afognak Island east of the main north-south logging road (1100 road) from the Danger Bay logging camp at 58° 08.20' N. lat., 152° 32.98' W. long., north to its terminus at Discoverer Bay at 58° 19.60' N. lat., 152° 21.80' W. long., and adjacent islands west of Marmot Strait; and
- (iv) in the remainder of Unit 8 in Port Lions.

(M) for each resident registration permit issued by the department under (L) of this paragraph, the department will reduce the number of drawing permits available in the same area for the same early season elk hunt by one;

...

Elk in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no non-resident allocation set for drawing elk hunt DE717. DE717 is in Unit 8 Remainder. The hunt area is accessible by boat, aircraft and highway vehicles. A portion of the hunt area is privately owned by the Afognak Native Corporation and contains an extensive network of logging roads. Hunter access by motorized vehicles on private lands is subject to restrictions and requires prior authorization from the Afognak Native Corporation. Season dates are Oct. 8–Oct. 22. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 219-1.

Table 219-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DE717. NR = nonresident.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	333	18	5	3	7	45
2018	472	29	6	3	7	42
2019	631	91	14	6	14	42
2020	661	117	18	5	13	39
2021	999	151	15	5	11	44
2022	1264	177	14	5	11	44
2023	1369	201	15	10	21	47
2024	1620	259	16	9	23	39
2025	1463	272	19	10	25	40

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 5 and 19% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 3 and 10 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 220 – 5AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Lengthen registration goat permits RG471-474 and RG476 by two months, to close March 31.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Adoption of this proposal would extend the season for registration goat hunts RG471-474 and RG476 by 59 days in a common year and 60 days in a leap year, moving the closure from Jan. 31 to Mar. 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(4)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 8		
1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
...		

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for goats in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Adoption of this proposal would allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunities for goats by extending the existing season to March 31 for registration permit goat hunts RG471-RG474 and RG476. Seasons could still be closed by emergency order if warranted to prevent overharvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Kodiak goats have had remarkable population growth since being introduced to Kodiak Island in the early 1950s, with recent population estimates exceeding 3,500. As goats continue to thrive, management objectives have shifted from promoting expansion and growth to slowing or stabilizing population growth. In the remainder of Unit 8, there are 5 goat hunting areas (DG/RG471, DG/RG472, DG/RG473, DG/RG474 and DG/RG476) managed using a drawing and registration permit hunt structure. Each area has a drawing hunt followed by a registration hunt. If harvest objectives are not met during the drawing hunt, the corresponding registration hunt is held to provide additional opportunity in an effort to meet established harvest objectives. Registration goat hunts in these areas are only open to Alaska residents with restrictions on the availability of permits and the mode of access hunters

can utilize. Permits for RG471-RG474 are only available for in-person registration in the community of Port Lions and permits for RG476 are only available for in-person pickup in the community of Old Harbor. Use of aircraft for these hunts is restricted, and permit holders who choose to access the hunt area by aircraft may only do so from state-maintained runways or a float-equipped aircraft landing in saltwater.

Goat harvest objectives are established annually for each hunt area based on goat distribution and abundance estimates. Harvest quotas for hunt areas DG/RG471, DG/RG472, DG/RG473, DG/RG474 and DG/RG476 typically range from 5–15% of the most recent minimum count for each area. Harvest objectives as well as annual harvest for drawing and registration permit hunts in these areas is outlined in Table 220-1. Permit issuance for registration permit hunts RG471-RG474 collectively averages 6 permits per year. Permit issuance for RG476 averages 12 permits per year.

Table 220-1. Annual harvest objectives and harvest by permit type for hunt areas DG/RG471, DG/RG472, DG/RG473, DG/RG474 and DG/RG476 RY20-RY25.

	<b>RY20</b>	<b>RY21</b>	<b>RY22</b>	<b>RY23</b>	<b>RY24</b>
<b>DG/RG471 Harvest Objective</b>	18	18	18	20	20
<b>DG471 Harvest</b>	10	14	16	13	14
<b>RG471 Harvest</b>	2	3	1	0	1
<b>DG/RG472 Harvest Objective</b>	4	4	4	4	4
<b>DG472 Harvest</b>	5	4	2	5	6
<b>RG472 Harvest</b>	0*	0	0	0*	0*
<b>DG/RG473 Harvest Objective</b>	4	4	4	11	11
<b>DG473 Harvest</b>	4	3	3	5	7
<b>RG473 Harvest</b>	0*	0	0	0	0
<b>DG/RG474 Harvest Objective</b>	40	40	40	41	41
<b>DG474 Harvest</b>	33	21	25	26	24
<b>RG474 Harvest</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>DG/RG476 Harvest Objective</b>	16	16	16	23	23
<b>DG476 Harvest</b>	17	15	18	17	18
<b>RG476 Harvest</b>	0*	0	1	5	1

\*Emergency order closure issued prior to the start of the hunt

The harvest of goats by drawing and registration permit hunts administered in these hunt areas resulted in 79% of the harvest objective in DG/RG471, 110% in DG/RG472, 72% in DG/RG473, 64% in DG/RG474, and 99% in DG/RG476 for RY20-RY24.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Existing hunting opportunities for goat in Unit 8 allow for the harvest of goats to reach the established harvest objectives in each hunt area annually. If season dates were extended, the department

would continue to utilize its discretionary permit authority to limit the number of drawing permits available in conjunction with emergency order closures for registration permit hunts when needed to maintain harvest at sustainable levels, and cannot guarantee any hunts will remain open until December 31.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 221 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Lengthen registration goat hunt RG480 in Unit 8 by opening the season August 1.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Olson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would lengthen the season for the RG480 goat hunt in Unit 8 by changing the opening date from August 20 to August 1.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(4)		
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island south and west of a line extending along the Spiridon River, following the North Fork of the Spiridon to its headwaters, then going southwest following the spine of the island over Koniag peak to the headwaters of the South Fork of Midway Creek, then downstream on Midway Creek to Midway Bay	Aug. 20–Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20–Mar. 31
2 goats by registration permit only, only 1 of which may be a billy; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		

...

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for goats in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would open the registration goat hunt RG480 earlier, beginning on August 1. This proposal may increase the harvest of goats in RG480 as hunters will have an additional 19 days to harvest goats compared to the current season start date of August 20. The earlier start to the goat hunting season would conflict with the current and historical goat survey schedule which commonly takes place during the first 2 weeks of August when snow accumulation is at a minimum and when pilot availability is more certain. The department strives to avoid aerial surveys during open seasons to minimize negative impacts to hunters in the field.

**BACKGROUND:** Registration goat hunt RG480 encompasses the southwestern half of Kodiak Island and includes an estimated 1,500-1,600 mountain goats. The goat population increased rapidly following their introduction, expanding throughout much of the island with the population peaking in 2017 with an estimated 3,500 goats island-wide, 2,000 of which were counted in RG480 surveys. In response to this rapid growth, hunting regulations were liberalized in RG480 to encourage hunter participation and slow population growth. Recent surveys suggest these efforts have been successful as population growth has slowed and appears to be stabilizing (Figure 221-1). Hunting in RG480 is currently open from Aug. 20–Mar. 31. Beginning in 2013, RG480 had a bag limit of 2 goats and, beginning in 2020, one of the 2 harvested goats is required to be a nanny. Permits are available on-line and at selected department offices. Resident and nonresident hunters may participate, but nonresidents must be accompanied by an Alaska-licensed guide or a resident relative within second degree of kindred. Over the last 5 years (RY20-RY24), an average of 1,138 permits were issued annually for RG480 with an average harvest of 184 goats. The 5 years prior (RY15-RY19), an average of 1,496 permits were issued annually for RG480 with an average harvest of 230 goats. Liberalized harvests and season modifications have resulted in a relatively stable goat population in the RG480 hunt area.

RG480 currently has more than a 7-month season (Aug. 20–Mar. 31). The majority of goat harvest during RY20-RY24 occurred in the months of October (37%), September (18.7%) and November (14%).

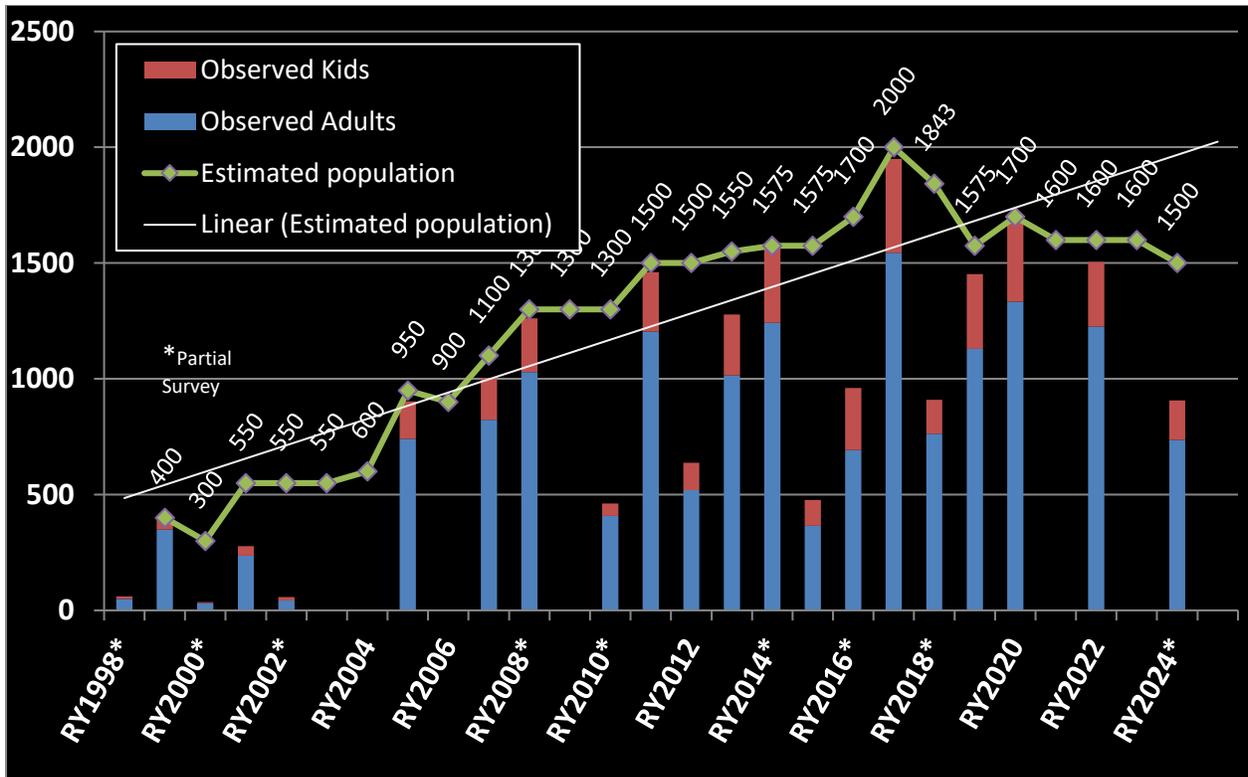


Figure 221-1. Unit 8 aerial mountain goat composition counts and estimated population size from RY98-RY24 in the RG480 goat hunt area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to lengthen the season for the RG480 goat hunt in Unit 8 to open August 1. The department supports additional opportunity where available, though the proposal may jeopardize the department’s ability to conduct annual goat surveys.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 222 – 5AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Restrict the bag limit for registration goat hunt RG480 to one billy only, and require horns to be sealed.

**5AAC 92.171. Sealing of horns and antlers.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Martin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Adoption of this proposal would reduce the bag limit for goat hunt RG480t in Unit 8 from two goats, only one of which may be a billy, to one billy, and require horns be “sealed”.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(4)		
...		
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island south and west of a line extending along the Spiridon River, following the North Fork of the Spiridon to its headwaters, then going southwest following the spine of the island over Koniag peak to the headwaters of the South Fork of Midway Creek, then downstream on Midway Creek to Midway Bay		
2 goats by registration permit only; only 1 of which may be a billy; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Aug. 20 — Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20 — Mar. 31
...		

**5AAC 92.171. Sealing of horns and antlers.**

(A) A person may not alter, possess, transport, or export from the state, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit, the horns of a Dall sheep taken in Units 6 – 11 and Units 13 – 17, or the horns of a Dall sheep taken under a registration permit in Unit 19(C), unless the horns have been permanently sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department; except the horns of a ¾-curl or less sheep taken in registration hunt in Units 25(A) or 26(C) do not need to be sealed.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce the bag limit for mountain goat in the RG480 hunt area from 2 goats (only one of which may be a billy, the take of nannies with kids is prohibited) to 1 goat and restrict the bag limit to billies only throughout all of Unit 8. This proposal would also require all hunters to have the horns of harvested goats “sealed”.

The adoption of this proposal may reduce the overall harvest of goats from Unit 8. This presumed reduction in harvest would conflict with the department’s management objective to slow or limit population growth, particularly on the southwestern end of the island within the RG480 hunt area.

Requiring goat hunters to have the horns of all harvested goats sealed may be burdensome to some hunters but would allow the department to collect valuable information on the demographics of harvested animals that would inform goat management island-wide.

**BACKGROUND:** The goat population on Kodiak Island has undergone remarkable population growth and range expansion since being introduced to the island in the early 1950’s. Goats can now be found throughout the majority of the available habitat on the island. The population peaked in 2017 at an estimated 3,500 goats, 2,000 of which were observed in the RG480 hunt area. As goats continued to thrive throughout the early 2000’s, management objectives shifted from promoting range expansion and population growth to slowing or stabilizing population growth.

There are 7 goat hunting areas in the northern half of Unit 8 (DG/RG471, DG/RG472, DG/RG473, DG/RG474, DG/RG476, DG/RG478 and DG/RG479) managed using a drawing and registration permit hunt structure. Seasons for drawing permit hunts run from Aug. 20-Oct. 25. Registration permit hunts may be administered in these areas if a harvestable surplus exists after the conclusion of the draw permit hunt. Registration permit hunts are open to Alaska residents only with a season of Nov. 1-Jan. 31, unless closed by emergency order. At the boards direction, the department utilizes its discretionary permit authority to place various restrictions on these permit hunts including; the availability of permits, the mode of access hunters can utilize, and the type of weapon hunters may use to harvest animals.

The RG480 hunt area encompasses the southwestern half of Kodiak Island and currently includes an estimated 1,500-1,600 mountain goats. In response to rapid population growth, hunting regulations were liberalized to encourage hunter participation and slow population growth. Recent surveys suggest these efforts have been successful as population growth has slowed and appears to be stabilizing (Figure 222-1). The RG480 hunt has an open season from Aug. 20–Mar. 31. In 2013, the RG480 bag limit increased to 2 goats, in 2020 the bag limit was modified to stipulate that if 2 goats are harvested from within the RG480 hunt area only one of the 2 harvested goats may be a billy. Permits are available on-line and at selected area offices. Over the last 5 years (RY20-RY24), on average 1,138 permits were issued annually for RG480

with an average harvest of 184 goats. The 5 years prior (RY15-RY19), on average 1,496 permits were issued annually for RG480 with an average harvest of 230 goats. Liberalized harvests and season modifications have resulted in a relatively stable goat population in the RG480 hunt area.

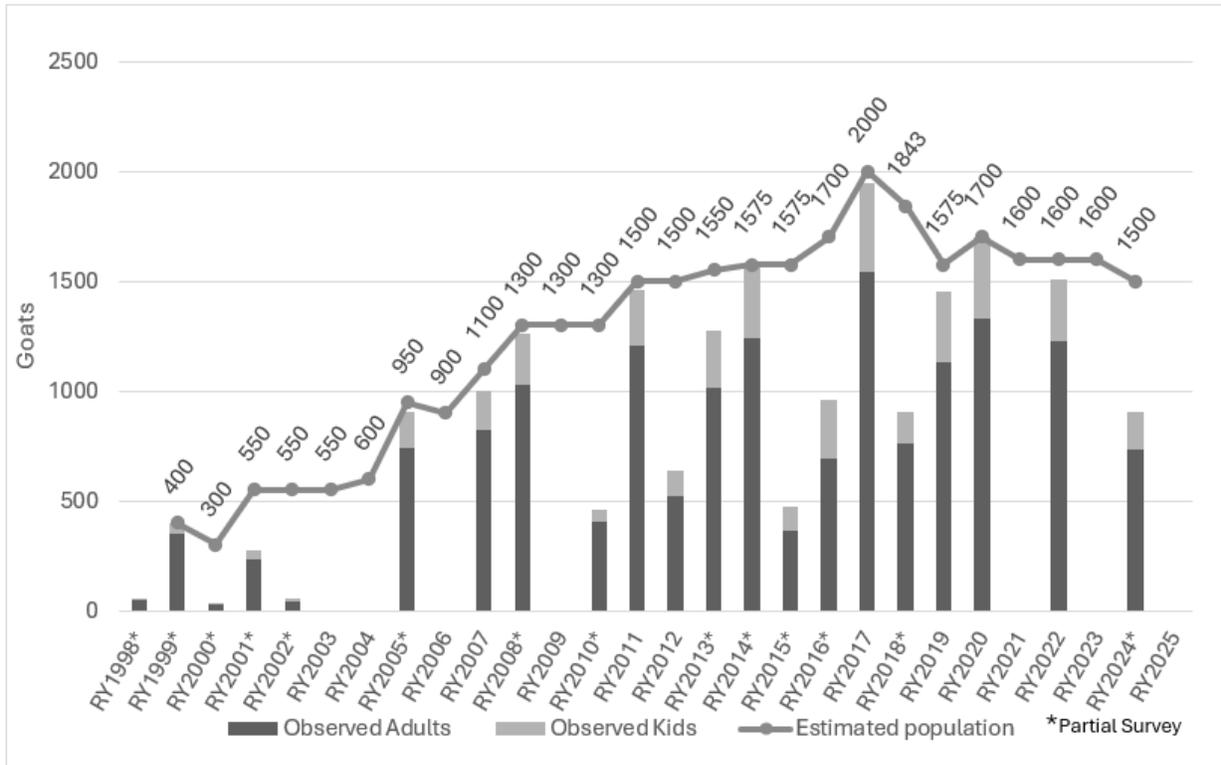


Figure 222-1. Unit 8 aerial mountain goat composition counts and estimated population size from RY98-RY24 in the RG480 goat hunt area.

