

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

September, 2006

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its Fall 2006 meeting to be held November 10-15, at the James and Elsie Nolan Center in Wrangell, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to the regulations governing hunting and the use of game in the Southeast Region. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and staff submitted these proposals, which are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations have statewide application and some regulations may affect other regions of the state. Also, some proposals recommend changes to multiple areas or regions.

The proposals are set forth in the Table of Contents, which is not in roadmap order for the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the board will generate and make available to the public, a roadmap for deliberations. The roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Game with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and the board begins deliberations. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to mail or fax your written comments to the above Juneau address no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27th, to ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time

will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but may not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting and public testimony during the public testimony portion of the meeting is always appreciated. Written comments become public documents.

When providing written comments on the proposals in this proposal book, please consider the following tips to help ensure board members and the public more fully understand recommendations to the board:

Timely Submission: Submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Comments received at least two weeks prior to the meeting are printed and cross referenced in the board members' workbooks. Written comments received after the two-week period will be included in the workbooks as "late comments" and are not cross referenced. Materials received during the meeting also are not cross referenced. If you provide written comments during a board meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

List the Proposal Number: Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state "support" or "opposition" to the proposal(s). This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide a preferred amendment in writing.

Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals: If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Provide an Explanation: Please briefly explain why you are in support or opposition of the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pro and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

Write Clearly: Comments will be photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides, allowing for hole punches. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Use the Correct Address or Fax Number: Mail written comments to Board of Game Comments, ADF&G, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; or fax them to 907-465-6094; or deliver them to a Regional Boards Support Offices.

Advisory Committees: In addition to the above, please make sure the Advisory Committee meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, etc.

Pertinent policies and findings, proposals, written comment deadlines, meeting calendars and notices for the Board of Game meetings are posted on the Board Support website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/> .

A tentative agenda for the November, 2006 Board of Game meeting is shown on page xi. A roadmap detailing the tentative order in which proposals will be made available in late October, 2006 at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/> .

Updated Status of the Meeting: After the board meeting begins, a recorded telephone message will provide current updates on the board's agenda and schedule. Dial (800) 764-8901 (in Juneau, call 465-8901).

Additional Accommodations: Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than October 27, 2006 to make any necessary arrangements.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(907) 465-4110

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
OCTOBER, 2006 PROPOSAL BOOK
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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE
for 2006/2007 Meeting Schedule
as of July, 2006**

Dates & Location

Topic

October 2006 Anchorage	October 7 – 9, 2006 Written Comments: September 22, 2006	Special Subsistence Meeting
Fall 2006 Wrangell	November 10 – 15, 2006 Proposal Deadline: August 18 th , 2006 Written Comments: October 27, 2006	Southeast Region
Spring 2007 Anchorage	March 2 - 12, 2007 Proposal Deadline: December 8, 2006 Written Comments: February 16, 2007	Southcentral & Southwest Regions

For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: (907) 465-4110
Fax: (907) 465-6094

Web address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING CYCLE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
(Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Wolf Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas
- Controlled Use Areas
- Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations which are specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region.

Two statewide regulations will be taken up annually, at the spring meeting: Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts, and Brown Bear Tag Fees. Proposals for changes to these regulations will be considered each spring.

Other statewide regulations will not be taken up every meeting cycle. Statewide regulations are scheduled to be reviewed on a four-year cycle, distributed between winter meetings scheduled to occur every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated meeting cycle is attached.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Cycle**</u>		
SOUTHEAST-REGION I	Fall 2006	Fall 2008	Fall 2010
Game Management Units:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		
SOUTHCENTRAL-REGION II	Spring 2007	Spring 2009	Spring 2011
Game Management Units:	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17		
All GMUs:	Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts		
ARCTIC AND WESTERN-REGION V	Fall 2007	Fall 2009	Fall 2011
Game Management Units:	18, 22, 23, 26A		
INTERIOR-REGION III	Spring 2008	Spring 2010	Spring 2012
Game Management Units:	12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C		
All GMUs:	Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts		

Alaska Board of Game Winter Meeting Schedule

CYCLE “A”: Winter 2010, 2014, 2020, etc.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

- .001 Application of this Chapter
- .002 Liability for Violations
- .003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- .004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
- .005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
- .010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- .011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- .012 Licenses and Tags
- .013 Migratory bird hunting guide services
- .018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- .019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
- .020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- .025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
- .027 Permit for Exporting Big Game Trophies
- .028 Aviculture Permits
- .029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- .030 Possession of wolf hybrid prohibited
- .031 Permit for Selling Skins and Trophies
- .033 Permit for Sci., Ed., Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- .034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- .047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- .104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
- .106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- .110 Control of predation by wolves
- .115 Control of predation by bears
- .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- .171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
- .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- .210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- .220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- .230 Feeding of Game
- .250 Transfer of Muskoxen for Sci. and Ed. Purposes
- .450 Description of Game Management Units
- .990 Definitions

CYCLE “B”: Winter 2008, 2012, 2016, 2022 etc.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

- .009 Obstruction or hindrance of lawful hunting or trapping
- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- .041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- .044 Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures
- .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- .052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- .135 Transfer of Possession
- .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- .160 Marked or Tagged Game
- .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- .420 Taking nuisance wildlife

BOARD OF GAME

As of August, 2006

<u>MEMBER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
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Ben Grussendorf 1221 Halibut Point Rd. Sitka, AK 99835	3/1/2007
Cliff Judkins PO Box 874124 Wasilla, Alaska 99687	3/1/2009
Richard Burley 1165 Coppet Street Fairbanks, Alaska 99709	3/1/2009
Ted Spraker 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, Alaska 99669	3/1/2008
Paul Johnson PO Box 329 Unalakleet, AK 99684	3/1/2008
Vacant Seat	3/1/2007

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

PHONE: (907) 465-4110

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HEADQUARTERS

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For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting, call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901

Website address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

Alaska Board of Game

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY & ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chairman calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself plus an organization, or advisory committee), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony, whether you testify for yourself or on behalf of an organization. The board chairman will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict testimony to relating what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting, and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
SOUTHEAST REGION
November 10-15, 2006
James and Elsie Nolan Center
296 Campbell Drive, Wrangell, Alaska**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate. Updated agendas will be posted in the meeting room, or call 1-800-764-8901, or 465-8901 in Juneau, for a recorded message on daily progression through the meeting.