Goat harvest objectives are established annually for each hunt area based on goat distribution and abundance estimates. Harvest objectives for hunt areas typically range from 5–15% of the most recent minimum count for each area. The average annual harvest of goats RY15-RY24 from throughout Unit 8 was 331 goats (Figure 222-2), during this same period the average proportion of males in the harvest was 60% (range 53-68%). The average annual harvest of goats RY15-RY24 from the RG480 hunt area was 205 goats, and the average proportion of males in the harvest was 57% (range 49-67%).

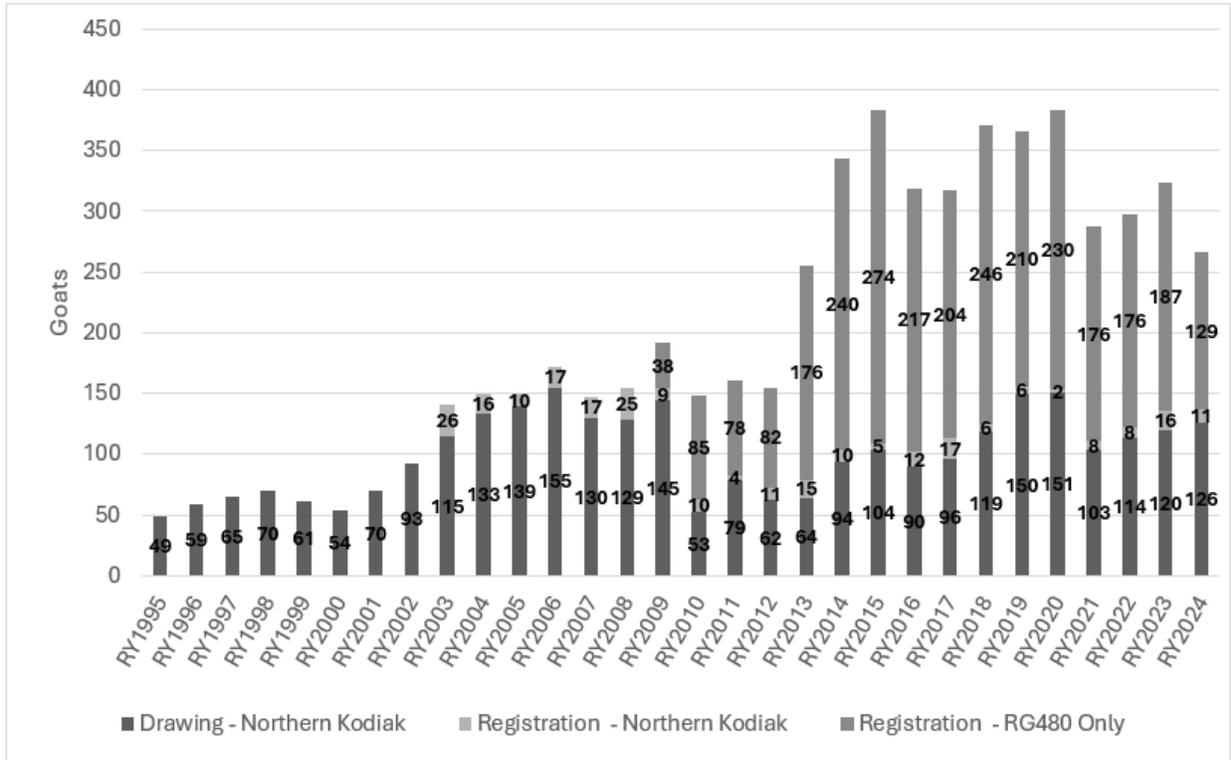


Figure 222-2. Unit 8 mountain goat harvest RY95-RY24.

When horn sealing is required for Dall sheep a hole is drilled into the horns and an aluminum “seal” is permanently inserted into the horn. No such process or “seal” currently exists for mountain goats; however the department regularly uses its discretionary permit authority to require hunters to present the horns of their harvested goat to the department for inspection as part of the reporting or specimen requirements for the hunt (commonly within 5-10 days of the kill). At a minimum a department representative will use horn characteristics to determine the sex of the animal, estimate the animals age, and measure the length and base circumference of the longest horn; this process typically takes 5-10 mins. This information is most reliable when collected by an ADF&G representative with the necessary training and experience to collect the information accurately. Accurately aging mountain goats requires an understanding of horn development and growth and an understanding of the characteristics used to distinguish between true and false annuli.

Kodiak is one of the areas in Alaska where horn inspections are not currently required for goats; however, from 1998–2005 Kodiak goat hunters were required to submit horns for measurement following the hunt. These measurements contributed to a broader study investigating horn growth and habitat quality on Kodiak Island. Horn growth may be a useful index of habitat quality.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to reducing the bag limit of goats in the RG480 hunt area and restricting the bag limit to billies-only throughout Unit 8. There is currently no conservation concern for goats on Kodiak Island; adoption of a bag limit that limits the harvest of goats to males-only is inconsistent with the management approach used within the range of mountain goats elsewhere in Alaska. The department’s discretionary permit authority provides sufficient tools to address a conservation concern should one arise. The existing hunt structure in Unit 8 allows for the harvest of goats to be used as a tool to meet management objectives. The department is **NEUTRAL** on the requirement that hunters present the horns of all goats harvested in Unit 8 to be measured by ADF&G, and can use discretionary permit authority to require sealing when it is necessary.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 223 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG471.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the Wild Creek – Center Mountain goat hunt, DG471.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Wild Creek – Center Mountain goat drawing hunts.

(4)  
...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
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1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
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...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG471. DG471 is in Unit 8 on the north side of Ugak bay and includes the area between Rough Creek and Wild Creek, north to Center Mountain and Kizuyak Bay. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 223-1.

Table 223-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG471. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	278	81	29	10	4	5	16	1	3	31
2018	409	194	47	15	4	16	50	1	3	32
2019	318	137	43	17	5	11	39	2	7	28
2020	386	156	40	1	< 1	9	27	0	0	33
2021	439	225	51	21	5	12	36	1	3	33
2022	445	221	50	4	1	12	39	0	0	31
2023	444	249	56	8	2	16	50	0	0	32
2024	496	170	34	24	5	8	26	1	3	31
2025	552	216	39	27	5	16	50	3	9	32

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 29 and 51% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 5 and 16 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 224 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG472.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the Crown Mountain goat hunt, DG472.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Crown Mountain goat drawing hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Aug 20 — Oct. 25  
(General hunt only)

Aug 20 — Oct. 25

1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Nov. 1 — Jan. 31  
(General hunt only)

No Open Season

...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG472. DG472 is in Unit 8 on the north side of Hidden Basin and includes the area around Crown Mountain and Peanut Lakes. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 224-1.

Table 224-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG472. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	185	87	47	6	3	4	33	0	0	12
2018	213	107	50	2	1	3	33	0	0	9
2019	208	61	29	6	3	2	20	1	10	10
2020	233	86	37	2	1	2	17	0	0	12
2021	314	115	37	0	0	4	33	0	0	12
2022	287	110	38	0	0	2	18	0	0	11
2023	333	168	50	5	2	5	45	0	0	11
2024	245	116	47	1	< 1	6	55	0	0	11
2025	316	128	41	7	2	5	45	0	0	11

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 29 and 50% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 2 and 6 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 225 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG473.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the Hidden Basin-East Terror Lake goat hunt, DG473.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Hidden Basin-East Terror Lake goat drawing hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or  
 Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only) Aug 20 — Oct. 25

1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited  
 Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only) No Open Season

...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG473. DG473 is in Unit 8 north and west of Hidden Basin and includes the area between Terror Bay and Kizuyak Bay. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 225-1.

Table 225-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG473. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	260	40	15	6	2	1	11	0	0	9
2018	308	110	36	16	5	3	27	0	0	11
2019	322	110	34	12	4	6	55	1	9	11
2020	333	75	23	2	1	0	0	0	0	11
2021	465	228	49	12	3	6	60	1	10	10
2022	482	193	40	12	2	6	50	0	0	12
2023	493	193	39	31	6	3	30	1	10	10
2024	454	181	40	15	3	4	44	1	11	9
2025	480	218	45	19	4	4	36	1	9	11

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 15 and 49% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 0 and 6 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 226– 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG474.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the Uganik River goat hunt, DG474.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Uganik River goat drawing hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
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1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
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...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG474. DG474 is in Unit 8 between the Spiridon River and Terror River, including all drainages flowing into Uganik Bay. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 226-1.

Table 226-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG474. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	325	54	17	21	6	6	15	2	5	41
2018	478	105	22	28	6	8	20	2	5	40
2019	504	84	17	29	6	7	13	3	6	54
2020	551	81	15	21	4	7	12	3	5	57
2021	861	147	17	66	8	8	15	5	9	55
2022	799	154	19	77	10	11	19	6	10	58
2023	676	107	16	45	7	8	15	3	6	52
2024	721	152	21	58	8	10	18	4	7	55
2025	711	108	15	36	5	10	18	5	9	56

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 15 and 22% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 6 and 11 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 227 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG476.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the Kiliuda Bay goat hunt, DG476.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Kiliuda Bay goat drawing hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
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1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
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...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG476. DG476 is in Unit 8 south and west of Ugak Bay and north of Sitkilidak Strait, including Left Cape and the Ugak Peninsula. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 227-1.

Table 227-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG476. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	173	68	39	3	2	11	42	1	4	26
2018	335	155	46	7	2	8	31	0	0	26
2019	438	199	45	27	6	21	49	3	7	43
2020	383	220	57	6	2	24	62	0	0	39
2021	516	170	33	27	5	13	31	1	2	42
2022	468	211	45	15	3	15	34	0	0	44
2023	421	204	48	33	8	15	38	4	10	39
2024	505	190	38	37	7	17	45	3	8	38
2025	459	147	32	10	2	12	30	0	0	40

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 32 and 57% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 8 and 24 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 228 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG478.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the South Road System goat hunt, DG478.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for South Road System goat drawing hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season

...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG478. DG478 is in Unit 8, east of Russian Creek, Center Mountain, and Rough Creek. Most of the hunt area is immediately accessible from the Kodiak road system. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 228-1.

Table 228-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DG478. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	2411	346	14	94	4	7	10	1	1	68
2018	2816	441	16	94	3	11	17	1	2	66
2019	3269	572	17	101	3	18	21	1	1	87
2020	3023	544	18	91	3	20	22	2	2	89
2021	3007	331	11	85	3	8	12	0	0	68
2022	3024	320	11	60	2	7	11	1	2	63
2023	3105	400	13	123	4	6	10	2	3	63
2024	3486	475	14	151	4	10	14	3	4	69
2025	3392	380	11	121	4	4	6	1	2	66

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 11 and 18% of the drawing applications for this hunt and have been awarded between 4 and 20 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 229 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG479.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 20%” for the North Road System goat hunt, DG479.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for drawing goat hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for North Road System goat drawing hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
...		

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there is no nonresident allocation set for the drawing goat hunt DG479. DG479 is in Unit 8 north and west of Russian Creek and east of Kazhuyak Bay. Portions of the hunt area are immediately accessible from the Kodiak road system. Season runs from Aug. 20– Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency can be found in Table 229-1.

Table 229-1. Resident and non-resident permit application and allocation, DG479. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	1341	205	15	36	3	5	16	1	3	32
2018	1441	178	12	39	3	5	16	1	3	31
2019	1453	211	15	37	3	8	15	1	2	53
2020	1660	302	18	41	2	13	24	2	4	54
2021	2028	157	8	37	2	5	11	1	2	45
2022	1625	145	9	24	1	3	7	0	0	46
2023	1680	206	12	51	3	6	13	3	7	45
2024	1836	203	11	46	3	4	9	2	4	45
2025	2382	229	10	74	3	2	5	1	2	43

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 8 and 18% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 2 and 13 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 230 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Lengthen registration goat hunt RG480 in Unit 8 by opening the season August 1.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would lengthen the season for the RG480 goat hunt in Unit 8 to start August 1.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(4)		
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island south and west of a line extending along the Spiridon River, following the North Fork of the Spiridon to its headwaters, then going southwest following the spine of the island over Koniag peak to the headwaters of the South Fork of Midway Creek, then downstream on Midway Creek to Midway Bay		
2 goats by registration permit only, only 1 of which may be a billy; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Aug. 20–Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20–Mar. 31

...

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for goats in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would open the registration goat hunt RG480 earlier, beginning on August 1. This proposal may increase the harvest of goats in RG480 as hunters will have an additional 19 days to harvest goats compared to the current season start date of August 20. The earlier start to the goat hunting season would conflict with the current and historical goat survey schedule which commonly takes place during the first 2 weeks of August when snow accumulation is at a minimum and when pilot availability is more certain. The department strives to avoid aerial surveys during open seasons to minimize negative impacts of low elevation flights during surveys on hunters.

**BACKGROUND:** Registration goat hunt RG480 encompasses the southwestern half of Kodiak Island and includes an estimated 1,500-1,600 mountain goats. The goat population increased rapidly following their introduction, expanding throughout much of the island with the population peaking in 2017 with an estimated 3,500 goats island-wide, 2,000 of which were counted in RG480 surveys. In response to this rapid growth, hunting regulations were liberalized in RG480 to encourage hunter participation and slow population growth. Recent surveys suggest these efforts have been successful as population growth has slowed and appears to be stabilizing (Figure 230-1). Hunting in RG480 is currently open from Aug. 20–Mar. 31. Beginning in 2013, RG480 had a bag limit of 2 goats and, beginning in 2020, one of the 2 harvested goats is required to be a nanny. Permits are available on-line and at selected department offices. Resident and nonresident hunters may participate, but nonresidents must be accompanied by an Alaska-licensed guide or a resident relative within second degree of kindred. Over the last 5 years (RY20-RY24), an average of 1,138 permits were issued annually for RG480 with an average harvest of 184 goats. The 5 years prior (RY15-RY19), an average of 1,496 permits were issued annually for RG480 with an average harvest of 230 goats. Liberalized harvests and season modifications have resulted in a relatively stable goat population in the RG480 hunt area.

RG480 currently has more than a 7-month season (Aug. 20–Mar. 31). The majority of goat harvest during RY20-RY24 occurred in the months of October (37%), September (18.7%) and November (14%).

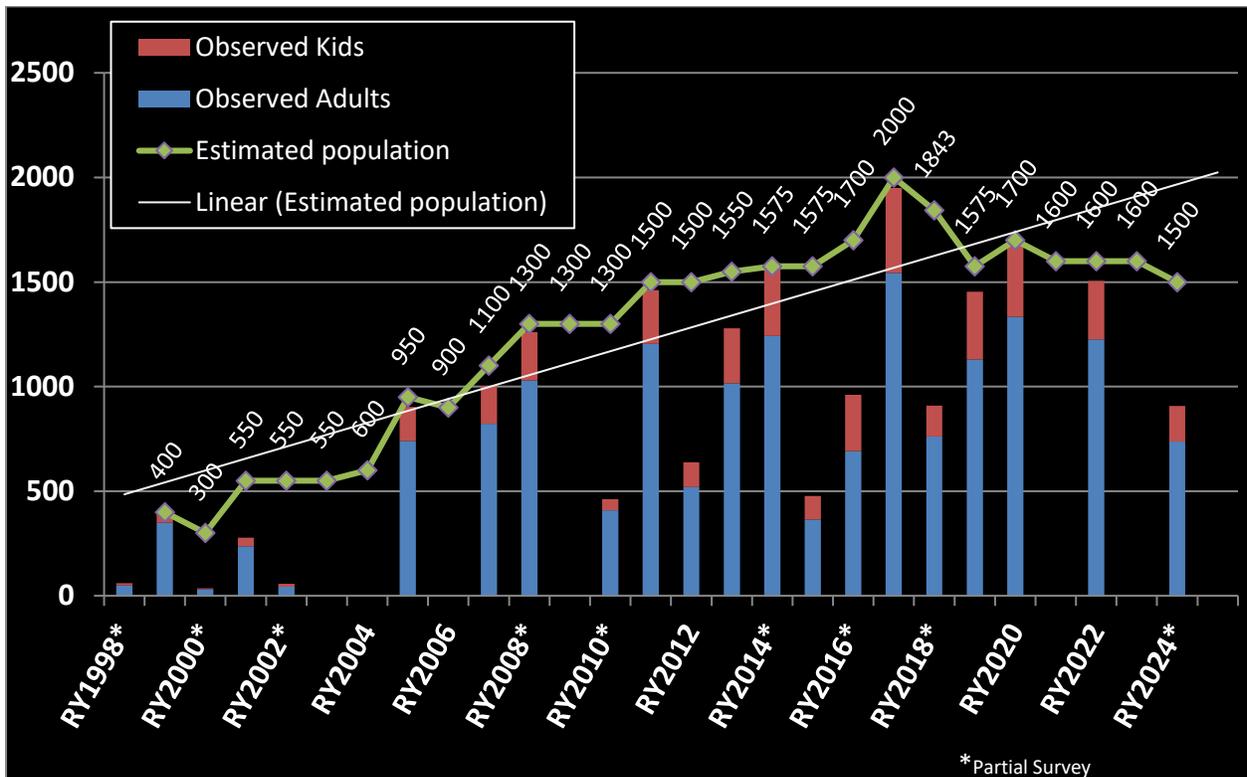


Figure 230-1. Unit 8 aerial mountain goat composition counts and estimated population size from RY98-RY24 in the RG480 goat hunt area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to lengthen the season for the RG480 goat hunt in Unit 8 to start August 1. The department supports additional opportunity where available, though the proposal may jeopardize the department’s ability to conduct annual goat surveys.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 231 – 5 AAC 92.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478 and DG479.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jessie Dunshie

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of “up to 10%” for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478 and DG479.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for goat drawing permit hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts. Similarly, 5AAC 92.057 does not specify a nonresident allocation for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season

...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one non-resident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island north of the Spiridon River, Koniag Peak and Midway Creek, is divided into 7 hunt areas for goat: DG/RG471, DG/RG472, DG/RG473, DG/RG474, DG/RG476, DG/RG478 and DG/RG479. The harvest of goats in these areas is managed using a drawing and registration permit hunt structure. In each of these areas, if harvest objectives are not met during the drawing permit hunt the corresponding registration hunt may be opened to provide additional opportunity until established harvest objectives are met.