Friday, November 10, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Board Member Ethics Disclosures
Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY: Oral public testimony will begin immediately upon conclusion of staff reports.

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced at the meeting.

Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, November 11, 8:30 AM

ORAL TESTIMONY continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of oral public testimony

Sunday, November 12, through Wednesday, November 15, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continue

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings, resolutions, letters, & other

ADJOURN

SPECIAL NOTES

A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. The roadmap, which lists the order of proposals to be deliberated on, will be posted at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the board's recorded message phone. Phone Number: 1-800-764-8901; in Juneau call 465-8901.

B. Advisory Committee representatives may present their reports either at the beginning or end of the "Oral Public Testimony." The committee representative should notify board staff whether they prefer to present their report at the beginning or end of public testimony.

C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than October 27, to make any necessary arrangements.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In Unit 1C, traps must be clearly marked with owner identification, including name of trapper, and with visual markings such as an 2x3 inch orange flag, to alert hikers of potential danger. Markings can be accomplished with tags permanently attached to trap gear.

ISSUE: There is currently no requirement for owner marking traps, unlike crab pots and similar gear. Nor is there a requirement for visual markings on traps to alert the public of potential danger to themselves, children, or domestic pets. I request the board implement a marking requirement for traps that includes identifying information and visual markings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These regulations would address two problems: (1) Individuals who may have domestic pets (or even children) caught in traps are not currently able to contact trappers. (2) Lack of identification allows trappers to set traps anywhere without recourse if they are in unauthorized areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It helps reduce trapping in unauthorized areas due to clear identification and opportunity for enforcement when necessary to protect citizens of game resources in sensitive areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Community members with domestic animals who hike trails in trapping areas (note that pets are often drawn to rotting bait, even though otherwise under control on trail). Also benefit to protection of resources in sensitive areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers will be inconvenienced by initial marking of traps, but otherwise, this will not restrict there legal trapping activities.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Registering traps and locations seems excessive, and doing nothing also seems to keep a problem going.

PROPOSED BY: Susan Hargis (HQ-06F-G-014)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Beaver: Units 1 (except Unit 1D), 2, 3 (except Mitkof Island), and 4: December 1 – May 15.

ISSUE: Open Unit 4 west of Chatham Strait to beaver trapping.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nuisance beaver problems will increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who wants to harvest beaver. People who deal with nuisance beaver.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Loyal J. Johnson and Kevin W. Johnson (HQ-06F-G-008)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping. Increase the bag limit for beaver as follows:

Unit 1D, Beaver trapping season, November 1 to May 30, no bag limit.

ISSUE: Depletion of salmon spawning areas due to the increased number of beaver dams.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In the last two years the harm that beaver dams have done to habitual salmon spawning areas has come to the advisory committee's attention. Some small streams have been dammed completely up not allowing salmon to reach spawning areas.

Beaver are not indigenous to the Upper Chilkat Valley. They were transplanted here in the mid 70's supposedly to increase moose habitat. Due to very little interest in trapping because of the low bag limit and difficulty in accessing the Upper Valley during the present trapping season there has been a very limited effort to trap beaver. Thus the number of beaver has risen dramatically. Almost every small fresh water stream and the area that drains into these streams is now inundated with beaver dams. One such spawning stream known as Waterfall Creek, where sockeye salmon used to spawn in large numbers, has been dammed up so bad that it is now spread over such a large area that it is no longer a stream but a marsh and no salmon go there anymore.

Tearing the dams out doesn't solve the problem as the beaver not only repair the dam but make it higher. We have had a few locals try to keep the dams destroyed but due to the expense and the difficulty in accessing the area in the winter months they have not been able to keep up with the beaver.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No improvement in quality of resource or product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial and sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-G-002)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.550. Areas Closed to Trapping. Create a regulation to provide the following:

Trapping shall not be permitted within one-half mile of any established public hiking trail documented in the Juneau Trails Guide and 90 Short Walks in Juneau.

ISSUE: Trapping is currently permitted near many Juneau hiking trails, which increases risks to children and domestic pets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be conflict between trappers and hikers. Children and domestic pets may be injured or killed by traps.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal helps reduce the potential injury to non-trappers, and has the potential to increase support for trapping in other authorized areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Community members with children and domestic animals who hike trails in trapping areas. Pets are often drawn to rotting bait, even though otherwise under control on trail. Note that most community members are unaware that trapping is permitted on or near major hiking trails.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers will have to set traps in other areas, which are accessible by smaller trail or game trails (which is what they are seeking).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continuing to allow trapping on and near major hiking trails is more dangerous as populations grow and community members and tourists use established trails more.

PROPOSED BY: Susan Hargis (HQ-06F-G-013)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 84.270(2). Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 5: Open season for trapping coyote is November 10 to February 15.

ISSUE: Change the coyote trapping season opening to November 10 instead of December 1 in Unit 5.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will be forced to give up five incidentally caught coyote before December 1.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, trappers are likely to take better care of furs they can sell.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in Unit 5 and law enforcement because of coinciding seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Newlun (HQ-06F-G-033)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 84.270(4). Furbearer Trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 5: Open season for red fox is November 10 to February 15.

ISSUE: Change the red fox opening to November 10 instead of December 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will be forced to give up incidentally caught red fox before December 1.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, trappers are more likely to take better care of furs they can sell.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in Unit 5 and law enforcement because of coinciding seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Newlun

(HQ-06F-G-034)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 83.270(8). Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation for muskrat as follows:

Unit 5: Open season for muskrat is November 10 to May 15.

ISSUE: Change the muskrat opening to November 10 instead of December 1 and extend season to May 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will be forced to give up incidentally caught muskrat before December 1 and after February 15.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, trappers are more likely to take better care of furs they can sell.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in Unit 5 and law enforcement because of coinciding seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Newlun (HQ-06F-G-035)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 84.270(5). Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation for lynx as follows:

Unit 5: Open season for lynx is November 10 – February 15.