There is no non-resident allocation set for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478 or DG479. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The number of eligible applicants and winners by residency for all Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts can be found in Table 231-1.

Table 231-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478 and DG479. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	4973	881	18	176	4	39	18	6	3	219
2018	6000	1290	22	201	3	54	25	5	2	215
2019	6512	1374	21	229	4	73	26	12	4	286
2020	6569	1464	22	164	2	75	25	7	2	295
2021	7630	1373	18	248	3	56	21	9	3	265
2022	7130	1354	19	192	3	56	21	7	3	265
2023	7152	1527	21	296	4	59	23	13	5	252
2024	7743	1487	19	332	4	59	23	14	5	258
2025	8292	1426	17	294	4	53	20	11	4	259

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 17 and 22% of the drawing applications for this hunt, and have been awarded between 39 and 75 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 20% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 232 – 5 AAC 92.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG478 and DG479.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alexis Kwachka

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a nonresident cap of 10% for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG478 and DG479.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.050 states how a nonresident may apply for goat drawing permit hunts but does not set a specific nonresident allocation for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts. Similarly, 5AAC 92.057 does not specify a nonresident allocation for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts.

(4)

...

Remainder of Unit 8

1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug 20 — Oct. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug 20 — Oct. 25
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Nov. 1 — Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season

...

Goats in Unit 8 have a negative customary and traditional use determination.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, nonresident hunters would not be allocated an opportunity if the number of permits available is insufficient to provide opportunity for at least one nonresident hunter.

**BACKGROUND:** Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island east of Hidden Basin and Kazhuyak Bay is divided into 4 hunt areas for goat: DG/RG471, DG/RG472, DG/RG478 and DG/RG479.

The harvest of goats in these areas is managed using a drawing and registration permit hunt structure. In each of these areas, if harvest objectives are not met during the drawing permit hunt the corresponding registration hunt may be opened to provide additional opportunity until established harvest objectives in each area are met.

There is no nonresident allocation set for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG478 or DG479. Season dates are Aug. 20–Oct. 25. The combined number of eligible applicants and winners by residency for DG471, DG472, DG478 and DG479 can be found in Table 232-1.

Table 232-1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation for Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG478 and DG479. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Tags Awarded
2017	4215	719	17	146	3	21	15	3	2	143
2018	4879	920	19	150	3	35	25	3	2	138
2019	5248	981	19	161	3	39	22	5	3	178
2020	5302	1088	21	135	3	44	23	4	2	188
2021	5788	828	14	143	2	29	18	2	1	158
2022	5381	796	15	88	2	24	16	1	1	151
2023	5562	1023	18	187	3	33	22	5	3	151
2024	6063	964	16	222	4	28	18	6	4	156
2025	6642	953	14	229	3	27	18	5	3	152

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. In the last 9 years, nonresidents have submitted between 14 and 21% of the drawing applications for this hunt and have been awarded between 21 and 44 of the permits available.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 233 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Change the boundary for Unit 8 brown bear hunts DB106/206/136/236.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to change the Unit 8 brown bear hunt boundary for brown bear drawing hunts DB106/206/136/236.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

...

Remainder of Unit 8	Apr. 1–May 15 (General hunt only) Oct. 25–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Apr. 1–May 15 Oct. 25–Nov. 30
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1 bear every 4 regulatory years  
by permit only, as provided in  
5 AAC 92.061

...

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would move the northeast boundary of hunt unit 06 from the valley of Avnulu Creek to the adjacent northeast ridgeline and follow the ridgeline southeast down to Cape Kasiak (Figure 233-1). This change would slightly reduce the size of adjacent hunt unit 05 and slightly expand hunt area 06. This boundary change would occur entirely on federal lands but would result in state delineated hunt boundaries that no longer align with the delineation of federal guide use areas 05 and 06. Currently, hunt area 06 is classified as an exclusive guide use area which provides exclusive guiding privileges on federal land. There is currently one guide registered to hunt in area 06. Hunt area 05 is considered a partially exclusive guide use area with guides having exclusive guiding privileges on federal lands within the hunt area but not on private lands (e.g., Sitkalidak Island). However, there is one guide currently registered to hunt in area 05 that has obtained exclusive permission to guide private lands within hunt area 05 resulting in exclusive guiding privileges on both private and federal lands within hunt area 05. This proposal would likely not require ADF&G to adjust the number of permits for either area due to the limited area impacted by this change.

**BACKGROUND:** Kodiak Island is divided into 31 Kodiak brown bear drawing hunt areas open to both resident and nonresident hunters through an application and lottery process. Nonresident hunters who are citizens of the United States are required to be personally accompanied in the field by an Alaska-licensed guide or be accompanied by a relative within second degree of

kindred that is 19 years of age or older when hunting Kodiak brown bears. Nonresident aliens (not residents of the United States) are also required to be personally accompanied by an Alaska-licensed guide. Alaska-licensed guides can register to take clients in a maximum of 3 guide use areas throughout the state. Of the 31 brown bear hunt areas throughout Kodiak Island, 21 are classified partially or entirely as Exclusive Guide Use Areas. Exclusive Guide Use Areas are areas in which a single guide is granted sole access to guide hunts on federal lands within these areas. Guides for these exclusive guide use areas are selected through a highly competitive application and proposal ranking process through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Guides are granted exclusive guiding privileges for these areas for 5 years (with an option to extend before the proposal process is reinstated and guides can once again compete for exclusive access to these areas).

Hunt area 05 (Three Saints and Barling Bay) is made up of both private and federal lands. The currently authorized guide can use both federal and private lands. There are 8 brown bear permits (5 resident, 3 nonresident) available in the spring and 7 brown bear permits (4 resident, 3 nonresident) available in the fall for hunt area 05. Hunt area 06 (Kaiugnak Bay) has one guide registered in the area and has 8 brown bear permits (5 resident, 3 nonresident) available in the spring and 5 brown bear permits (3 resident, 2 nonresident) available in the fall. Over the past 5 years (RY20–RY24), on average 2 bears have been harvested by residents per year and 4.8 bears have been harvested by nonresidents per year in hunt area 06 (Kaiugnak Bay); and on average 3.4 bears have been harvested by residents per year and 5 bears have been harvested by nonresidents per year in hunt area 05 (Three Saints and Barling Bay).

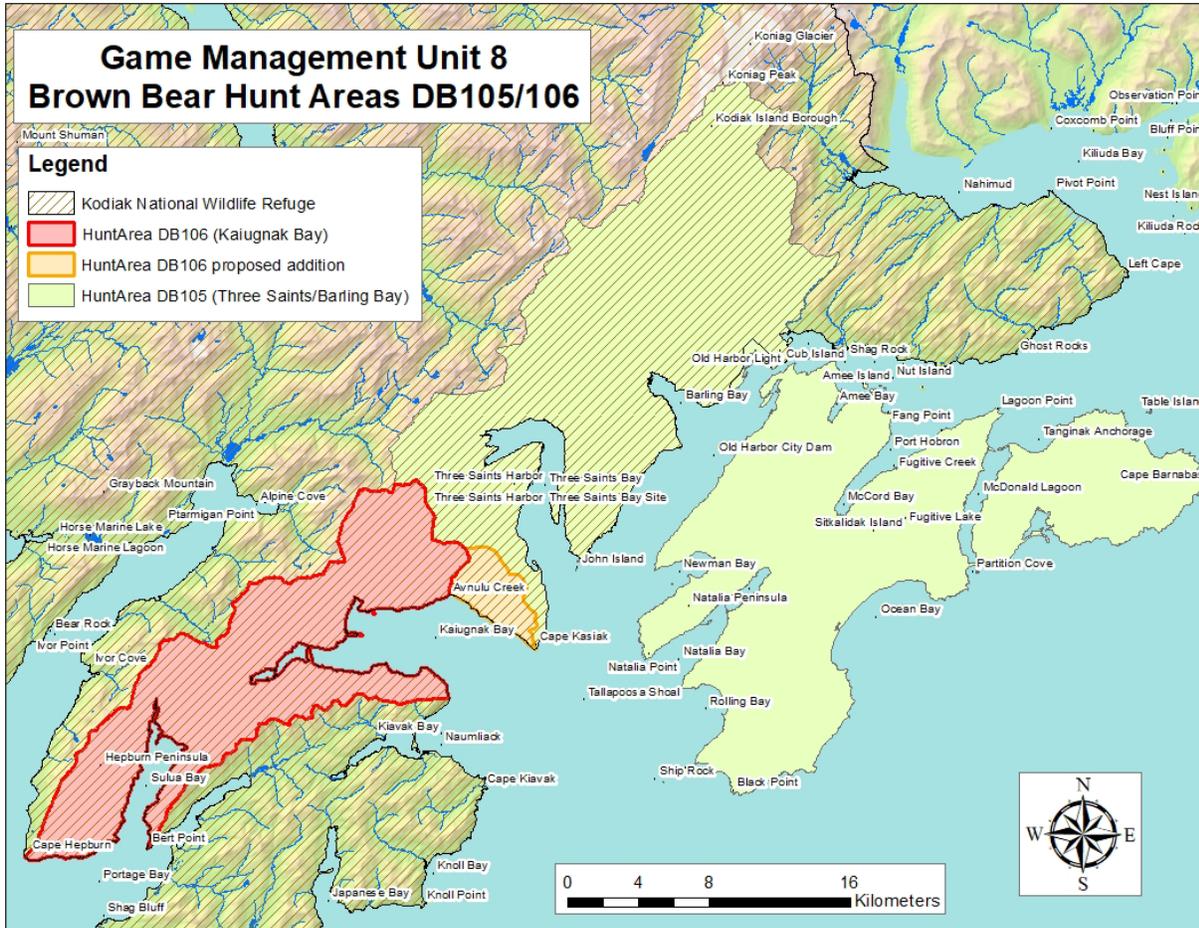


Figure 233-1. Proposed boundary changes to Kodiak brown bear hunt areas 05 and 06 for Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 2026.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to change the boundaries for hunt areas 05 and 06. If adopted this proposal will not create a biological concern but will misalign existing guide use and hunt areas. Since submission, the proponent has expressed a desire to withdraw this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 234 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Shorten the spring brown bear season in Unit 8 to open April 20.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to shorten the spring brown bear season in Unit 8 by opening the hunt on April 20 instead of April 1.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(7)		
Unit 8, that portion of Kodiak Island and adjacent Islands, including all drainages into Chiniak, Anton Larsen, and northeast Ugak (east of Saltery Creek drainage) Bays	Oct. 25–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 25– Nov. 30 Apr. 1–May 15
	Apr. 1–May 15 (General hunt only)	
1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only		
Remainder of Unit 8	Apr. 1–May 15 (General hunt only) Oct. 25–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Apr. 1–May 15 Oct. 25–Nov. 30
1 bear every 4 regulatory years by permit only, as provided in 5 AAC 92.061		

...

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would shorten the spring bear hunting season by 19 days and may result in a slight reduction in spring hunting opportunity and harvest of brown bears. Due to den emergence patterns, male brown bears are more commonly available for harvest during early portions of the spring bear season. Male brown bears are typically the first bears to emerge from dens in the spring providing early season hunting opportunities for hunters. Lone females followed by females with dependent young emerge later. Females with newborn cubs are commonly the last reproductive class to emerge from dens in the spring. Brown bear cubs and sows accompanied by cubs may not be harvested. Adjusting the opening date and reducing the season by 19 days may

result in some hunters hunting later in the season when more female bears are present on the landscape, potentially resulting in a higher likelihood of female harvest. Additionally, reducing the spring bear season by 19 days may result in increased hunter conflict and a reduction in “hunt experience” as more hunters would be on the landscape during the reduced season dates. This proposal would also result in lost hunting opportunity for spring hunters only available to hunt during the early portion of the season; however historically very few bears are harvested in early April.

**BACKGROUND:** Kodiak bear hunts are considered one of the premier hunts in the world and are one of Kodiak’s foremost trophy hunts. The Kodiak bear population has been managed to promote a healthy, stable population that produces trophy-quality males while providing sustained hunting opportunities. One of the primary objectives of Kodiak’s bear management strategy is to limit human-caused mortality of female bears while maintaining a population that will sustain an annual harvest comprised of at least 60% males. The Kodiak brown bear season is split into 2 seasons; a spring hunt that runs from Apr. 1–May 15, and a fall hunt that runs from Oct. 25–Nov. 30. On average over the last 5 years (RY20-RY24) there were 195 registration permits (75 spring; 120 fall) issued annually on the road system and 490 drawing permits (316 spring; 174 fall) issued in remote areas of the island.

Hunter success rates for registration and drawing hunts vary by season, but over the last 5 years success rates averaged 18% in the spring and 14% in the fall for registration hunts and 59% in the spring and 46% in the fall for drawing hunts. Successful spring hunters participating in the registration hunt spend an average of 6.4 days in the field before harvesting a bear while fall hunters spend an average of 5.1 days in the field. Successful spring hunters participating in the drawing hunt spend an average of 5.7 days in the field before harvesting a bear while fall hunters spend an average of 5.4 days in the field. Over the previous 5-year period (RY20-RY24) 25 bears (4%) (4 females, 21 males) were harvested April 1–April 15, 243 bears (41%) (36 females, 207 males) were harvested April 16–April 30; and 328 bears (55%) (66 females, 262 males) were harvested May 1–May 15 during the drawing hunts. During this same period, 0 bears were harvested April 1–April 15, 10 bears (26%) (3 females, 7 males) were harvested April 16–April 30; and 28 bears (74%) (7 females, 21 males) were harvested May 1–May 15 during the registration hunt.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to shorten the spring brown bear season in Unit 8, and is **OPPOSED** to the unnecessary reduction of opportunity without a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 235 – 5 AAC 92.130(f). Restrictions to bag limit.** Require wounded brown bears to count against the bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require that brown bear wounded by hunters in Unit 8 count against the bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.130.** Restrictions to bag limit.

...

(f) In Units 1 - 5 and Unit 8, a black or brown bear wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is taken. However, in Units 1 - 5 and Unit 8, a brown bear wounded by a person does not count against that person's one bear every four regulatory years bag limit established in 5 AAC 92.132.

...

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Amending this regulation to require that a wounded bear count against the hunters “one bear every four regulatory years” limit may reduce the number of wounded bears each year as hunters would be more likely to conduct a thorough and proper search for the wounded animal and be more considerate of shot selection. However, because Kodiak bear permits are highly competitive and very difficult to obtain, this regulation may also discourage hunters and guides from reporting bears that were wounded and lost.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2007, a regulation change was proposed by the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee and supported by the Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee (KUBS) that requires a wounded bear count against a hunter’s bag limit for the current regulatory year in which the hunt is being conducted. The regulation was proposed to maintain a high ethical standard with regard to Kodiak bear hunts and to minimize wounding loss of bears.

Kodiak bear hunts are considered one of the premiere hunts in the world and are one of Kodiak’s foremost trophy hunts. The current regulation was initially adopted to encourage ethical hunting, promote ethical shot selection, and reduce wounding loss. Over the last 5 years (RY20–RY24), 22 bears were reported as wounded by hunters within Unit 8. The current regulation continues to be supported by the Kodiak Advisory Committee and the Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee and has gained widespread acceptance on Kodiak. Further, a similar proposal was submitted for the 2023 Southcentral Board of Game meeting and was failed at that time.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to require that brown bear wounded by hunters in Unit 8 count against the bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 236 – 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.**  
Remove the sow restriction and penalty for resident hunters in some Kodiak brown bear hunt areas, and institute a sow skull size restriction instead.

**5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Resident Hunters of Alaska

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove the sow restriction and penalties for resident hunters in Kodiak brown bear hunt areas 8 through 16, and institute a sow skull size restriction for resident hunters such that the elimination of permits for a hunt area only occurs if a sow is harvested in that hunt area with a skull size less than 15 inches in length or 9 inches in width.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.061 - Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.**

(a) In the Unit 8 general brown bear drawing permit hunt, the department shall issue permits, and a hunter may apply for a permit, as follows:

- (1) the department shall issue a maximum of 40 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and a minimum of 60 percent to residents; each guide may submit the same number of nonresident applications for a hunt as the number of permits available for that hunt;

...

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would eliminate the regulation implemented at the 2023 Southcentral Board of Game meeting requiring that one (1) brown bear permit be removed from the drawing permit hunt for every female bear that was shot in hunt areas 8-16 during the preceding year. The regulation requires that the permit would be removed from the hunt area the female was killed in. For example, if a resident harvests a female bear in hunt area 9 during spring RY23, one resident permit will be removed from hunt area 9 during spring RY24. Similarly, if 2 nonresidents

harvest 2 female bears in hunt area 16 in fall RY23, 2 nonresident permits will be removed from hunt area 16 in fall RY24. This regulation was intended to reduce female brown bear harvest in southwest Kodiak Island due to concerns regarding a potentially declining brown bear population in that area.