ISSUE: Change the lynx opening to November 10 instead of December 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will be forced to give up incidentally caught lynx to the state before December 1.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, trappers are more likely to take better care of furs they can sell.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in Unit 5 and law enforcement because of coinciding seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Newlun. (HQ-06F-G-036)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to Bag Limit. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In Unit 5, a black or brown bear wounded by a hunter counts as a bag limit for the regulatory year. “Wounded” means there is sign of blood or other sign that the bear has been hit by a hunting projectile.

ISSUE: Hunters who shoot and wound both brown and black bears and then continue to hunt. Hunters do not always take the best shot because there is no consequence for wounding a bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There are wounded bears in the field that are a danger, not only to other hunters, but to other user groups such as sport fishers, commercial fishers, subsistence users and tourist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Less loss of bears, safer conditions for all users. I have talked with other guides in units one through four and they feel it has been a successful regulation in those units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit – including guides who are pressured to allow hunters to take risky shots and might actually end up killing more than one bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Irresponsible hunters who take bad shots and then shoot more than one bear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I don’t think this problem can be solved any other way then by changing the regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Gray (HQ-06F-G-010)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Non-resident hunters may take one black bear and one glacier bear (or blue bear). In other words – the only time a non-resident can take two black bears is if one of them is a glacier bear.

ISSUE: Non-resident hunters may shoot one black bear. A non-resident who is primarily hunting for glacier bear cannot take a regular black bear or his hunt is over.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Glacier bear hunters often leave with no bear because they don't have the opportunity to shoot a glacier bear, but don't want to shoot a regular black bear that they see first. Some hunters won't book a glacier bear hunt if they know their odds are so slim for taking a glacier bear. If this was changed, they could hunt a black/glacier bear combo and know they could at least take a black bear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would improve a glacier bear hunter's experience because a hunter could harvest a big black bear and still have an opportunity for a glacier bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-resident glacier bear hunters and guides, as this regulatory change would make glacier bear and black bear hunts more attractive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Glacier bears are only taken once or twice a year in the whole state so only once or twice a year a non-resident might take two black bears (one being a glacier bear).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The only solution is a regulation change. For many years this was the regulation in Unit 5, but Unit 5 got lumped into Units 1 through 4 where glacier bears are not present, but they had trouble with people shooting two black bears.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Gray (HQ-06F-G-011)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.130(f). Restrictions to bag limit. Repeal the following regulation:

5 AAC 92.130 (f): [IN UNITS 1-4, 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 1-4, 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. IN THIS SUBSECTION, "WOUNDED" MEANS THERE IS SIGN OF BLOOD OR OTHER SIGN THAT THE BEAR HAS BEEN HIT BY A HUNTING PROJECTILE.]

ISSUE: This regulation is biologically unnecessary. It was passed as a "feel good" regulation. It specifically discriminates against bowhunters and ethical hunters but does

not stop unethical behavior. It is impossible to enforce. It complicates the regulations and has complicated unintended consequences.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The above mentioned problems will not be solved and there may be pressure to expand this regulation statewide and over all game species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ethical hunters, bowhunters, actually all hunters by simplifying the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly a few guides looking for an excuse to quit a hunt early.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Insert the word “mortally” before wounded in the regulation. Again no biologic necessity and difficult to enforce.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (HQ-06F-G-022)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a quota system for the area from Taku Inlet to the outlet of Echo Cove. Spring season quota: two bears only one of which a sow. Fall quota: two bears only one of which a sow. If a sow is harvested or two boars harvested the season will be closed. Successful hunters must report to the department in person within 48 hours of harvest.

ISSUE: Brown bear season and bag limits in Unit 1C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible over harvest of an unknown population of brown bears.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this reduces the chances of over harvest of an unknown population that may or may not be increasing. With the limited reproduction of brown bears and encroachment of roads/humans this will help the recovery in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, local residents, wildlife enthusiasts as the opportunity to see and possibly harvest a mature brown bear will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who may lose the opportunity to hunt once the season is closed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A drawing only hunt, but with unknown population counts a set limit cannot be determined.

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen

(HQ-06F-G-027)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.510(6). Areas closed to hunting. Amend this regulation as follows:

Reopen an area for hunting brown bears in Unit 4 in a portion of the Seymour Canal Closed Area (i.e. Swan Cove and Swan Island).

State Restricted Area: Pack Creek Closed Area (Admiralty Island): the entire watershed of Pack Creek and all drainages south between Pack Creek and Staunch Point which empty into northwestern Seymour Canal, and including Windfall Island (closed to the taking of bears).

ISSUE: Brown bear hunting in the Swan Cove and Swan Island area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be unable to hunt brown bears in this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Swan Cove and Swan Island areas can again provide trophy size brown bear hunting opportunities. The skull measurements of 12 to 24 boars were greater than or equal to 22 inches. This amounts to 50 percent of all boars measured or 57 percent of all boars measured. The 22 inch skull size (length and width) as an acceptable trophy size since no sows achieved this size and the minimum age of the boars achieving this size was 8.4 years, indicating full maturity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear hunters of the area. The upper Seymour Canal area contains nine personal use cabins which are permitted by the U.S. Forest Service. The Swan Cove and Swan Island area contains four personal use cabins. Many people hunt this area regularly for deer, and in the past, hunted brown bear also. When this area was open to brown bear hunting, the bear kill average 1.6 bears per year for the 23 years that records were kept (37 bears total).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer. There has never been a conflict among the various user groups in this area. Almost all bears taken in the Swan Cove and Swan Island area, were taken in the spring (36 of 37). The bear season closes on May 20, which is before other potential user groups would visit the area. The major viewing area is immediately adjacent to Pack Creek, which remains closed to brown bear hunting under this proposal.

Most of the bears present for viewing at Pack Creek are sows and cubs according to the Division of Wildlife Conservation. Most of the bear harvest in the Swan Cove and Swan Island area were boars (30 of 37).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Move to different brown bear hunting areas on Admiralty Island such as Pybus Bay, Gambier Bay, King Salmon Bay, etc... There is more hunting by hunters from Petersburg, Wrangell, Klawock and other places south. It is difficult to secure a forest service cabin. Parties must reserve six months in advance or it will be taken. Hunting parties have to estimate reservation dates to coincide with favorable spring weather. If the dates are not timely, few bears are present and the hunt is unsuccessful. At King Salmon Bay, the tide runs out for about two miles, which makes ingress to the bear hunting area difficult or egress from the area difficult. The Swan Cove and Swan Island area had less hunting pressure, when it was open to brown bear hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Michael J. Murray (HQ-06F-G-038)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.510(1). Areas closed to hunting. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Those portions of Unit 1A including the Rudyerd and Walker Cove drainages are closed to the taking of brown bears.

ISSUE: Prohibit bear hunting in drainages of Rudyerd Bay and Walker Cove.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity for enhanced wildlife viewing will not be realized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Will result in more bears for visitor viewing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Tour operators, community of Ketchikan, State of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bear hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dale Pihlman (HQ-06F-G-043)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. Modify subsection (a)(6)(B) to allow spring brown bear hunting in the Swan Cove portion of the Seymour Canal Closed Area.

The regulation will read as follows:

(a) The following areas are closed to hunting as specified:

...

(6) Unit 4:

...

(B) the Seymour Canal Closed area (Admiralty Island), including all drainages into northwestern Seymour Canal between Staunch Point and the southernmost tip of the unnamed peninsula separating Swan Cove and King Salmon Bay, and including Swan and Windfall Islands, is closed to the taking of bears, **except during the spring hunting season when bear hunting is allowed north of a line connecting the point where an unnamed stream enters Swan Cove due West of the northern most point of Swan Island (57.958N, 134.315W) and the southernmost tip of the unnamed peninsula separating Swan Cove and King Salmon Bay.**

ISSUE: Whether or not a portion of the Seymour Canal Closed Area on Admiralty Island should be reopened to limited spring bear hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo. Bear hunting will not be allowed at any time in this portion of the closed area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sportsmen that have traditionally hunted this portion of Seymour Canal for bears in the spring.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People visiting Pack Creek to view bears, if bears that use this area are harvested as a result of this regulatory change. There may also be some overlap between spring hunting and early season bear viewing in Swan Cove. Some people assume that hunting the primarily early-den-departing males will result in fewer bears being available for viewing at Pack Creek.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing both a spring and fall season was rejected as an alternative as this would place more pressure on the female portion of the population whereas the limited spring season would focus almost exclusively on males.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Game (HQ-06F-G-051)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. Modify subsection (a)(6)(E) to allow brown bear hunting within the city limits of Angoon.

The regulation will read as follows:

(a) The following areas are closed to hunting as specified:

...

(6) Unit 4:

...

(E) Mitchell Bay (Admiralty Island), that area including Mitchell Bay, Kootznahoo Inlet, Kanalkoo Bay, and Favorite Bay, and all adjacent land within 660 feet of mean high tide, **except within the Village of Angoon**, is closed to the taking of brown bears.

ISSUE: The Village of Angoon is surrounded almost entirely by a brown bear hunting closure. The Village has experienced considerable problems with brown bears near and in the village to the point where some residents have expressed concern about their children’s safety. Bears are attracted to the city landfill and have become more of a concern due to their elevated tolerance of human beings within the closed area. The village needs assistance from the Forest Service to find alternative locations or treatment for their sanitary fill problems. If, however, the village has few options to the change the existing situation, there is only one alternative and that is to allow problem bears to be taken legally or under the defense of life and property regulations. The Board of Game is suggesting that removing the village from the Closed Area and allowing bears to be taken legally is the most logical solution.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo. Bear hunting will continue to be closed in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Some residents of the Village of Angoon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those residents that requested the closure originally and that disapprove of the killing of these bears for cultural and safety reasons.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminating the closed area entirely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Game (HQ-06F-G-052)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Establish a doe season for Alaskan non-subsistence hunters, with a bag limit of one doe per season in Unit 2.

ISSUE: Hunting doe on Prince of Wales Island: it is allowed by subsistence hunters who reside on the island and not by other Alaskan residents who are non-rural.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some hunters from surrounding areas might stop making trips to the island for deer season, which brings in money.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will put the doe to buck ratio in check. I hunted nine days last season and the ratio was about 20:1.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan non-subsistence hunters, and a healthier deer herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly local islanders, but they already have an extra season on federal property.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A lottery for doe tags in Unit 2, I don't reject it because it is better than what they have now.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Wood (HQ-06F-G-012)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.030(a)(2) Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island, within the Petersburg Management Area: One buck by bow and arrow only, October 15 to December 15.

ISSUE: This proposal would extend the deer hunting season for certified archers in the Petersburg Management Area, adding one month to the existing season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Current regulations remain the same, one buck by bow and arrow only from October 15 to November 15.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If the season is lengthened, animal recovery would increase because hunting would occur under snow tracking conditions as opposed to the October and early November rainy weather conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Certified archery hunters would benefit while tracking game under snow cover conditions, as opposed to rainy conditions. Recovery rate of wounded animals would increase. When the archery hunting success rate increases, deer/vehicle collisions and nuisance deer numbers near residential areas would decrease.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wildlife viewers may see a couple less deer around town.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dan McMahon (HQ-06F-G-037)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Amend this regulation as follows:

Antler destruction is required for all species but deer in Units 1-4.

ISSUE: Antler destruction for deer harvested by proxy.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many benefactors will not be provided for.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Antlers should be retained to insure the quality standards.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The department due to increased staff workloads.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Deal with the issue on a regional basis not statewide. Do not reject.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Janke (HQ-06F-G-042)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units 1-4: Proxy hunters should not be required to destroy antlers when using their own tickets and license in their possession. No proxy hunt paper in their possession.

ISSUE: Destruction of antlers on deer hunted by proxy.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Proxy benefactors will not be provided for, as hunters will feel their hunt is compromised by this ruling.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Antlers should be retained to validate legal bag.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The beneficiary of the proxy hunter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The department will still produce accountability. No harm done to either party.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions considered or rejected.