**BACKGROUND:** Brown bear population surveys conducted by the department in cooperation with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge suggest the brown bear population in southwest Kodiak Island is experiencing a decline. Results from collaborative Intensive Aerial Surveys (IAS) indicate the bear density in the Sturgeon River survey area had decreased significantly compared to historical estimates. In 2019, a comprehensive survey was conducted and a total of 55 independent bears were observed resulting in an estimated density of 102 independent brown bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup>. This estimate was similar to the previous year's (2018) density estimate of 113 independent brown bears/1000 km<sup>2</sup>, but significantly less than previous estimates (e.g., 2007 [231;  $p = 0.0029$ ], 1998 [227;  $p = 0.0003$ ], 1992 [190;  $p = 0.0111$ ], and 1987 [293;  $p = 0.0003$ ]). The estimated density of independent bears recorded in 2019 was less than half the estimated mean density of four previous surveys during 1987-2007 ( $102/235 = 43\%$ ) and was only 58% ( $102/175$ ) of the lowest accepted management target prescribed for southwestern Kodiak Island as identified in the Kodiak Brown Bear Management Plan. Decreased bear density observed during surveys could be associated, in part, with changes in composition or rates of hunter harvest of single adult bears. However, this seems unlikely since harvest composition and harvest rates have not changed substantially in the Sturgeon River area over the last 20 years. The apparent decrease in bear density may be a result of reduced quality and quantity of forage which could compromise nutritional condition and reproductive success as well as cub and subadult survival. Although reasons for the apparent decline are unclear, the department, in cooperation with federal agencies, is investigating potential reasons for the decline including resource availability and distribution.

As outlined in the Kodiak brown bear management plan, efforts should be made to reduce harvest in areas exhibiting a potential population decline. Because female harvest has direct impacts on recruitment and population sustainability efforts should be made to reduce female harvest in the Sturgeon River area.

During the early 1990's similar concerns arose regarding the brown bear population in portions of southwest Kodiak. At that time, supporting the recommendation of the Kodiak Advisory Committee and local agency personnel, the Board of Game adopted special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear hunts in this portion of the island. The hunting provisions (5 AAC 92.061 (5)) stated,

*“...in the Deadman Bay, Dog Salmon River, South Olga Lakes, Red Lake, Frazer Lake, Karluk Lake, Halibut Bay, Sturgeon River, and North Karluk River permit hunt areas, for each female bear with a skull length (posterior sagittal crest to center of upper incisors) of less than 15 inches or with a skull width (zygomatic breadth) of less than nine inches harvested in a*

*regulatory year by a guided nonresident hunter, one permit will be deducted from the next regulatory year's nonresident allocation for the area in which that bear was taken."*

These skull restriction provisions were in effect from RY94-RY06 and were applied only to nonresident drawing permits in Kodiak bear management areas 8-16. During the 13 years that regulation was in effect (RY94-RY06), a total of 37 sows were harvested by nonresident hunters of which 19 had skulls below the minimum size identified in regulation. The 13 years prior to the adoption of this proposal (RY81-RY93), 233 female bears were harvested (127 resident harvests, 106 nonresident harvests) in this area. Although the effect and success of these female skull size restrictions is difficult to assess, it was widely believed the prior regulation (RY94-RY06) had a positive effect on the population. The regulation was rescinded on July 1, 2007.

Since the current management strategy regarding sow harvest went into effect, nonresident hunters have harvested 1 female bear in hunt areas 8–16 and resident hunters have harvested 12 female bears in hunt areas 8–16 (5 sows in RY23 and 7 sows in RY24). This suggests that the implementation of the proposed minimum skull restrictions on female bears would do little to preserve hunting opportunity impacted by this management strategy in response to female harvest by residents or nonresidents. Although the number of female bears harvested in these hunt areas has declined since the current management strategy went into effect in 2023, the impacts of the reduced sow harvest is difficult to assess in the limited time the regulation has been in place.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal to remove the sow restriction and penalties for resident hunters in Kodiak brown bear hunt areas 8–16 and institute a sow skull size restriction for resident hunters. Brown bear population goals and objectives are under the department's management authority. The department currently uses the sow harvest penalty to maximize hunting opportunity over time. As noted above, none of the 13 sows harvested were smaller than the proposed minimum skull size requirement, so even if the department were interested in a skull-size based penalty, the proposed one would have zero effect on hunting opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 237 – 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.**

Require all nonresident hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Resident Hunters of Alaska

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require all nonresident hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.**

(a) In the Unit 8 general brown bear drawing permit hunt, the department shall issue permits, and a hunter may apply for a permit, as follows:

(1) the department shall issue a maximum of 40 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and a minimum of 60 percent to residents; each guide may submit the same number of nonresident applications for a hunt as the number of permits available for that hunt;

(2) the department shall enter, in a resident drawing, each application from a resident and each application from a nonresident accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; for each season, the department shall issue a maximum of four permits to nonresident hunters accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; however, the department may not issue, within one calendar year, more than one of these permits per individual hunt, as described in the permit hunt guide published each year by the department;

(3) the department shall enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each complete application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide; the department may enter an application and issue a drawing permit for the general hunt only to a successful nonresident applicant who presents proof at the time of application that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, as required under AS 16.05.407 or 16.05.408;

(4) the following provisions apply to a guided nonresident drawing under this section:

(A) an applicant for a guided nonresident drawing permit may apply for one such permit for for all hunts and one such permit for spring hunts;

(B) after the successful applicants have been selected by drawing, the department shall create an alternate list by drawing the remaining names of applicants for a specific hunt and placing the names on the alternate list in the order in which the names were drawn;

(C) if a successful applicant cancels the guided hunt, the person whose name appears first on the alternate list for that hunt shall be offered the permit; if an alternate applicant cancels the guided hunt, the permit must be offered in turn to succeeding alternate applicants until the alternate list is exhausted;

(D) if a guided nonresident drawing permit is available, but the alternate list is exhausted, the permit becomes available, by registration at the Kodiak ADF&G office, to the first applicant furnishing proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide;(5) repealed 7/1/2007.

There is a negative customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would require all nonresident hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents. This would specifically modify section (D) to make permits available through the registration process only available to resident hunters, reallocating those permits from nonresident permit allocations to resident allocations.

**BACKGROUND:** Hunters interested in brown bear hunting on Kodiak Island can participate in a Kodiak brown bear hunt 2 different ways, either by participating in a registration hunt on the Kodiak road system or by entering the statewide drawing process. As outlined in the “Alaska Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement”, nonresident hunters wanting to participate in a Kodiak drawing hunt must meet certain requirements prior to being entered into the draw. Similar to residents, nonresident hunters must obtain or have applied for an Alaskan big game hunting license prior to applying for a hunt. In addition, nonresident hunters are required to obtain the services of an Alaska-licensed guide and must have a signed guide-client contract before or at the time of application. Once a nonresident has obtained the services of an Alaska registered guide the hunter can apply online. As outlined in the Alaska Drawing Hunt Supplement hunters, “...must apply online...” and “There is NO REFUND of application or license fees.” Further, in addition to the purchase of a hunting license, there is a fee each time a hunter applies for a drawing hunt. The cost for applying for a brown bear hunt is \$5.

The scenario of nonresident hunters or their guides not applying for drawing permits or paying fees is most likely to occur with hunters hunting in Exclusive Guide Use Areas. Exclusive Guide Use Areas are areas in which only certain guides are permitted to take nonresident bear hunters; resident hunters are also allowed to hunt in these areas. Guided nonresident hunters wishing to hunt in these areas are only permitted to hunt with the guide registered for that area. Because some hunt areas are entirely comprised of an Exclusive Guide Use Area in which only one guide is allowed to take clients, some guides choose not to submit hunt applications for their nonresident clients in these areas, and instead rely on 5 AAC 92.061(4)(D) which allows the permits to be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hunters who are successful in drawing a Kodiak brown bear drawing permit have until a certain date (usually 2.5 to 3 weeks prior to the start of the season) to cancel, in writing, their Kodiak brown bear drawing permit. Hunters who do not cancel their permit prior to the deadline will not be eligible for a Kodiak brown bear drawing permit for the remainder of the regulatory year. Permit cancellations will not be accepted after the deadline. If a successful nonresident applicant cancels their permit prior to the deadline for cancellations, the department will choose an

alternate for that permit from the nonresident alternate list. Alternate lists for nonresidents for each hunt are produced during the drawing permit application process. If there are no nonresident alternates available for the hunt, cancelled permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis starting on a pre-determined date (commonly 2 weeks prior to the start of the season) and up until the start of the season. No cancelled or undersubscribed permits will be issued after the start of the season. Because most cancelled nonresident permits are reallocated to an alternate via the nonresident alternate list, “unused” nonresident permits are not common. Over the last 5 regulatory years (RY20-RY24), 51 nonresident permits have gone unused and could be available for reissuance to another hunter. However, last minute cancellations limit the potential of a new hunter being able to participate on short notice. Participation in Kodiak brown bear hunts by nonresidents is typically high, limiting the number of nonresident bear permits that go unused. Over the last 10 regulatory years (RY15-RY24), nonresidents have an average of an 85% participation rate in Kodiak drawing bear hunts and residents have averaged a 53% participation rate, highlighting the high participation rate of nonresident hunters.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to require all nonresident hunters apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents due to its allocative nature. Given the complexities of drawing brown bear hunts in Unit 8, proposals addressing permit issuance are allocative. This proposal does not create nor address a conservation concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 238 – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require residents hunting brown bear in Unit 8 to complete an online education course specific to Kodiak Island.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.**

...

(o) When participating in a hunt that requires a department-approved education or orientation course under this section, a person must have proof of course completion in possession.

...

The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) has made a negative customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would require residents hunting brown bears in Unit 8 to complete an online education course that is designed specifically for Kodiak Island brown bears. Because no course currently exists, this proposal would require the department to create an online course specific to Kodiak Island that identifies methods hunters can apply to determine age and sex of brown bears. This proposal would promote further educating hunters on methods to identify bear age class and gender prior to going hunting. It may also reduce the number of females harvested each year as hunters would presumably be more diligent about sex identification prior to shooting a bear and select for larger male bears.

**BACKGROUND:** Kodiak brown bear hunts are closely managed and all hunters obtaining Kodiak brown bear permits are required to pick up their permit at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in-person in Kodiak prior to going hunting. All hunters receiving Kodiak brown bear drawing permits are sent a letter a few months prior to their hunt providing general information about the hunt as well as outlining rules and regulations pertaining to bear hunting on Kodiak. The letter each hunter receives includes information on obtaining tags, reporting requirements, and hunter safety as well as encourages hunters to visit the ADF&G Kodiak bear hunting webpage to learn more about hunting on Kodiak, including information on identifying male and female bears. In addition to receiving a letter in the mail, when hunters arrive at the Kodiak office to obtain their permit, they are required to attend a 2–3-minute presentation covering the Kodiak Bear Hunter Checklist. This presentation covers various topics including expectations of the hunt, current hunting regulations, information regarding legal animal requirements, as well as reporting requirements for successful and unsuccessful hunters. After the presentation and when receiving their permit, each hunter is provided an Alaska Department of Fish and Game booklet titled, “Brown Bear: Identifying males and females in the field”. Hunters are encouraged to read the booklet and review the methods to identify male and female bears in the field prior to going hunting.

One of Kodiak’s brown bear management objectives is to maintain a stable brown bear population that will sustain an annual harvest composed of at least 60% males. To prevent female harvest from exceeding 40%, Kodiak staff provide different resources to hunters specifically addressing the identification of male and female bears. It appears these efforts have been successful as average annual harvest of females very rarely exceeds 40% of the overall harvest. Over the past 10-years (RY15–RY24), the average annual proportion of female harvest for drawing and registration hunts combined was 26%. Kodiak Island has a robust, healthy, and stable brown bear population that consistently produces high-quality trophy male bears while providing sustained hunting opportunities.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department supports hunter education and orientation, however it is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to require residents hunting brown bear in Unit 8 to complete an online education course specific to Kodiak Island brown bears. All Kodiak brown bear permits must be obtained in person in the Kodiak ADF&G office at which time an orientation is provided. Extensive material is also available to hunters to assist in identifying male and female brown bears. Current female bear harvest is sustainable and within management objectives. In addition, the department is currently preparing educational material for other species and will need time to complete this requirement if the proposal is adopted

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would result in additional costs for the department for preparation of the online orientation.

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**PROPOSAL 239 – 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4) Hunting season and bag limits for small game.**

Reduce the daily bag limit for sea ducks and require accurate harvest logs on multi-day transporter hunts in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alexis Kwachka

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to reduce the daily bag and possession limits for sea ducks and/or require harvest logs on multi-day ‘transporter’ hunts in Unit 8. Daily bag limits are requested to be reduced by an unspecified amount (by half is mentioned) and would apply to both residents and nonresidents that use transporters. The department interprets ‘transporter’ as a registered migratory game bird guide but also recognizes that some outfitters/lodges supply equipment (e.g., boats) for self-guided hunts that, for purposes of this proposal, are considered something other (i.e., a transporter) than a registered migratory game bird guide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Regulation 5 AAC 92.013 requires a migratory game bird guide in Alaska to register with the department prior to providing services each year but does not require reporting of guided hunter harvest; there is no regulation that requires the department to record hunter harvest of migratory game birds in Alaska. However, regulation 5 AAC 92.018 requires hunters that possess an Alaska waterfowl conservation tag (i.e., state duck stamp) to register with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) as part of the National Migratory Bird Harvest Survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The following is the regulation for bag limits of sea ducks in Unit 8, unmodified since 2001:

**5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(B) Sea Ducks (except Spectacled and Steller’s eiders)**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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Units 8 and 10 (except Unimak Is.)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

10 per day, 20 in possession, of which no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession, may be harlequin ducks and no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession, may be long-tailed ducks

Oct. 8 – Jan. 22  
(General hunt only)

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

7 per day, 20 in possession; however, no more than 4 each of any sea duck species may be taken per season; and no more than 20 sea ducks of all species may be taken per season

Oct. 8 – Jan. 22

The Alaska Board of Game (board) made a positive customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds in all units with a harvestable surplus. The board has not determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The opportunity for resident and nonresident hunters in Unit 8 on multi-day transport or guided hunts only would be reduced, and likely an accompanying reduction in sea duck harvest. Also, the department would be required to develop and administer a system for transported or guided hunters to report their sea duck harvest in Unit 8.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2002, the board adopted a regulation (5 AAC 92.013) that requires migratory game bird guides to register annually with the department to provide a means of tracking guiding activity across the state. However, neither this regulation nor federal regulation requires guides to record and report bird harvest or client information, primarily because annual harvest of migratory game birds, including sea ducks, is estimated via the National Migratory Bird Harvest Survey (National Survey) conducted by the USFWS. The National Survey monitors annual harvest in the U.S. using three programs: the Harvest Information Program (HIP), a diary survey, and a Parts Collection Survey. The department participates in the HIP, which requires licensed migratory game bird hunters to annually register with the program in each state they hunt (in Alaska, hunters register for the HIP with purchase of the state duck stamp). The USFWS uses the HIP registration to draw and stratify a statistical sample by state to voluntarily

participate in a diary survey designed to record their hunting activity throughout a given season. The HIP registration also provides a sampling framework for the Parts Collection Survey, which estimates species, age, and sex composition of the annual harvest – a form of reporting validation for the diary survey. Data from both surveys are used to estimate species-specific harvest estimates for each state and nationwide. Guided hunters in Alaska may be selected to participate in these surveys.

The proposal is seeking to require more narrowly-focused harvest reporting from only multi-day guided (or transported) sea duck hunts in Kodiak (Unit 8). Notably, this level of reporting would provide only partial assessment of sea duck harvest in Kodiak and would likely require a voluntary system of validation (i.e., Parts Collection Survey) to assess accuracy of reported harvest composition to estimate harvest of guided hunts. A Parts Collection Survey would be costly and labor-intensive to implement, even at a small scale, and likely subject to bias by nonrandom sampling. Further, harvest data best informs regulatory decisions when considered alongside species-specific population assessments. In this instance, however, there are no contemporary population surveys of sea ducks in Kodiak during the fall-winter period that would provide reference for localized harvest data, thus diminishing the interpretability and utility of harvest logs.

Most waterfowl populations are assessed via large-scale aerial surveys during the breeding period when survey conditions are favorable, and birds are largely concentrated. However, the biology of sea ducks often complicates these efforts, and existing surveys are not well suited for monitoring sea ducks, particularly in Alaska. Breeding bird surveys tend to be incomplete assessments of sea ducks due in part to availability bias, low detection, and incomplete species identification. Surveys during the non-breeding period (e.g., fall-winter) would likely provide a more reasonable assessment of harvestable sea duck populations, but these are less feasible because sea ducks tend to be distributed across large geographic expanses of coastline in remote marine habitats that are not easily accessible nor logistically practical (or safe) to survey. In Alaska, the population status and trends of many sea duck species are derived from three larger scale aerial breeding bird surveys conducted by the USFWS: the Alaska-Yukon portion of the continent-wide Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey and regional-scale Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Arctic Coastal Plain surveys. Long-term annual indices from these surveys have shown population declines in many sea duck species between the 1970s and mid-1990s; for example, eiders, scoters, and long-tailed ducks experienced apparent declines of more than 50%. Reasons for these declines are unknown, but since the 1990s many sea duck populations have rebounded and trends have either stabilized or are increasing, although abundances remain below historical population levels. Despite these surveys being incomplete assessments, sea duck population abundance is likely in the tens to hundreds of thousands in Alaska.