PROPOSED BY: E.C. Mossburg, Roberta J. Shields and Dennis Diamond
(HQ-06F-G-040)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Modify the seasons for elk hunting in Unit 3 by converting the late-October elk drawing permit hunt on Etolin Island to a registration hunt. Elk hunting seasons on Zarembo Island would remain the same.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>(1) Unit 3, that portion bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Sumner Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down the midline of Snow Passage, then east of the Kashevarof Islands back to the midline of Clarence Strait down to its intersection with <u>the midline of Stikine Strait,</u> [ERNEST SOUND, THEN NORTHEAST FOLLOWING THE MIDLINE OF ERNEST SOUND, EXCLUDING NIBLACK ISLANDS, TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH ZIMOVIA STRAIT, THEN NORTHWEST FOLLOWING THE WESTERN SHORELINE OF ZIMOVIA STRAIT TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH CHICHAGOF PASSAGE, THEN WEST ALONG THE MIDLINE OF CHICHAGOF PASSAGE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH</p>		

STIKINE STRAIT,] then northerly along the midline of Stikine Strait, west of Vank Island, to its intersection with Sumner Strait, then northwest along the midline of Sumner Strait back to the point of beginning

1 bull by drawing permit only, and bow and arrow only; up to 50 permits will be issued; or

Sept. 1 – Sept 30
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 – Sept 30

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 250 permits will be issued; or

Oct. 1 – Oct. 31
(General hunt only)

Oct. 1 – Oct. 31

1 bull by registration permit only

Nov. 15 – Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

Nov. 15 – Nov. 30

Unit 3, that portion bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Clarence Strait and Stikine Strait, then southerly along the midline of Clarence Strait to Ernest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Ernest Sound, excluding Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait and back to the point of beginning

1 bull by drawing permit only, and bow and arrow only; up to 50 permits will be issued; or

**Sept. 1 – Sept 30
(General hunt only)**

Sept. 1 – Sept 30

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 250 permits will be issued; or

**Oct. 1 – Oct. 15
(General hunt only)**

Oct. 1 – Oct. 15

1 bull by registration permit only

Oct. 16 – Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

Oct. 16 – Nov. 30

ISSUE: Since 1997, when hunting of elk was first authorized in Unit 3, the department has consistently failed to achieve its harvest objectives. As a result, the department has taken several incremental steps to liberalize hunting opportunity and increase the harvest. Despite the creation of three separate drawing permit hunts, incrementally increasing the number of drawing permits from 25 to 175, and finally the creation of a late-season elk registration permit hunt in 2004, the elk harvest on Etolin Island has remained below the harvest objective.

In 2004, the board established a late-November registration elk hunt in addition to the drawing hunt. The season dates for the registration hunt were intentionally designed to coincide with inclement weather and short daylight hours. Having results from one season, it now appears appropriate to further adjust the season dates for the Etolin Island registration elk hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Etolin Island elk harvest will likely continue to fall short of harvest objectives. The elk resource on Etolin Island will continue to go under-utilized, and hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those interested in seeing hunting opportunity for elk expanded in Unit 3.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe that allowing unlimited participation via a registration permit hunt for elk on Etolin will lead to crowding issues and a subsequent deterioration in hunt quality.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status Quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-G-047)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 1C: That portion draining into Stephens Passage along Heintzleman Ridge, east of Thunder Mountain and along Blackerby Ridge bounded to the south by Salmon Creek/Glacier:.....One goat by bow and arrow only by permit.....
RG009.....September 1-November 30.

Unit 1C: That portion draining into Stephens Passage Bounded by Eagle Glacier to the north and McGinnis Creek to the south:.....One goat by permit.....
RG010.....October 1-November 30.

ISSUE: Increased popularity of goat hunts in the Juneau area has necessitated early closure orders by the department in the more accessible Unit 1C management areas with increased frequency. Several distinct areas exist that could sustain a goat harvest thus expanding opportunities away from the most popular access points if they were managed separately. If approved, this proposal provides for an additional any weapon area with access away from urban areas and a new bow and arrow registration area which would distribute some pressure away from RG014. Creation of these two new areas would also reduce pressure in other unrestricted areas which is important due to the limited number of reasonable access points though out Unit 1C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the status quo is maintained, increased hunter conflict and a “race” to quickly fill a tag prior to an imminent closure order and a higher nanny harvest is likely to occur; lost opportunities; and many goats dying of old age in under/unutilized areas is likely to occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All goat hunters would benefit as hunting pressure will be more widely distributed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Goat watchers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered recommending the proposed boundaries be included as a drawing permit. I rejected this idea as I feel this would not distribute the local pressure as widely for those hunters who hunt regardless of whether they have a drawing tag or not.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Hohensee (HQ-06F-G-018)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 1C: that portion draining into Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage between Eagle Glacier/River to the south and Davies Creek to the north:.....RG011...September 1- November 30.

Unit 1C: that portion draining into the Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage between Antler River and Davies Creek [UNIT 1(C), THAT PORTION DRAINING INTO LYNN CANAL AND STEPHENS PASSAGE BETWEEN ANTLER RIVER AND EAGLE GLACIER AND RIVER]:.....RG012...October 1 - November 30.

ISSUE: Increased popularity of goat hunts in the Juneau area has necessitated early closure orders by the department in the more accessible Unit 1C management areas with increased frequency. Several distinct areas exist that could sustain a goat harvest thus

expanding opportunities away from the most popular access points if they were managed separately. Hunting pressure in RG012 is focused around access through Berners Bay and a couple of lakes by fixed wing aircraft leaving a large area under/un-utilized. Managing this proposed area individually and with an earlier opening date may help redistribute hunting pressure from other more heavily used areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the status quo is maintained, increased hunter conflict and a “race” to quickly fill a tag prior to an imminent closure order and a higher nanny harvest is likely to occur; lost opportunities; and many goats dying of old age in under/unutilized areas is likely to occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All goat hunters would benefit as pressure will be more widely distributed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Hohensee (HQ-06F-G-019)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend these regulations as follows:

Unit 1C: That mainland portion draining into (General hunt only) the south bank of Little Sheep Creek, Gastineau Channel south of Little Sheep Creek, Stephens Passage, and Taku Inlet between the mouth of Little Sheep Creek and Taku Glacier... 1 goat by registration permit only, and by bow and arrow only: One goat by bow and arrow only by permit...RG014...**September 1** [AUGUST 1] – November 30.