Management of sea ducks in Alaska is focused primarily at the statewide level, in part because population and harvest information is gathered at large geographic scales. With a few exceptions, past changes to sea duck regulations were comparable across all five hunt zones in the state. In

1999, with guidance from the USFWS, the Board of Game (board) adopted moderate restrictions statewide to bag limits in response to general concerns over large-scale and long-term declining trends in some sea duck species. Bag limits for sea ducks were reduced for residents from 15 to 10 daily, and restricted nonresidents to 20 sea ducks per season and no more than 4 each of any species. In 2001, the board further limited statewide regulations for residents to no more than 6 daily for harlequin ducks and long-tailed ducks. The department suggested these modifications were appropriate and represented a practical balance of precautions over resource concerns and retention of sea duck harvest opportunity across Alaska, including the needs of subsistence users.

In subsequent board cycles, however, the public expressed concerns over perceived localized depletions of sea ducks at smaller scales (i.e., unit or subunit). In response, the board directed changes to regulations as follows: in 2010, resident and nonresident bag limits were further reduced in Unit 15C for harlequin ducks and long-tailed ducks to no more than 2 daily and for eiders to no more than 1 daily; and in 2023, resident and nonresident bag limits for long-tailed ducks were restricted to no more than 1 daily in Units 7 and 15. The department indicated there was no evidence of localized depletion but also noted that there are few reasonable opportunities to monitor population status or harvest at small geographic scales.

The number of hunting guides in Alaska specializing in waterfowl, including sea ducks, is modest with a small proportion operating in Unit 8. In 2024, the department registered 133 waterfowl guides, of which 21 stated their intent to guide in the Kodiak Archipelago. Past data indicated that guiding for migratory game birds for most registered guides (~70%) was ancillary to guiding for big game or sportfish, and this is likely the case for most guided waterfowl hunts in Unit 8. However, the department lacks harvest data for sea ducks specific to Unit 8 particularly from guided hunts, although statewide annual harvest of sea ducks in Alaska is relatively low (13% of total duck harvest). The National Survey estimated annual average sea duck harvest in Alaska at about 7,900 sea ducks, by an annual average of 1,580 hunters at approximately 5 birds per hunter per season.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. Sea duck management is focused primarily at the statewide scale, with consideration for regional scale (i.e., hunt zone) management when appropriate. Further, the department has no practical or reliable means of monitoring population trends and harvest at small geographic scales across the state that might direct localized regulatory decisions. Sea ducks are harvested at relatively low levels in Alaska, and there is no evidence of discrete winter assemblages of sea ducks that require special attention. Moreover, restrictions to a segment of hunters in a single unit are unlikely to provide meaningful conservation benefit to sea duck populations in Alaska.

The department also notes that current statewide species-specific harvest estimates for sea ducks are provided through the national harvest survey conducted annually by the USFWS. A secondary reporting system for a segment of the hunting community is unlikely to produce useable harvest estimates, even at a small-scale (e.g., Unit 8), without allocating substantial

departmental time and resources. Further, lacking population information at a corresponding scale, harvest data are absent context and impractical for harvest management; and the department cautions that without an independent assessment of species composition (i.e., Parts Collection Survey), harvest reporting is susceptible to inaccuracies from species misidentification. Implementing a small-scale and costly harvest reporting system for guided sea duck hunts in Unit 8 may serve only to burden department resources without fostering informed sea duck management.

To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether subsistence regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would result in additional costs to the department for development, administration, and communication of a harvest reporting system for guided sea duck hunts in Unit 8, and an associated Parts Collection Survey to validate harvest reports.

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**PROPOSAL 240 – 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.** Reduce the nonresident bag limit for fox in Unit 8 to 2, or to 2 for all hunters that use transporters, and prohibit the use of infrared for hunting any species in Unit 8.

**5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alexis Kwachka

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit any hunters who use a transporter to a bag limit of 2 foxes. The current bag limit for resident and nonresident hunters in Unit 8, regardless of use of commercial services, is 2 red foxes and 2 Arctic foxes. This proposal would also prohibit the use of night vision/infrared for hunting any species of game in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(2) Arctic fox (including white and blue phases)		
Unit 8	Sep. 1—Feb. 15	Sep. 1—Feb. 15
2 foxes		
...		
(3) Red fox (including cross, black, and silver phases)		
...		
Units 8–10, 14, 16, and 17	Sep. 1—Feb. 15 (general hunt only)	Sep. 1—Feb. 15
2 foxes		
...		

There is a positive customary and traditional use determination for fox in all units with a harvestable portion. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence is 90% of the harvestable portion.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would decrease the current hunting bag limit for foxes to 2 foxes for any hunter using a transporter from the current bag limit for both residents and nonresidents of 2 red foxes and 2 Arctic foxes in Unit 8 regardless of transportation method. This proposal does not specify how the bag limit would be allocated between species (i.e. 1 red fox and 1 Arctic fox, 2 red fox, or 2 Arctic fox). This proposal would also prohibit the use of night vision/infrared for hunting any species of game in Unit 8 and may reduce fox harvest by hunters using this technology. However, due to the relatively recent approval of the regulation allowing the use of night vision

to hunt furbearers statewide (March 2025), it is difficult to assess the impact of the proposed regulation on hunter success or furbearer populations.

**BACKGROUND:** At the 2025 Statewide Board of Game (board) meeting, the board adopted a proposal allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide. This proposal took effect during the regulatory year (RY) RY25 hunting and trapping season and information regarding how this regulation impacts fox harvest has yet to be analyzed.

Archeological evidence indicates the only furbearers indigenous to the Kodiak Archipelago are red foxes (*Vulpes Vulpes*), river otters (*Lontra canadensis*), and short-tailed weasel (*Mustela erminae*; Rausch 1969). Healthy populations of all these furbearers now reside in the unit. Captive red, blue, and Arctic (*Vulpes* spp.) foxes escaped or were released from widespread fox farms in the early 1900s and have established populations since that time.

Red foxes are one of the most abundant furbearers on the archipelago. In 2015, the board adopted a hunting and trapping season for Arctic fox. The hunting season dates extend from Sep. 1– Feb 15. with a 2-fox bag limit, and the trapping season dates extend from Nov. 10–Mar. 31 with no bag limit. The department has no objective unitwide estimates of furbearer populations, although hunters and trappers report that fox populations along portions of the Kodiak road system regularly fluctuate. Fluctuations in fox abundance are likely related to fluctuations in prey abundance and trapping/hunting pressure on the road system.

Foxes are the most commonly pursued furbearer in Unit 8 but trapping and hunting fluctuate in popularity. The use of automated predator calls has become more prevalent in recent years, potentially resulting in an increase in fox harvest. Current methods of monitoring harvest through the ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire may underestimate take since sealing is not currently required for fox. The average annual harvest by trappers and hunters is estimated between 100–300 animals. Some harvested fox are home-tanned or dried for personal use and others are shipped off the island to tanneries.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal to limit the hunting bag limit for foxes because there is no conservation concern; limiting the bag limit based on transporter use is an additional level of complexity that does not currently exist in other hunting regulations, and the department is supportive of the use of night vision/infrared for trapping. To meet the board’s statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 241 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.** Open a year-round trapping season for mink in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyler Polum

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open a year-round trapping season for mink in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

<b>Species and Units</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
...		
(7) Mink and weasel		
...		
Units 7, 8, and 14—16	Nov. 10—Jan. 31	No limit

There is a positive customary and traditional use determination for mink in all units with a harvestable portion. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence is 90% of the harvestable portion.

There are no sealing requirements for mink anywhere in the state.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would provide year-round opportunities for trappers interested in pursuing mink in Unit 8. Although the impacts of mink on Kodiak’s local bird colonies remain unknown, mink have been shown to be detrimental to many bird populations, particularly ground/shore nesting birds. If adopted, Unit 8 will be the only place in Alaska where mink and weasel have different seasons; Mink are non-native to Kodiak Island while weasels are one of the 6 mammals native to the island.

**BACKGROUND:** Archeological evidence indicates the only furbearers indigenous to the Kodiak Archipelago are red foxes (*Vulpes Vulpes*), river otters (*Lontra canadensis*), and short-tailed weasel (*Mustela ermineae*; Rausch 1969). However, evidence suggests ground squirrels (*Spermophilus parryii*) may have been translocated to the archipelago from the Alaska Peninsula by indigenous peoples more than 4,000 years ago (Clark 2008). Healthy populations of the furbearers listed above now reside in the unit.

Mink are not native to Kodiak Island. After multiple failed attempts to purchase live-caught wild mink and release them in 3 locations in Alaska (Montague Island, Kodiak Island, Strait Island), the Alaska Game Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to use farm-raised mink

obtained from the Petersburg Fur Experiment Farm for the transplants to the island. Following this decision, in 1952, 16 female and 8 male mink were brought to Kodiak Island and released near Karluk Lake in an effort to establish a harvestable mink population. After 2-3 years mink were no longer observed in the Karluk area and the introduction was considered a failure. Mink were believed to have been extirpated from the island around this time as no sightings or sign had been observed or documented following that brief 2-3 year period.

In the early 2000s there was interest from an individual on Kodiak Island to re-introduce mink to Kodiak to increase opportunities for fur trapping. This request to the Board of Game did not have much local support and was ultimately denied. However, a few years later, the department began receiving reports of mink sightings on the Kodiak road system and on nearby surrounding islands. Although it is difficult to determine how these mink arrived on Kodiak, these were the first documented sightings of mink on Kodiak Island in more than 50 years. Trappers and hunters continue to report observing mink. These reports have remained relatively consistent and seem to suggest the mink population has not noticeably increased island-wide. However, sightings and reports of mink observed specifically on the Kodiak road system have continued to slowly increase in recent years and mink have now been observed in more remote locations and communities on the road system (i.e., Village of Ouzinkie, White Sands Beach).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to open a year-round season for mink in Unit 8 because there are no conservation concerns for the population.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 242 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.** Lengthen the trapping season for river otter in Unit 8 by 2.5 months.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jessie Juhlin

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would extend the trapping season for river/land otter in Unit 8 by 2.5 months from January 31 to end on April 15 .

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

<b>Species and Units</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
...		
(9) Otter, land		
...		
Unit 8	Nov. 10—Jan. 31	No limit

There is a positive customary and traditional use determination for land/river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) in all units with a harvestable portion. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence is 90% of the harvestable portion.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would extending the trapping season for river/land otter in Unit 8 by 2.5 months to end April 15. The season currently closes January 31. Although river otter parturition dates are variable, extending the trapping season until April 15 may result in abandonment of newborn river otter pups if females are harvested during the late season. Further, extending the trapping season into mid-April will likely increase the harvest of parturient females.

**BACKGROUND:** Archeological evidence indicates the only furbearers indigenous to the Kodiak Archipelago are red foxes (*Vulpes Vulpes*), river (aka land) otters (*Lontra canadensis*), and short-tailed weasel (*Mustela erminae*; Rausch 1969). Although we have no objective estimates of furbearer populations for the unit, trappers report that most furbearer populations appear to be stable. Non-commercial trappers conduct most of the trapping in Unit 8. Trapping effort for river otters, beaver, and fox is typically affected by fluctuations in the fur market. Conversations with local trappers revealed most river otter, beaver, and fox pelts are exported for sale, while most other species are kept on the island for personal use or to sell locally. River otter harvest has been consistently decreasing over the past 10-15 years with an average 5-year annual harvest of 193 during regulatory year (RY) RY10–RY14, 101 during RY15–RY19, and 76 during RY20–24 (Table 242-1). The number of successful otter trappers has also decreased appreciably during this time period from an average of 30 successful otter trappers during RY10–14, to 22 during RY15–19, and down to 18 successful otter trappers during RY20–24. November is commonly the most active month for fur trappers in Unit 8 although harvest chronology for river otters and beavers varies annually. Harvests are also documented through comprehensive subsistence household harvest surveys conducted by the Division of Subsistence. Table 242-2 shows land otter harvests for all study years and all Kodiak area communities.

River otters breed in spring (i.e., May) and exhibit delayed implantation in which the blastocyst (developing embryo) floats freely in the uterus for an extended period of time until implanting on the uterine wall thereby extending the gestation period. Implantation of the embryo is regulated by photoperiod with river otters in northern latitudes commonly initializing implantation in early to mid-February. Parturition commonly occurs from April to May when river otter pups are born requiring female care until about 5 months of age.

Table 242-1. Unit 8 river otter harvest during RY10–RY24 on Kodiak Island, Alaska.

Regulatory Year	No. Male	Percent Male	No. Female	Percent Female	No. Unknown	Total	Successful Trappers
RY10	68	54.8	56	45.2	2	126	26
RY11	57	63.3	33	36.7	39	129	26
RY12	65	39.2	101	60.8	22	188	26
RY13	148	41.8	206	58.2	6	360	38
RY14	58	40.3	86	59.7	19	163	32
RY15	81	50.3	80	49.7	5	166	32
RY16	62	49.2	64	50.8	5	131	29
RY17	36	57.1	27	42.9	1	64	17
RY18	35	47.9	38	52.1	1	74	18
RY19	43	61.4	27	38.6	1	71	16
RY20	49	62.8	29	37.2	2	80	19
RY21	15	60.0	10	40.0	77	102	17
RY22	43	53.8	37	46.3	9	89	24
RY23	32	60.4	21	39.6	6	59	16
RY24	15	57.7	11	42.3	26	52	13

Table 242-2. - Number of otter, land, harvested by Kodiak area communities, 1982-2022.

	Kodiak (Road)	Ouzinkie	Port Lions	Akhiok	Old Harbor	Larsen Bay	Karluk	Total otter harvested
1982	0	15	0	0	59	0	10	84
1986	-	27	89	0	19	1	3	139
1989	-	0	7	0	0	26	5	38
1990	-	0	-	-	-	0	0	0
1991	125	0	-	-	0	24	0	149
1992	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
1993	76	0	5	-	-	2	-	83
1997	-	0	-	-	0	2	-	2
2003	-	11	1	0	1	0	0	13
2018	-	-	-	0	22	0	-	22
2021	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
2022	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	0

- No survey conducted for this year

Source: Community Subsistence Information System

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to extend the river otter trapping season in Unit 8 because there are no conservation concerns for river otter in Unit 8. However, if adopted, the proposal will increase harvest, including females.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 243 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Require all snares set in the Kodiak road system area to be equipped with a breakaway mechanism.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Humane Society of Kodiak

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require all snares on the Kodiak road system to have a breakaway mechanism (of a designated minimum poundage) on the loop end of the snare. The snare cable and anchor must be stronger than the breakaway mechanism.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are no regulations specific to the use of snares in Unit 8.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for furbearers in Unit 8 with an amount reasonably necessary of 90% of the harvestable portion of the population.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would require all snares set on the Kodiak road system to be outfitted with a breakaway mechanism. The intent of the proposal is to reduce the number of non-target species captured and reduce the severity of injuries to non-target species when they escape the snare. Trappers would be required to outfit all snares with breakaway mechanisms which may be time consuming and require additional costs. Presumed costs are anticipated to be minimal as most breakaway mechanisms are relatively inexpensive.

**BACKGROUND:** Snaring is one of the oldest methods used to capture wild animals and has evolved significantly with the creation of braided cable, swivels, locking mechanisms, and other components to increase efficiency and productivity. In some areas the use of snares has been restricted due to public concern over snares capturing non-target species. In response to these concerns, there has been a recognized need and an effort to develop and improve breakaway mechanisms to avoid catching and possible injury to non-target species.

On Kodiak Island, the trapping season is open year round for some species (squirrel, marmot), but most trapping, particularly snaring, occurs in November, December, and January when fox, beaver, and river otter seasons are open and fur is prime. Despite most snaring occurring during the fall and winter months, over the past 10 years the department has received multiple calls of nontarget species (e.g., dogs, bears, deer) caught in snares initially set to capture fox. Since 2016, the department has observed and/or handled 2 bears and 4 deer caught in snares and has dispatched 2 additional bears due to significant injuries inflicted by snares not equipped with breakaway mechanisms. The department also receives complaints of domestic animals caught in snares along the Kodiak road system, particularly in popular, high traffic areas. Although trapping and snaring is a popular pastime for many residents of Kodiak, recent incidents along the Kodiak road system have resulted in public discussion on adopting additional regulations that provide a safety mechanism for non-target species caught in snares on the Kodiak road system.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this methods and means proposal to require all snares set on the Kodiak road system to include breakaway mechanisms. To meet the Board of Game's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 244 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Require identification tags on traps and snares set along the Kodiak road system.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Humane Society of Kodiak

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal will require trappers to mark, with an identification (ID) tag, all traps and snares set along the Kodiak road system.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The Board of Game (board) does not currently have any trap marking requirements in Alaska.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal will require additional effort for trappers to mark traps and snares, and may result in a nominal increase in expenses to refit traps and snares with ID tags.

**BACKGROUND:** The board previously adopted proposals to mark snares in Units 12 and 20E (2001) and all traps and snares in Units 1-5 (2003). The requirement to mark a snare was implemented in Regulatory Year (RY) 2001 for Unit 12 and 20E and in RY2003 for units 1–5. The board originally enacted the requirement to mark a snare in Units 12 and 20E to address local enforcement issues related to snare sets left in the field following the closure of the wolf trapping season. The original proposal included a sunset clause of 2 years but was reinstated by the board in 2002 without the sunset because of overall positive support from local trappers and law enforcement. Wolf trapping along major roadways is common in Units 12 and 20E. When these animals are caught in sight of the road, the marking requirement has allowed the department and troopers to contact trappers before public complaints escalate.

The board adopted the requirement for marking traps and snares in units 1-5 to address many of the same issues as identified in interior region units. This regulation was later repealed at a statewide board meeting.

A similar proposal was submitted as a statewide proposal and was considered at the March 21-28, 2025 board meeting (Proposal 131), the proposal failed 1-6. The department was neutral on the statewide proposal and recommended the board address area specific issues on a case-by-case basis.

Conflicts between trappers and non-consumptive users occur periodically in Unit 8. The bulk of such conflicts occur along multi-use trails on the Kodiak road system. There are also occasionally issues involving the capture of non-target game species (bears and deer) and domestic animals.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because there is no conservation issue. The desire for identification of traps in the field is used primarily for

enforcement purposes. Gear identification is used in other resource management approaches; for example, fishers are required to mark buoys attached to pots to identify the owner or vessel in some fisheries. If adopted, trappers would need to affix ID tags to all trapping gear. To meet the board's statutory responsibility to the subsistence law, it should consider whether regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses if the proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 245 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Prohibit the use of artificial light and infrared/heat signatures optics for hunting big game or trapping small game in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would prohibit the take of big game or small game with the aid of artificial light or a forward looking infrared device through hunting or trapping in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** The following methods of taking game are prohibited.

...

(7) with the aid of

...

(C) artificial light, except that artificial light may be used

(i) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 – March 31 in Units 7 and 9-26;

(ii) by a tracking dog handler with one leashed dog to aid in tracking and dispatching a wounded big game animal;

(iii) to aid in tracking, recovering, and dispatching a wounded game animal without the use of a motorized vehicle;

...

(F) a forward looking infrared device, except that a forward looking infrared device may be used for taking furbearers.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for furbearers in Unit 8 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence use (ANS) of 90% of the harvestable portion of the population.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The use of artificial light to take game in Unit 8 is currently prohibited, except in the 2 instances noted above regarding tracking and recovering wounded game. A forward looking infrared device may only be used to aid in the taking of furbearers with an Alaska trapping license. The adoption of this proposal would eliminate the use of artificial light or an infrared device while trapping foxes.

**BACKGROUND:** There are various categories of game defined in regulation, this includes big game, small game, fur animals, and furbearers. Big game, small game, and fur animals are only legal for take with an Alaska hunting license. Furbearers may only be taken with an Alaska trapping license.

The take of game with the aid of artificial light, electronically enhanced night vision, or a forward looking infrared device with an Alaska hunting license in Unit 8 is currently prohibited.

At the 2025 Statewide Board of Game (board) meeting the board adopted a proposal submitted by members of the public allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward looking infrared devices to take furbearers statewide. This proposal took effect during regulatory year (RY) RY25 and information regarding how this regulation impacts furbearer populations has yet to be determined.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to prohibiting the use of forward looking infrared devices to aid in the take of furbearers when there is no conservation concern. This proposal introduces regulatory complexity in the form of inconsistent regulations, and the department is supportive of the use of this technology for trapping.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 246 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**  
Prohibit hunting with infrared devices in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alexis Kwachka

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would prohibit the take of game through hunting with the aid of a forward looking infrared devices in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

It is currently not legal to take game under hunting regulations with forward looking infrared technology.

**5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** The following methods of taking game are prohibited.

...

(7) with the aid of

...

(F) a forward looking infrared device, except that a forward looking infrared device may be used for taking furbearers.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for furbearers in Unit 8 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 90% of the harvestable portion of the population.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** A forward looking infrared device may only be used to aid in the taking of furbearers with an Alaska trapping license. The proposed regulations are consistent with those in 5 AAC 92.080 and the adoption of this proposal would have no effect on current regulations.

**BACKGROUND:** There are various categories of game defined in regulation, this includes big game, small game, fur animals and furbearers. Big game, small game and fur animals are only legal for take with an Alaska hunting license. Furbearers are only legal for take with an Alaska trapping license.

The take of game with the aid of artificial light, electronically enhanced night vision, or a forward looking infrared device with an Alaska hunting license in Unit 8 is currently prohibited.

At the 2025 Statewide Board of Game (board) meeting the board adopted a proposal submitted by members of the public allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices to take furbearers statewide. This proposal took effect during regulatory year (RY) RY25 and information regarding how this regulation impacts furbearer populations has yet to be determined.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to prohibiting the use of forward looking infrared devices to aid in the take of furbearers. It is currently not legal to hunt with forward looking infrared devices.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 247 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Allow the use of artificial light to take foxes during open trapping seasons in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Taj Shoemaker

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow the take of fox with the aid of artificial light with an Alaska trapping license in Unit 8.

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

The fox trapping season in Unit 8 is November 1 – March 31, and there is no bag limit.

**5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** The following methods of taking Game are prohibited

...

(7) with the aid of

...

(C) artificial light, except that artificial light may be used

(i) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 – March 31 in Units 7 and 9 – 26;

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for furbearers in Unit 8 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion of the population.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would allow the take of fox with the aid of artificial light with an Alaska trapping license in Unit 8.

**BACKGROUND:** Archeological evidence indicates the only furbearers indigenous to the Kodiak Archipelago are red foxes (*Vulpes Vulpes*), river otters (*Lontra canadensis*), and short-tailed weasel (*Mustela ermineae*; Rausch 1969). However, evidence suggests ground squirrels (*Spermophilus parryii*) may have been translocated to the archipelago from the Alaska Peninsula by indigenous peoples more than 4,000 years ago (Clark 2008). Healthy populations of the furbearers listed above, except mink, now reside in the unit. Captive red, blue and arctic (*Vulpes* spp.) foxes escaped or were released from widespread fox farms in the early 1900s.

Red foxes are one of the most abundant furbearers on the archipelago and in 2015, the Board of Game (board) adopted a hunting and trapping season for Arctic fox. The hunting season dates extend from September 1–February 15. with a bag limit of 2 fox, and the trapping season dates extend from November 10–March 31 with no bag limit. There are no objective unit-wide estimates of furbearer populations although hunters and trappers report fox populations along portions of the Kodiak road system regularly fluctuate. Fluctuations in fox abundance are likely related to fluctuations in prey abundance and trapping/hunting pressure on the road system.

Foxes are the most commonly pursued furbearer in Unit 8 but trapping and hunting appears to fluctuate in popularity. The use of automated predator calls has become more prevalent in recent years, potentially resulting in an increase in fox harvest. Current methods of monitoring harvest may underestimate take since there is no permitting, reporting or sealing requirement for fox in Unit 8. The average annual harvest by trappers and hunters is estimated between 100–300 foxes through the ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire.

At the 2025 Statewide Board of Game meeting the board adopted a proposal submitted by members of the public allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-

looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide. This proposal took effect during the regulatory year (RY) RY25 hunting and trapping season and information regarding how this regulation impacts fox populations has yet to be determined.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to allow the use of artificial light for taking fox under a trapping license in Unit 8, which is currently allowed in Units 7, and 9-26.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 248 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Prohibit the take of furbearers with the aid of electronically enhanced night vision and forward looking infrared devices in Unit 8.

**PROPOSED BY:** Rebecca Skinner

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would prohibit the take of furbearers with the aid of electronically enhanced night vision or a forward looking infrared device with an Alaska trapping license in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** The following methods of taking game are prohibited

...

(7) with the aid of

...

(E) electronically enhanced night vision, except that electronically enhanced night vision may be used for taking furbearers.

(F) a forward looking infrared device, except that a forward looking infrared device may be used for taking furbearers.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for furbearers in Unit 8 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 90% of the harvestable portion of the population.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would prohibit the take of furbearers with the aid of electronically enhanced night vision or a forward looking infrared device with an Alaska trapping license in Unit 8. If adopted, this proposal would align harvest restrictions for furbearers with all other game species in Unit 8.

**BACKGROUND:** There are various categories of game defined in regulation, including big game, small game, fur animals and furbearers. Big game, small game and fur animals are only

legal for take with an Alaska hunting license. Furbearers are only legal for take with an Alaska trapping license. Unit 8 furbearer species include; beaver, arctic fox, red fox, marten, mink, short-tailed weasel, muskrat, river otter, red squirrels and ground squirrels. There are no conservation concerns for any furbearer population in Unit 8.

At the 2025 Statewide Board of Game (board) meeting the board adopted a proposal submitted by members of the public allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide. This proposal took effect during RY25 and information regarding how this regulation impacts furbearer populations has yet to be determined.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to prohibiting the use of electronically enhancing night vision and forward looking infrared devices to aid in the take of furbearers, and is supportive of the use of this technology for trapping. While this proposal would align regulations for all game species in Unit 8, adoption would eliminate a currently authorized method and means.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 249 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption.** Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region IV.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal will reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions in Units 9, 11, 13, 16, and 17.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The following regulations are currently in effect for Region IV brown bear hunts:

5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 11;

(2) Units 13 and 16A;

(3) Units 16B and 17;

...

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department

in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9B, within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9C, within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9D, within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9E, within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 9B;

(2) Unit 9E, that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Units 9D and 9E;

(3) Unit 17;

....

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bears in those portions of Units 17A and 17B that drain into the Nuyakuk and Tikchik lakes, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5. There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bears in the remainder of Unit 17B, Unit 17C, Unit 19A, portions of Unit 19B, and Unit 19D with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 10–15 bears.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 9B, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 10–20 bears, and a positive customary and traditional use finding in 9E, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 10–15 bears. The remainder of Unit 9 has a negative customary and traditional use finding.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters will not be required to purchase a brown bear locking tag before hunting brown bears in Units 11, 13, 16, and 17. In addition, brown bear tag fees will not be required for subsistence hunts in Units 9 and 17 or for permit hunts near communities in Unit 9. If adopted, this proposal will simplify the opportunistic harvest of brown bears by Alaska residents.

**BACKGROUND:** Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually, or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations, including the tag fee exemption, to increase the opportunity to take brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 Board of Game meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting.

The board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities destroying property in search of food or garbage and occasionally killing pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits along with the elimination of the tag fee is intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of DLP bears.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The Board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9.

Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal because it provides greater sustainable harvest opportunity in Units 11, 13, 16, and 17; addresses public safety concerns in Unit 9; and supports subsistence harvest opportunity in portions of Units 9 and 17.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 250 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.**

Reauthorize the resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Interior and Northeast Alaska as follows:

- (a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units: (4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown/grizzly bears in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Brown/grizzly bear tag fees and locking tags are not required for residents in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C. The customary and traditional use findings and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence are presented below:

**Customary and Traditional Use findings, and Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses, brown bear populations, Region III (5 AAC 99.025 (3)):**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence</b>
Unit 12	Negative	---
Units 19A and 19B upstream of and excluding the Aniak River drainage, and Unit 19D	Positive	10–15
Units 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage	Positive	5
Unit 19C	Negative	---
Unit 19D	Positive	2–6
Units 20A and 20B outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Use Area and Unit 20C	Positive	1–3
Unit 20D, outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area	Positive	1–2
Unit 20E	Negative	---
Units 21 and 22	Positive	20–25

Units 23, 24, and 26	Positive	25–35
Unit 25A, 25B, 25C	Negative	---
Unit 25D	Positive	None made

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**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The \$25 resident tag fee exemption would be continued for brown/grizzly bear hunts in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

**BACKGROUND** The Board of Game must annually reauthorize all resident tag fee exemptions. Resident brown bear tag fees were put in place statewide during the mid-1970s to discourage incidental harvest, elevate the status of brown bears to trophies, and to provide revenue. Today, Region III populations are abundant, and brown bears continue to be highly regarded as trophies. Across the region, season dates and bag limits effectively regulate harvest in areas where interest is high.

Eliminating all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III simplifies regulations, increases resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take brown bears opportunistically. Reauthorizing these tag fee exemptions would allow residents who are unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting, due to lack of vendors or economic reasons, to legally harvest brown bears. During regulatory years 2014–2024, approximately 20% of brown bears harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities, compared with 8% statewide.

Human-caused mortality of brown/grizzly bears in most areas of Region III is quite low and is assumed to be less than 6% of the population, which is a rate that is sustainable under most ecological circumstances. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear populations are managed through changes in seasons and bag limits. The presence or absence of tag fees does not appear to have a significant influence on harvest in these areas.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Brown bear numbers appear to be stable in Interior and Northeast Alaska. Resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have had no effect on regional harvest. Therefore, this proposal does not present a biological concern. As part of this proposal to reauthorize the exemption of resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III, we recommend that the board, at a minimum, continue to reauthorize the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit

hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 251–5 AAC 92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemptions.**

Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would reauthorize the resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Brown bear tag fees are not required for residents in drawing, registration, or subsistence permit hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. Below are the customary and traditional use findings and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for subsistence uses of brown bears in Units 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 26:

Game Management Unit	Finding	Amounts Reasonably Necessary
Unit 18	Positive	23-30
Units 21 and 22	Positive	20-25
Units 23, 24, 26	Positive	25-35

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Resident hunters would not be required to purchase a resident locking tag for general season, drawing, or registration permit brown bear hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. Hunters participating in subsistence registration permit hunts would also not be required to purchase a brown bear locking tag to harvest a bear, although possession of the subsistence registration permit would be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. Brown bear general season, drawing, and registration permit hunts have had the tag fees exempted in Unit 18 and 26A for 11 years, in Unit 22 for 21 years, and in Unit 23 for 16 years. Exemptions have been implemented to allow: 1) incremental increases in harvest; 2) additional opportunity for residents; and 3) harvest for a wide range of uses. Current harvest levels in each of the units are appropriate based on sealing and anecdotal information. Previous exemptions of resident tag fees have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest.

In subsistence brown bear registration permit hunts, reauthorizations are needed for Unit 18, 22, 23 and 26A where requirements include: 1) a registration permit; 2) a tag fee exemption; 3) salvage of meat for human consumption; 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A; 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from the subsistence registration permit hunt area; and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and the front claws must be removed and retained

by the department at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence registration permit hunts. In all units, subsistence brown bear registration permit harvest rates are low and the department thinks they are biologically appropriate based on harvest reports; exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Brown bear numbers in the identified units are stable or increasing and the increased harvests that result from the tag fee exemption do not present a conservation concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 252 – 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B; these hunts must be re-authorized annually by the Board to comply with statutory requirements.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Units 14A and 14B are within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence use area. The current moose hunting regulations for Units 14A&B can be found in 5 AAC 85.045 and in the *2024–2025 Alaska Hunting Regulations*.

- The department has the authority to issue up to 2,000 drawing permits to resident hunters in Unit 14A with a bag limit of one antlerless moose. The season is August 25–September 25 for DM400–DM410 and YM412, November 1–November 30 for DM413 and December 1–December 25 for DM414.
- The department may also issue up to 200 permits to resident hunters for the targeted hunt in Unit 14A with a bag limit of one moose during a winter season to be announced by emergency order.

The department may also issue up to 100 additional permits to resident hunters for a targeted hunt in Unit 14B with a bag limit of one moose during a winter season to be announced by emergency order.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B; these hunts are needed to keep the moose population within management objectives and provide additional hunting opportunity for residents. The targeted hunt also provides managers with a tool to reduce moose-vehicle collisions and address nuisance moose issues.

**BACKGROUND:** Moose surveys conducted in November of 2023 provided an estimate of 6,657 ( $\pm 810$ ; 80% CI) moose in Unit 14A. This is less than the 2020 population estimate of 7,112 however it is greater than the population objective of 6,000–6,500 moose. Twinning surveys conducted in the spring of 2024 showed a twinning rate of 28%, the highest since 2017: this is indicative of a population that should be managed for stability. The twinning rate has been increasing since 2021 which suggests that the population productivity is increasing as the population is being brought closer to the population objective.

The number of antlerless permits issued was raised in spring of 2011 from 400 to 1,000. Due to the heavy snows that same winter, there were no antlerless permits issued in 2012. Subsequent surveys indicated that the moose population was not adversely affected by the winter of 2011 and was continuing to grow. The department manages moose adaptively and the number of permits issued was raised to the limit of 1,000 permits for the fall of 2017. In spring of 2018 the board increased the permit levels to 2,000 permits and 1,302 permits were issued for RY18 and 1,310 in RY19. As the population has been intentionally reduce to meet objectives, the number of antlerless permits issued has been reduced to accordingly; to 800 in RY21 and RY22, 367 in RY23, and then reduced again to 199 in RY24. The success rate for hunters under the antlerless permits has remained steady at about 49% over the past 3 years.

The targeted moose hunt in Units 14A&14B provides an additional tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collision and nuisance management issues. The targeted hunt (AM415) has been in place since 2012. Under this permit, hunters are either designated a specific nuisance moose to take or are assigned one of four areas where a high number of moose-vehicle collisions are known to occur. In this scenario permits are issued as snow increases and moose become more prevalent along roadways. The winter of 2014 was very mild with almost no snow. As a result, only 20 permits were issued that year. No permits were issued in the winters of 2017–2023. For the years that permits were issued, on average 143 permits were issued, and 110 moose were taken, providing an average success rate of 77%.

Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of approximately 300 moose per year were killed in the Mat-Su Valley area during the last 5 years of average snowfall and reliable reporting. The department also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

The Unit 14A moose population has exceeded population objectives for the past 12 years and has the potential for large increases in a relatively short amount of time. These increases in density may increase in the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress, particularly during severe winters. We suspect that the number of antlerless moose harvested in recent years and the severity of the winter of last couple of years has arrested the growth of the herd and led to a population reduction. We anticipate continuing to offer a reduced number of

antlerless permits for RY25 and future permit levels will be adjusted as we get more current population information.