ISSUE: During the 2005 season the early opening date drastically increased the popularity of this goat hunt and thus necessitated an early closure ordered by the department.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the current early opening date is maintained, increased hunter conflict and a “race” to quickly fill a tag prior to an imminent closure order and a higher nanny harvest is likely to occur. The current August 1 opening forces those who fish, to hunt early to precede the imminent closure order.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, goats have substantially better pelage by September.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most goat hunters would benefit as hunting pressure will be more widely distributed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Early season hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Hohensee (HQ-06F-G-020)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Bag limit: “One billy every regulatory year or one nanny every three regulatory years in Units 1, 4, and 5”.

Harvest of nannies is legal however the department strongly encourages the taking of billies. If you harvest a nanny you may not hunt mountain goats in Units 1, 4, and 5 until the third regulatory year after harvest of nanny.

ISSUE: Promulgation of this area would encourage hunters to learn to discern the sex of goats and discourage hunters from shooting nannies. Mountain goats are reproductively slow and harvest of excessive numbers of nannies can have detrimental, multi-year effects on local herds. If certain areas were closed due to over harvest then hunters would be displaced, creating more competition in other areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this proposal is not enacted, overharvest of nannies could easily occur in some areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it is designed to help ensure the numbers of nannies are maintained to maximize herd reproduction and long range benefit for all goat hunters. Adoption of this proposal would also create more hunter/days.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most goat hunters would benefit short term; future goat hunters would benefit long term.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-selective hunters that shoot the first animal they see.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Hohensee (HQ-06F-G-021)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Sub-divide Unit 1C into more distinct areas such as drainages being used as the sub-area with a set quota established.

List the harvest quota for each area listed that is open for mountain goat hunting.

Example: Border Lake area - quota system (4 pts) males = 1 pt. female = 3 pts.

Successful hunters must report to local department office within 48 hours of return.

ISSUE: Mountain goat quotas, season and bag limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible over-harvest of mountain goats in Southeast Alaska.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this reduces the chance of over harvest in the area, as hunters can focus on areas that are known to have longer, more stable populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, as they will now know the quantity allowed in each area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who may lose the opportunity to hunt once the quota is reached.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-024)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a drawing hunt in Unit 1C for the area south of Gilkey River/Glacier to North ridgeline at Sawmill Creek, September 1 to November 30.

ISSUE: Mountain goat season and bag limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this reduces the chance of over harvest in the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife enthusiasts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who may lose the opportunity to hunt due to the limited quantity if permits available.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-025)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a registration hunt for the area north of Eagle Glacier/River to ridgeline north of Sawmill Creek, September 15 to November 30.

ISSUE: Mountain Goat season/bag limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters limited due to no boat access or charter plane access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-026)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a drawing only hunt in Unit 1D. Successful hunters to report within 48 hours to the department by phone.

ISSUE: Haines Mountain goat closure.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible continued over harvest of population and continued earlier pressure to beat the rush before an emergency closure occurs due to high harvest in area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this will set a maximum number of harvest

animals and there will be a reduction in opportunity of over harvest. As it is, there is still a chance that more animals will be harvested before an emergency closure takes affect.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, local residents; as the amount of hunters in the field is limited to successful applicants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-029)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bags limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a drawing hunt only for the area south of Taku River and east of the Wright Glacier/River to Mt. Ogden, September 1 to September 30. Successful hunters to report within 48 hours to the department by phone or in person.

ISSUE: Possible over harvest of mountain goats in the Border Lake area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible continued over harvest of the population. Continued earlier pressure to beat the rush before an emergency closure occurs due to too high of harvest in area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this will set a maximum number of animals to be harvested reducing the opportunity for over harvest. As it is there is still a chance that more animals will be harvested before emergency closure rakes affect.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife enthusiast, local residents; as the amount of hunters in the field is now limited to successful applicants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-030)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a drawing only hunt in Unit 1C for the area north and west of the Herbert River/Glacier to Eagle River/Glacier from September 15 to November 30.

ISSUE: Restricted mountain goat seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters with no access to air charters or boating capabilities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-031)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a drawing only hunt for the area north and west of McGinnis Creek to Herbert River from September 15 to November 30.

ISSUE: Restricted mountain goat seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters with no access to air charters or boating capabilities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-032)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Prohibit the harvest of nannies with kids in Units 1, 4, and 5.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) Unit 1(A), Revillagigedo Island, except that portion west of Carroll Inlet and Creek, west of the divide between Carroll Creek and the South Fork of Orchard Creek, south of Orchard Creek, Orchard Lake, Shrimp Bay, and Gedney Pass	Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 1-Dec. 31
1 goat by registration permit only; <u>the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited</u>		
Unit 1(A), remainder of Revillagigedo Island	Aug. 1-Dec. 31	Aug. 1-Dec. 31
1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits will be issued; <u>the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited</u>		
Unit 1(B), that portion north of Bradfield Canal and the north fork of the Bradfield River	Aug. 1-Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 1-Dec. 31
1 goat by registration permit only; <u>the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited</u>		

Units 1(A) and 1(B),
that portion on the
Cleveland Peninsula
south of the divide
between Yes Bay
and Santa Anna Inlet

No open season.

No open season.