Browse surveys completed in the spring of 2016 demonstrated a removal rate of 37.13% ( $\pm 6.9\%$ ; 95% CI). This offtake indicated a relatively high proportion of commonly browsed plants in the unit are being consumed annually, suggesting the moose population in Unit 14A may have approached their carrying capacity. Browse surveys were conducted at the end of a winter which had little snowfall and browsing appeared to be more evenly distributed than in what would be found in a typical year.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Antlerless moose harvests are necessary to achieve and maintain the population within objectives, avoid overutilization of available browse, and reduce moose-human conflicts in the Mat-Su Valley. by providing significant additional moose hunting opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 253 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose seasons for Unit 17A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations for the Unit 17A antlerless moose hunt allow resident hunters a bag limit of two moose per regulatory year under registration permits, however only 1 moose can be taken during the fall season. Nonresidents are restricted to a bag limit of one bull moose with antler restrictions by drawing permit.

- There are three fall hunts, one of which allows the harvest of an antlerless moose:
  - Registration permit (RM573), for resident hunters only with a bag limit of one bull moose, August 25–September 25;
  - Registration permit (RM571), for resident hunters only with a bag limit of one antlerless moose, August 25–September 25;
  - Drawing permit (DM570 - up to 20 permits are available), for non-resident hunters only, with a bag limit of one bull moose with 50” antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side, September 5–15.

- There are two winter hunts, open to resident hunters only, one of which allows for the harvest of antlerless moose.
  - Registration permit (RM575), for resident hunters only with a bag limit of one antlered bull moose, January 1– Last day in February;
  - Registration permit (RM576), for resident hunters only with a bag limit of one antlerless moose, January 1– Last day in February.

There is a negative intensive management finding for moose in Unit 17A. The Unit 17 moose population does have a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding. The unit wide amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) is 100–150 moose.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 17A. These antlerless hunts would continue to provide hunters with additional harvest opportunity while helping managers by limiting the growth of the Unit 17A moose population that is already beyond the upper limit of the population objectives.

**BACKGROUND:** Moose are relative newcomers to much of Unit 17A, with only about 35 animals being present along the eastern border in 1980. Since then, moose have continued to increase in population size and expand throughout Unit 17A and west into Unit 18. Minimum counts of moose in Unit 17A were conducted in 14 different years during the period of 1991–2011, revealing a steady increase in moose numbers over time, with 1,166 moose counted in March 2011. During 2012–2015, surveys were not conducted due to inadequate snow conditions. Beginning in fall 2016, a Geospatial Population Estimator (GSPE) replaced the minimum count for enumerating moose in Unit 17A. In spring 2017, this survey technique produced an estimate corrected for sightability (1.2) of 2,370 moose, ( $\pm 563$ ). The uncorrected estimate was 1,990 moose ( $\pm 437$ ). In 2022 a snowless GSPE was completed with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge which supported the 2017 estimate at an estimated 1,971 moose.

Moose management in Unit 17A has been guided by the Unit 17A Moose Management Group, consisting of members from the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game advisory committees, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This group produced a Unit 17A Moose Management Plan that went through several iterations during 1996–2013, with the 2013 plan being used as the guiding document today. This plan has goals and objectives for hunter opportunity, harvest allocation, habitat mapping and population monitoring. The population objective for Unit 17A listed in the plan is 800–1,200 moose.

A drawing hunt for nonresident hunters was adopted by the board in 2013, with fall 2014 being the first year of that hunt. The impetus behind the nonresident hunt was abundant harvest opportunity provided by this growing moose population, and objectives within the moose

management plan that provide for the nonresident opportunity when the moose population exceeds 1,000 animals and is at a stable or increasing trend.

The winter antlerless hunt was adopted by the board and initiated in RY13 that allows for an antlerless harvest when the moose population is above 600 animals and is stable or increasing. During the last seven years of the RM576 antlerless hunt (RY17–RY23), 314 antlerless moose have been taken (241 cows and 73 bulls), for an average of ~35 cows/winter.

Because of the concerns with the increasing moose numbers in Unit 17A that are already well above population objectives, a proposal was adopted by the board during their spring 2018 meeting in Dillingham to open a fall antlerless hunt in 2018 to increase harvest on the female segment of the population. During the first year of this hunt, fall 2018, 8 antlerless moose were harvested, all were cows. From RY17–R23 a total of 30 cows have been harvested during the fall hunt, for an average of 5 cows/year.

During the RY22 BOG cycle, the board set season dates of January 1– Last day in February for both winter hunts to capitalize on variable winter conditions that exist along the southern coast.

From RY17–RY23 a total of 760 moose have been harvested, for an average of ~109 moose/year. The average fall harvest is 51 moose (46 resident harvest, 5 nonresident harvest) and winter harvest averages 58 (77% antlerless, 23% antlered)

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. The moose population in this unit is above the upper limit of the population objective. Allowing harvest of antlerless moose will help limit population growth while providing additional harvest opportunity for hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 254 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting season and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Remainder of Unit 18.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the resident and nonresident antlerless moose season in the portion of Unit 18 that drains into Kuskokwim Bay south of the Carter Bay drainage and in the remainder of Unit 18.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless hunting during the winter seasons is allowed for resident and nonresident hunters in Unit 18. It is allowed for resident hunters in the portion of Unit 18 that drains into Kuskokwim Bay south of the Carter Bay drainage in a “may be announced” season in the month of January. The season timing and length depend on the winter travel conditions and how many moose remain from the fall quota. Antlerless moose hunting is

allowed for nonresident hunters in Unit 18 remainder. The current season for nonresidents is December 1- March 15 and the bag limit is one antlerless moose.

Antlerless hunting during fall and winter seasons is allowed for resident hunters in the “Remainder of Unit 18.” There are 3 components to antlerless seasons:

- 1) during August 1–September 30 the bag limit is 3 moose; however, only one antlered bull may be taken and taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited;
- 2) during October 1–November 30 the bag limit is 3 antlerless moose with no additional restrictions; and
- 3) during December 1–April 30 the bag limit is 3 moose with no additional restrictions.

In the January 2024 meeting, the BOG authorized a new drawing hunt for antlerless moose in the Kuskokwim hunt area. Up to 100 permits may be issued for this hunt.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 18 and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 200–400 moose. There is a positive intensive management finding for moose in Unit 18, and a population objective of 1,000-2,000 moose and a harvest objective of 60-200.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless hunts in the areas south of the Carter Bay drainage, the Kuskokwim Hunt area, and the remainder of Unit 18 would be reauthorized for regulatory year (RY) 2026. Hunters would have the same seasons and bag limits as RY2025 (see Current Regulations above).

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Both these hunt areas support a large moose population, reaching a conservative estimated minimum population of 24,000 moose. In all areas surveyed, moose populations had twinning rates of 22-46% in 2022.

Harvests by residents in RY2024 (n=533) is above the previous 3-year average harvest (n=453). In RY2024, the harvest ticket reports from the remainder of Unit 18 included 147 cows harvested, along with the harvest of 386 bull moose. The combined harvest for the remainder of Unit 18 represented in this reauthorization is well within sustained yield parameters, and the population trajectory has not been affected by antlerless harvests.

RY2017 was the first year the board authorized antlerless hunts for nonresidents. A total of 9 cow moose have been harvested by nonresidents in Unit 18: 2 moose in 2020, 2 moose in 2022, 1 in 2023 and 4 in 2024. We expect nonresident harvest to remain low during the antlerless season.

In total, five antlerless moose (3 cows, 2 bulls) have been reported harvested in the Goodnews hunt area since 2019.

Preliminary results from the Kuskokwim hunt area antlerless hunt includes 84 hunters who reported hunting and harvesting 49 antlerless moose.

Continuing antlerless moose harvest opportunity will benefit hunters and may also help slow the growth rate of the population.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to maintain antlerless hunts in areas where moose populations are increasing.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 255 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize a fall antlerless hunt during September and a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the fall antlerless moose hunt and the winter antlerless moose hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in

**5AAC 85.045(a)(17)** are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...	...	...

Unit 19(D), that portion 2 miles on either side of the Kuskokwim River from the Selatna River upstream to the confluence of the South Fork and the North Fork of the Kuskokwim River, and 2 miles on either side of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River from the mouth to Nikolai, and 2 miles on either side of the Takotna River from the mouth to the bridge at Takotna, excluding

the Black River drainage and the Selatna River drainage

...	...	...
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb. 1 – Last day of Feb.	No open season
...	...	...
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River, and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River, and excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River.	...	...
...	...	...
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
...	...	...
Unit 19(D) Remainder		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb. 1 – Last day of Feb.	No open season

...  
...  
...  
There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 19, outside of the Lime Village Management Area. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence is 400 to 700 moose, including 175 to 300 moose in Unit 19(A), and 20 to 24 moose in Unit 19(B).

Unit 19D-East has a positive Intensive Management (IM) finding with a population objective of 6,000 - 8,000 and a harvest objective of 400 - 600.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would: 1) reauthorize the winter hunt in Unit 19D upstream of the Selatna River allowing hunters to harvest antlerless moose, and 2) authorize a limited fall antlerless drawing hunt moose opportunity in Unit 19D upstream of the Selatna River.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. This proposal would provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

The moose population in the eastern portion of Unit 19D has approximately doubled since predator removals began in 2003 before declining after 4 consecutive years of very deep snow (winters 2019/2020 through 2022/2023; Figure 1). Prior to intensive management, the department measured bull-to-cow ratios along the Kuskokwim River drainage at 18 bulls per 100

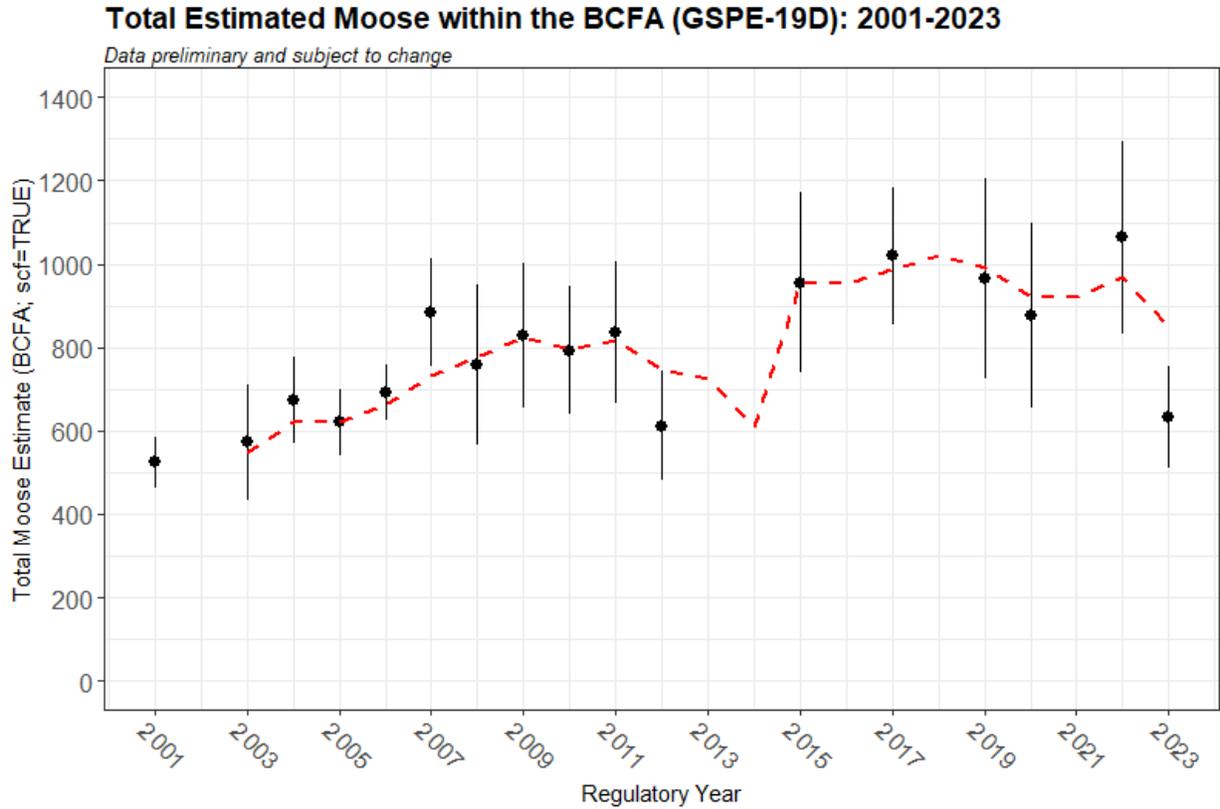


Figure 1. GSPE population estimate within the Bear Control Focal Area (BCFA) using a sightability correction factor for GMU 19D 2001-2023. Points and vertical lines indicate annual population estimates and 90% Confidence Intervals. The dashed red line is the 3-year moving average of the GSPE point estimate.

cows. After predator reductions and a closure of moose hunting in the Bear Control Focus Area (BCFA), ratios improved to 39 bulls per 100 cows by 2007. After hunting in the BCFA reopened, bull-to-cow ratios declined and the current (2023) 2-year average was 25 bulls per 100 cows (Figure 2).

## Estimated bulls per 100 cows within the BCFA (GSPE-19D): 2001-2023

*Data preliminary and subject to change*

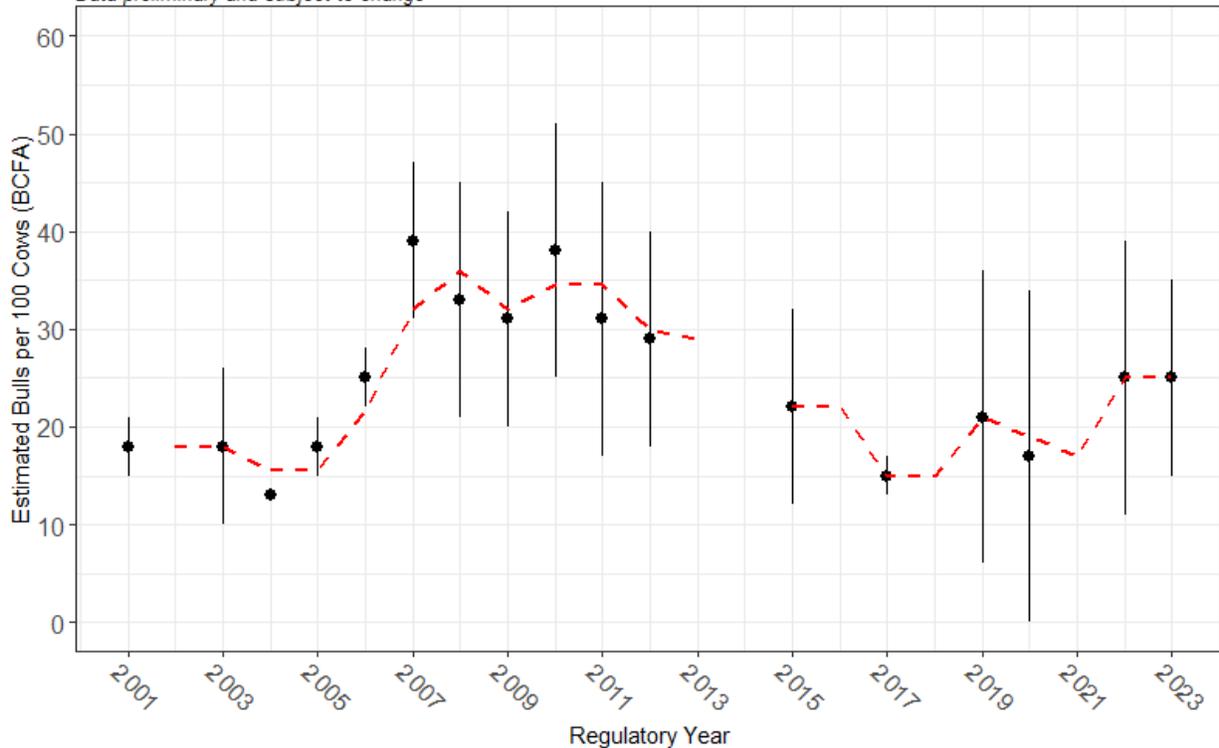


Figure 2. Bull-to-cow ratios within the Bear Control Focal Area (BCFA) derived from GPSE surveys in GMU 19D 2001-2023. Points and vertical lines indicate annual estimate ratios and 90% Confidence Intervals. The dashed red line is the 2-year moving average of bull-to-cow ratio point estimates.

The moose population in Unit 19D upstream of the Selatna River recently experienced a significant decline due to an extremely difficult winter in 2022/2023. During a November 2023 GSPE in the BCFA, we documented a decline from 2,471 moose (2.2 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>) to 1,591 moose (1.4 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>). Due to this decline the department closed the winter hunt in regulatory year (RY) 2023 by emergency order. Proposal 66, passed by the Board of Game (board) in March 2024, authorized a new draw permit hunt in the fall for cows in a portion of Unit 19D. Proposal 66 was submitted by the McGrath advisory committee and passed by the board prior to the documented decline of moose. While the department did not issue antlerless permits in RY24 in Unit 19D, we would like to keep these hunts available as a tool to provide additional opportunity when it is again warranted.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Passage of this proposal will help to maintain or improve long-term habitat conditions and provide the department the flexibility to manage the moose population commensurate with habitat. Winter hunts distribute hunter pressure and allow access to areas that are inaccessible in the fall. Cow harvest contributes toward meeting the intensive management harvest objective without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 256– 5 AAC 85.045(18) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless moose hunts are authorized in Unit 20A by drawing, registration, or targeted permit hunts, as follows:

Ferry Management Trail, Wood River Controlled Use, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area  
Residents only:

- One antlerless moose by drawing permit. Up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the remainder of Unit 20A, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of August 15–November 15.
- One moose by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow by targeted permit. Up to 100 permits may be issued with season dates announced by emergency order.
- One antlerless moose by registration permit, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of October 1–last day of February.