Remainder of Units 1(A) and
1(B)

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31
(General hunt only)

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

1 goat by registration
permit only; **the taking
of nannies with kids
is prohibited**

Unit 1(C), that portion
draining into Lynn Canal
and Stephens Passage
between Antler River and
Eagle Glacier and River

Oct. 1-Nov. 30

Oct. 1-Nov. 30

1 goat by registration
permit only; **the taking
of nannies with kids
is prohibited**

Unit 1(C), that portion
including all drainages
of the Chilkat Range
south of the south bank
of the Edicott River

Sept. 1-Nov. 30

Sept. 1-Nov. 30

1 goat by registration
permit only; **the taking
of nannies with kids
is prohibited**

Unit 1(C), that
portion draining into
Stephens Passage
between Eagle
Glacier and River and
the mouth of Little
Sheep Creek

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 1(C), that mainland portion draining into the south bank of Little Sheep Creek, Gastineau Channel south of Little Sheep Creek, Stephens Passage, and Taku Inlet between the mouth of Little Sheep Creek and Taku Glacier

Aug. 1 - Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

Aug. 1 - Nov. 30

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

Remainder of Unit 1(C)

Aug. 1-Nov. 30

Aug. 1-Nov. 30

1 goat by registration permit only; **the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited**

Unit 1(D), that portion between Taiya Inlet and River and the White Pass and Yukon Railroad

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 1(D), that portion north and east of the Chilkat River, south of the Canadian border, and south and west of the Ferebee River and Glacier

Sept. 15-Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

Sept. 15-Nov. 15

1 goat by registration permit only; **the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited**

Unit 1(D), that portion north of the Haines Highway and west of the Chilkat River, between the Ferebee River and Glacier and Taiya River and Inlet, and between the White Pass and Yukon Railroad and the Katzehin River

Sept. 15-Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept. 15-Nov. 30

1 goat by registration permit only; **the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited**

Remainder of Unit 1(D), and Units 4 and 5

Aug. 1-Dec. 31
(General hunt only)

Aug. 1-Dec. 31

1 goat by registration permit only; **the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited**

ISSUE: Currently hunters are allowed to harvest any goat in these Units. The harvest of nannies that are still caring for young of the year increases the chances that the kid will not survive and therefore effectively adds to the mortality within the population. Prohibiting the harvest of these females will encourage hunters to be more selective toward adult males, and thereby reduce the overall impact on the population. This change will also standardize the regulation for all goat hunts within the State.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unknown number of nannies with young kids will continue to be harvested in Southeast Alaska, and goat hunting regulations will remain different between Southeast and Southcentral regions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those hunters interested in preventing potential secondary mortality to kids because of the harvest of the adult female.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Indiscriminate goat hunters would no longer be allowed to harvest any goat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-G-046)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting Seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Designate the Gustavus Bull Moose Hunt Area as an archery hunt area only. Season would run from September 15 through October 15.

ISSUE: Unit 1C, Gustavus Area Bull Moose Hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The number of hunters in a confined space has, and will continue to escalate. Safety issues are a big concern. Hunt quality has deteriorated to the equivalent of a fish snagging hole.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the hunt would return to a quality experience. Management of the resource would be simplified.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who enjoy the hunting experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to kill a bull moose in the first hour of the season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Drawing permit: disadvantage to locals.
Tier II: disadvantage to non-locals.

PROPOSED BY: Mitch Faulk (HQ-06F-G-006)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Only one any antlered bull moose permit may be applied for, or drawn, per household in Units 1B and 3.

ISSUE: Limit any antlered bull moose to only one per family any more than one is a waste to that family and prevents another family from participating in the hunt for any antlered moose which has a very high rate of success. Every family can still hunt with normal antler restrictions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It may deprive a family that really needs the meat from a successful hunt. The odds are far greater for success with any antlered bull moose, as opposed to antler restrictions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It addresses the needs of individual families, and a greater opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A greater number of families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dane Roundtree (HQ-06F-G-016)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Make the Gustavus moose hunt a drawing hunt only.

ISSUE: Season and bag limits for the Gustavus moose hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued emergency closing of area. Ultimately someone is going to get hurt due to the quantity of hunters coming to a limited space on opening weekend to beat the closure of season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, less stress on the animal in the area if the pressure is spread out over the season not just opening weekend due to limited permits allowed. This will also allow more mature animals to be harvested thus allowing the younger moose to mature and re-populate area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife enthusiasts and local residents, as the amount of hunters in the field will be limited to successful applicants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local hunters who may lose the opportunity to harvest a moose and other hunters alike.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roy Claassen (HQ-06F-G-028)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend moose hunting season in Unit 1D for the Tier II hunt.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
....		
Unit 1(D)	Sept. 15 – <u>Oct. 7</u> [SEPT. 30] (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 250 permits may be issued		

ISSUE: Aerial survey data for the past twenty years indicate a stable moose population in Unit 1D. During the past five years, surveys have resulted in counts of 203-239 moose, and bull:cow ratios of 28:100 in 2003 and 39:100 in 2005. These bull:cow ratios are more than sufficient for breeding purposes and additional bulls could be harvested without compromising reproduction. The existing antler restrictions further ensure sufficient bulls for breeding.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Surplus legal bull moose, not required for herd propagation, will continue to be underutilized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? TM059 permit holders unable to harvest a legal bull moose within the currently allotted season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals who believe additional bull moose are required to increase the size of the Unit 1D moose herd.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Extend the season by two weeks (season dates Sept. 15 - Oct. 15). This concept was not pursued because of anticipated local concerns that additional hunting time would cause a decline in herd size. A one-week extension will provide an opportunity to harvest surplus bulls while enabling the department to determine the implications of harvesting a few more legal bulls.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-G-049)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity. Modify language about legal antler configuration for moose in Units 1-5 to prevent hunters from intentionally modifying the antlers to make them legal after the animal has been harvested.

5 AAC 92.150.(c) If a big game bag limit includes an antler size or configuration restriction, both antlers must be salvaged. A person possessing a set of moose antlers with less than the required number of brow tines on one antler shall leave the antlers naturally attached to the unbroken, uncut skull plate. **In Units 1-5, any damaged, broken, or altered antler does not make the moose legal if the other antler does not satisfy the legal points requirement.**

ISSUE: Moose antlers that would be illegal under existing antler restriction regulations are being presented to the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement or Department of Fish and Game as legal, after parts of the antlers have been broken off (e.g., palms broken off and claims made that the brow tines constitute a forked antler). These antler modifications results in more moose being harvested than would otherwise be allowed, and could affect desired bull:cow ratios and reproduction.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to take sub-legal moose and break the antlers to make them legal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters will benefit because it will allow more bull moose to reach the legal antler size. Enforcement will benefit because it will give them a regulation that addresses a growing problem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Violators of the current regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-G-050)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Extend the hunting season for wolves as follows:

Five wolves may be taken from August 1 to May 30 in Unit 1.