Remainder of Unit 20A

Residents only:

- One antlerless moose by drawing permit. Up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Ferry Trail Management Area, the Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of August 15–November 15.
- One moose by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow by targeted permit. Up to 100 permits may be issued with season dates announced by emergency order.
- One antlerless moose by registration permit, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of October 1–last day of February.

Hunts for bull moose are also available in Unit 20A. Refer to the *2025–2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations* for specific details about bull moose hunting seasons in Unit 20A.

The Unit 20A intensive management (IM) population objective is 10,000–15,000 moose and the IM harvest objective is 500–900 moose. There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 20A outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (NSA) with an amount necessary for subsistence of 50–75 moose.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will have the authority to administer antlerless hunts as a management tool to regulate the moose population in Unit 20A and to provide antlerless harvest opportunity inside the NSA and subsistence moose hunting opportunity outside the NSA

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Unit 20A antlerless hunts help regulate population growth, provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to harvest moose, and provide for additional harvest opportunity.

To determine Unit 20A antlerless harvest rates, the department uses a decision framework that incorporates population size in relation to the IM population objective, population trend, nutritional status, and bull-to-cow ratio estimates. Following a decline in the moose population from an estimated 14,041 (90% confidence interval (CI)  $\pm$  1,732; 2.79 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>) in fall 2021 to 11,029 (90% CI  $\pm$  1,680; 2.19 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>) in fall 2022, the department took a conservative approach and did not issue any antlerless permits for regulatory year (RY) 22–RY24.

The population appeared to stabilize within the IM population objectives between fall 2022 and fall 2024, when the population was estimated at 11,696 (90% CI  $\pm$  1,541; 2.32 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>) moose. However, the population has a high potential for growth given the well above-average calf-to-cow ratio of 38 calves:100 cows estimated during the 2024 survey. This potential for population growth in addition to continued moderately-low nutritional levels (assessed via twinning rates and short-yearling weights) contributed to the department’s decision to offer a small level of antlerless drawing permits within the unit for fall 2026. The department will also offer a limited number of antlerless moose registration permits within the portion of Unit 20A outside the NSA to provide for additional subsistence opportunity. The goals of the drawing and registration antlerless permits are to harvest <1% of the moose population to slow growth and keep the population within IM population objectives, to allow for additional sustainable harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, and to provide for additional subsistence opportunity.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal because antlerless hunts are an important management tool in regulating this high-density moose population. If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the department will lose the ability to regulate this moose population within IM population objectives and according to changes in nutritional status, and IM harvest objectives may not be met. Additionally, the public will lose the opportunity to hunt for a harvestable surplus of antlerless moose, when harvestable surplus exists.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in any additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 257 – 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20B.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless moose hunts are authorized in Unit 20B by drawing, registration, or targeted permit hunts, as follows:

Creamer’s Field Refuge

Residents and nonresidents:

- One antlerless moose by bow and arrow by drawing permit. Up to 150 permits may be issued, and recipients are prohibited from taking an antlered bull in the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA). Season dates of September 1–November 27.

Residents only:

- One antlerless moose by muzzleloader by drawing permit. Up to 10 permits may be issued, and recipients are prohibited from taking an antlered bull in the FMA. Season dates of Dec 1–January 31.

Fairbanks Management Area, outside of Creamer’s Field

Resident and nonresidents:

- One antlerless moose by bow and arrow by drawing permit. Up to 150 permits may be issued, and recipients are prohibited from taking an antlered bull in the FMA. Season dates of September 1–November 27.

Residents only:

- One moose by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow by targeted permit. Up to 100 permits may be issued with season dates announced by emergency order.

Minto Flats Management Area

Residents only:

- One antlerless moose by registration permit, October 15–last day of February.

Middle Fork of the Chena River drainage

Residents only:

- One antlerless moose by drawing permit. Up to 300 permits may be issued, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of August 15–November 15.
- One antlerless moose by registration permit, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of October 1– last day of February.

Southeast of the Moose Creek dike within ½ mile each side of the Richardson Highway

Residents only:

- One moose by bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloader by drawing permit. Up to 100 permits may be issued with season dates of September 16– last day of February.
- One moose by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow by targeted permit. Up to 100 permits may be issued with season dates announced by emergency order.

Remainder of Unit 20B

Residents only:

- One antlerless moose by drawing permit, by youth hunt only. Up to 200 permits may be issued with season dates of August 5–14.
- One antlerless moose by drawing permit. Up to 1,500 permits may be issued, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of August 15–November 15.
- One antlerless moose by registration permit, and taking a cow accompanied by a calf is prohibited. Season dates of October 1– last day of February.
- One moose by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow by targeted permit. Up to 100 permits may be issued with season dates announced by emergency order.

Hunts for bull moose are also available in Unit 20B. Refer to the *2025–2026 Alaska Hunting Regulations* for specific details about moose hunting seasons in Unit 20B.

The Unit 20B intensive management (IM) population objective is 12,000–15,000 moose and the IM harvest objective is 600–1,500. There is a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for moose in Unit 20B within the Minto Flats Management Area, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 20–40 moose. There is also a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 20B, outside the boundaries of the Minto Flats Management Area and outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, with an ANS of 75–100 moose.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will continue to have the ability to use antlerless hunts as a tool to help regulate the moose population, provide for the additional harvest opportunity, and reduce nuisance moose issues and moose-vehicle collisions.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The primary goals of the Unit 20B antlerless hunts are to regulate moose population growth and size within the IM population objective and at levels that the habitat can support, provide harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios, and reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose issues.

Few antlerless hunts are currently being held in Unit 20B because the population is under the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose. The most recent unitwide survey was in November 2023, when the department estimated the unitwide population at 7,848 moose (90% confidence interval (CI) = 6,613–9,083). The antlerless hunts that the department currently administers are as follows:

*Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)* – The purposes of the FMA antlerless drawing hunts are to regulate moose abundance in the FMA and reduce moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

*Richardson Highway Hunt* -The Richardson highway moose drawing permit allows hunters to hunt any moose ½ mile on either side of the Richardson highway with bow and arrow, muzzleloader, or crossbow. The hunt is intended to reduce moose-vehicle collisions along this section of the Richardson Highway.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Although few antlerless hunts are currently being held in Unit 20B because the population is under the IM population objective, retaining the ability to implement antlerless hunts within the unit is an important management tool to regulate future population growth, provide for harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, and attempt to reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose in urban areas and along highways. It will also help meet community needs such as those for potlatch ceremonies; without the reauthorization it is unlikely that any moose will be available for the full complement of community needs.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 258 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20D.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Unit 20D currently has antlerless hunts available by drawing permit only, with fewer than 30 permits available. Current antlerless moose (except a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf) seasons in Unit 20D are as follows:

- 20D Southwest Youth Moose Hunt (YM763): youth (ages 10 to 17) hunters that are residents; one antlerless moose; however, a calf or cow accompanied by a calf may not be taken; September 16–25. One moose per lifetime.
- 20D Southwest Youth Moose Hunt (YM765): youth (ages 10 to 17) hunters that are residents; one bull moose; September 16–25. One moose per lifetime.
- Purple Heart Recipient Hunt (DM795): qualified Purple Heart Recipient, resident and nonresident hunters; one moose every 4 years; however, a calf or cow accompanied by a calf may not be taken; September 1–15 within the Delta Junction Management Area
- Bison Range Youth Moose Hunt (YM792): youth (ages 10 to 17) hunters that are residents; one bull per lifetime, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines

on one side, or one antlerless moose; however, a calf or cow accompanied by a calf may not be taken; September 1–30. (Not currently offered.)

- Southwest Unit 20D drawing hunt (DM791) excluding the Delta Junction Management Area; resident hunters; one antlerless moose; however, a calf or cow accompanied by a calf may not be taken; October 10–16. (Not currently offered.)

Moose in that portion of Unit 20D that is north of the Tanana River and outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (FNSA) have a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5–15 moose. Moose populations in that portion of 20D that is outside the FNSA south of the Tanana River also have a positive C&T finding and an ANS of 5 moose.

In addition to these drawing hunts, the registration hunts being reauthorized will also be retained in the codified regulation for the department to utilize in reducing or maintaining the moose population in some areas of southern Unit 20D by increasing antlerless harvest.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal will allow antlerless hunts to continue to be available to hunters if a harvestable surplus exists and allow the department to use antlerless hunts as a tool to regulate the moose population.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The primary goals of the Unit 20D antlerless hunts are to regulate moose population growth at levels the habitat can support, provide harvest opportunity to make progress towards IM harvest objectives, and provide hunters with an additional opportunity to pursue moose without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. The department limited antlerless hunts in Unit 20D following the severe winter of 2021–2022, which caused deep snow and icing events and resulted in a decline in the moose population. However, a conservative number of antlerless hunts have since occurred with the primary goal of maintaining a stable population size. Department research indicates that moose populations should be managed for stability when 10-month-old calves weigh at least 385 pounds, and the 2-year average twinning rate is 11–20%. In Unit 20D, the two-year (2024 and 2025) average twinning rate was 19.5%. In 2025, mean weight for short yearling females was 391 lbs, this was the first year unit 20D had mean weights over the 385 lb. threshold. These indicators suggest that the population reduction following the harsh winter may have improved moose nutrition. Furthermore, a reduction in browse offtake from 41% in 2022 to 21% in 2023 and increasing short yearling weights also supports improved nutritional condition for moose in Unit 20D.

Previous studies of antlerless hunts in interior Alaska have demonstrated that an antlerless harvest rate of 1% of the total population is generally effective for maintaining a stable population trend. The department intends to adjust the number of antlerless moose permits needed to maintain a healthy moose population in Unit 20D and plans to issue <30 drawing permits for antlerless moose in regulatory year 2026 while continuing to monitor density-dependent indices of nutritional condition.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. There are no biological concerns associated with a limited harvest of antlerless moose taken under the current regulatory framework in Unit 20D. These hunts maintain the opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose and help to meet IM harvest objectives.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in any additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 259 – 5 AAC 85.045 (a)(19).** Reauthorize a winter any-moose season in a portion of Unit 21D. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in a portion of Unit 21D.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal will reauthorize a 15-day registration any-moose season (RM831) to be announced during March in a portion of Unit 21D. The season has a harvest quota established by the department prior to the beginning of the season, and if the total harvest or harvest of cows reaches the quota, the season will be closed by emergency order.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(a)

(19)

...

Unit 21(D), that portion south of the south bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull, by registration permit only; or	Aug. 22–Aug. 31 Sept. 5–Sept. 25
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1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 600 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D)	Sept. 5–Sept. 25
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remainder; or

1 moose, by registration permit only, up to 15 days during March, however, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

(Winter season to be announced)

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 600 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D) remainder

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

...

The Board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in all of Unit 21 and established an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 600–800 moose.

The board has identified 21D moose as an important species for consumptive uses, with an Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 7,000-10,000 moose and a harvest objective of 450-1,000 moose.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Adoption of this proposal would continue to allow harvest of a few antlered bulls, antlerless bulls, and cows in March when conditions allow for good success in harvesting moose. Because so few bulls have antlers during March, an any-moose season will have greater success rates than a bulls-only hunt and it will eliminate the need for hunters to make legal-animal determinations. This hunt will provide an opportunity to utilize the current harvestable surplus of cows and bulls, while ensuring overharvest of cows does not occur because of the annual harvest quota.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goals of this antlerless moose season are to provide additional opportunity during a time of year when conditions allow for good success in harvesting moose, slow the growth of this moose population, and make progress toward achieving the board’s intensive management (IM) harvest objective of 450–1,000 moose in all of Unit 21D by harvesting cows from this highly productive area.

If this antlerless moose hunt is not reauthorized, opportunity to utilize a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost and our ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. In addition, rather than allow large population expansions and contractions, we believe it is important to manage the population for stability and a consistent harvestable surplus.

The 2019 through 2025 hunts had a 2-day reporting requirement and a quota of 25 moose with no more than 20 cows. Harvest from this hunt will make progress toward achieving the IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to levels that are too low. For the March RM831 hunt, hunters harvested 5 cows and 3 bulls in 2019, 11 cows and 3 bulls in 2020, 7 cows and 1 bull in 2021, hunters did not report moose harvested in 2022 or 2023, reported one cow

harvested in 2024, and 4 cows in 2025. Since the department first implemented hunt in 2019, the average annual harvest has been 5 moose.

Unit 21D has a positive finding for intensive management (IM), with IM objectives of a population of 7,000–10,000 and harvest of 459–1,000 moose. The IM harvest objective has not been met since 2003 when the estimated harvest was 489 moose. The average estimated harvest during regulatory years (RY) 2015–2024 was 388 moose, including reported and estimated unreported harvest. The overall Unit 21D population estimate at the end of 2018 was 10,478 moose ( $\pm 1,572$ ) and has likely changed very little based on recent trend area surveys. The estimated combined harvestable surplus is 1,095 moose for Unit 21.

This antlerless moose hunt area is approximately 2,559 mi<sup>2</sup> (21%) of the 12,093.6 mi<sup>2</sup> encompassed by Unit 21D. The department estimated moose abundance in the hunt area at 4,000–4,500 moose, which is approximately 39–44% of the estimated total Unit 21D moose population.

The moose population in this portion of 21D is increasing, especially the number of cows in the population. Analysis of the combined trend count areas of —Squirrel Creek, Pilot Mtn., and Kaiyuh Slough —within the hunt area, showed an increasing trend in moose abundance among all age classes from 2001 to present. Additionally, the Geospatial Population Estimate data also showed a statistically significant increase from 1,897 ( $\pm 11\%$ ) moose in 2011 to 4,116 ( $\pm 10\%$ ) moose in 2017. Moose twinning data for the winter any-moose hunt area showed high twinning rates since RY03 (average = 35.9%), with the 3-year average (RY22-24) at 37.0%.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Additional harvest opportunity, including the harvest of cows, exists in this portion of 21D.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in any additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 260 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless winter moose hunt in Unit 21E.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 85.045(a) are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(19)

Unit 21(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose, by registration permit  
only, a person may not take a cow  
accompanied by a calf

Feb. 15 – Mar. 15

...

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 21. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence is 600 to 800 moose (5 AAC 99.025(8)).

Unit 21E also has a positive intensive management (IM) finding with a population objective of 9,000 – 11,000 moose and a harvest objective of 550 – 1,100 moose (5 AAC 92.108).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the antlerless moose season for 21E (RM837) would be reauthorized. Antlerless hunts will continue to be available to hunters, and the department will continue to have the ability to use antlerless hunts as a tool to regulate the moose population.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goals of this hunt are to provide additional harvest opportunity, meet harvest objectives, and stabilize the 21E moose population.

The most recent population estimate in 2025 indicated there were 11,400 moose in Unit 21E, which is above the IM population objective of 9,000-11,000 moose. The average bull-to-cow ratio from the last 3 fall surveys (2018, 2022, 2024) was 40 bulls per 100 cows, with the most recent estimate in 2024 of 33 bulls per 100 cows.

Within the Unit 21E moose survey area (4,094 mi<sup>2</sup>), the overall moose density has increased from 1.0 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> in 2000 to 2.0 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> in 2025. During most of these years of growth, twinning rates have remained high. Twinning surveys were conducted in 2024 and 2025 in the Holy Cross area, and the average twinning rate for those 2 years was 41%. Browse utilization remains high in the Holy Cross area where the population density is highest and where winter mortality in deep snow years is a concern. Harvest in areas of high browse utilization reduces pressure on moose in those areas during deep snow winters. The opportunity for additional harvest is available, particularly in the area around Holy Cross.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. There are additional moose available for harvest in Unit 21E and providing additional opportunity for harvest through this antlerless winter hunt will help achieve harvest objectives.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 261 – 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 26A.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless moose hunts for residents are allowed in the portion of Unit 26A west of 155° 00' W. longitude, excluding the Colville River drainage, with antlerless hunting with a 1 moose bag limit allowed July 1–September 14.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 26, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 21–48 moose, including 15–30 moose in Unit 26A. There is a negative intensive management finding for moose in Unit 26A.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless moose hunt in the portion of Unit 26A west of 155° 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage would be reauthorized. Because antlerless moose seasons were closed due to population declines in the remainder of the unit, only the western portion of Unit 26A has a hunt affected by this proposal.

**BACKGROUND:** The moose population is low in Unit 26A and has declined since 2008. The minimum population count declined from 1,180 moose in 2008 to 610 moose in 2011. The population grew slowly from 2011–2013 but declined again to 294 moose in 2014. The department conducted the most recent minimum count in 2017 and estimated 339 moose on the landscape.

Reported moose harvest in recent years has remained low, ranging from 1 to 13 moose for the period 2010-2020. Moose in these regions can be an important source of meat in times of low caribou abundance or sparse caribou distribution.

The portion of Unit 26A west of 155° 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage does not have a year-round moose population. Moose occasionally disperse away from the major river drainages to the coastal plain during summer months, and these are the only moose available for harvest in this northwestern portion of Unit 26A. To date, after several years of hunting opportunity in this area, only 4 antlerless moose have been harvested: 1 cow in 2006, 1 in 2008, 1 in 2014, and 1 in 2018. One bull moose was harvest under this regulation in 2020. The small number of antlerless moose harvested under the hunt have very little impact on the size of the population. Keeping an antlerless moose season in this portion of Unit 26A provides additional harvest opportunity in a portion of the state that generally does not have moose.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Antlerless harvests in the western section of Unit 26A are anticipated to be very low and have little impact on the population yet can provide subsistence harvest opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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