ISSUE: The dramatic rise in the wolf population in the Chilkat Valley and the need to lengthen the wolf season to May 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The wolf to moose ratio has become unbalanced and an increase in wolf kills on moose has increased to a point of danger to the stability of the moose herd. Due to the difficulty in accessing the upper valley during winter months we need to lengthen the wolf season. There have been two

large packs of wolves spotted in the valley this past winter: one pack of 11 and another pack of 13. The observers identified the two packs by the different colors of the individuals in the packs. There have also been smaller packs of three to five individuals spotted. One person while flying spotted three fresh moose kills in one flight. Another, a guide, spotted seven different kills over a period of time. This is only two people spotting ten kills.

One wonders how many more kills have occurred that haven't been spotted. These kills were spotted at a time when the bear were hibernating. In 2004 I sighted a study that stated that a pack of six wolves will make a kill every five days. With a wolf population of 30 wolves in the Chilkat Valley the moose herd of Unit 1D could become devastated to a point that it could not sustain the herd size.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A longer wolf season would not improve the quality of the resource but would give hunters a better chance to harvest wolves and establish a better wolf to moose ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population in Unit 1D. The subsistence hunters of the unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

ER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-G-001)

PROPOSAL 40 - 92.039 Permit for taking wolves using aircraft. Amend this regulation as follows:

Wolves may be taken the same day as flying in Unit 1D until the ratio of wolves to moose becomes balanced.

ISSUE: Killing of wolves the same day as flying in Unit 1D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The wolf numbers in Unit 1D has risen dramatically and we need to change the present law to allow hunting during the same day as flying to help reduce the number of wolves in this area to keep our moose population stable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No improvement in quality of resource but would give hunters a better chance to harvest a wolf and establish a better wolf to moose ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The subsistence moose hunters of the unit. The moose population in Unit 1D.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-G-003)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Amend this regulation as follows:

Change the season for wolverine to August 1 - April 30. (The current season is November 10 – February 15.) This will allow a hunter to harvest wolverine during other hunting seasons such as, goat, wolf, deer and bear. The take would be minimal.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED

BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing opportunity that is not now available.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who can take wolverine incidental to another hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Wolverine are rarely trapped in Unit 1A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Hide quality is not an issue.

PROPOSED BY: Johnnie Laird (HQ-06F-G-044)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Change the hunting season for waterfowl as follows:

Waterfowl season for ducks, sea ducks, and geese in Southeast Alaska would take place from September 16 to December 31.

ISSUE: Delay the opening of waterfowl season (duck, sea duck and geese) in Southeast Alaska (Units 1-4) until September 16 to maximize opportunity. The season would remain 107 days long, however the season would continue until December 31 rather than December 16.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters will continue to lose hunting opportunities for waterfowl in most of Southeast. Local populations of ducks are insignificant and the migrations from the interior and northern portions of the state are not yet providing many opportunities. Our current hunting season ends on December 16 at a time when large numbers of mallards are present locally and we typically are enjoying the best hunting of the season.

With the price of fuel at its current level, it will be very difficult to justify a \$90 to \$100 fuel bill for an early September day trip which you may not even see a duck. This equates to a loss of hunting opportunity. Delaying the season two weeks will better match hunting seasons in Southeast with the presence of waterfowl and allow us to maximize our hunting opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Although I do enjoy hunting teal and widgeon when they are available later in September, the mallards taken in December are in prime condition and provide better table fare and much more yield per bird when compared to the smaller, early season birds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who do not hunt waterfowl in early September will now have their season extended two weeks to the end of December. There is very little hunting effort the first two weeks of September in Sitka and some other Southeast communities due to the absence of waterfowl at the time. It makes sense to delay the season two weeks and have the season open until the end of December when bird numbers are high and people are interested in participating. Having the season open through December will also provide hunting opportunity during Christmas break and for family members visiting for the holidays to hunt together.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who participate in hunting waterfowl during the first two weeks of September and not during December. Hunters in communities of Petersburg, Ketchikan, and Juneau supported delaying the season by two weeks.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

- 1.) Changing the season dates as mentioned only for Unit 4 Baranof Island. Flyway Council does not want to micro-manage small areas in Southeast.
- 2.) Delay the season opening until October 1 which would extend the season through January 15. I rejected this because waterfowl migrations are starting to build up in late September and more Southeast hunters are actively utilizing this portion of the season. The aim is to improve our hunting season as a whole, but not at the expense of hunters at a particular locale.
- 3.) Recommend a split season. The best hunting varies by area within Southeast. It should be extremely difficult to determine the timing for a closure that was acceptable by all bird hunters in the region.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Vaughn

(HQ-06F-G-017)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Amend the waterfowl hunting season dates as follows:

Units 1-4: Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts): September [1]16-December [16]31; Nonresident Open Season: September[1]16-December[16]31.

This would extend the migratory bird season in all of Southeast Alaska (Unit 1-4) until September 16 and extend the end of the season until December 31. The total number of days would remain the maximum allowed of 107 days.

ISSUE: Early season ducks do not have full color/plumage and for conservationists that want to be able to pick out and shoot primarily drakes, it is difficult to do so. The percentage of hens killed in the first two weeks is thought to be very high. Additionally, delaying the season by two weeks to give the birds more of a chance to be eclipsed drakes would also allow us to add two weeks to the end of the season, which would give waterfowl hunters the opportunity to hunt full plumaged ducks.

The concern in the past was that teal and widgeon were in the early flights, but for the last two years in the last week of duck season as well as consistently in the later half of November, southern Southeast hunters have taken full color widgeon and teal. Visual observation past the end of the existing duck season in the Blind slough area in Petersburg, 12 Mile and Big Salt drainages on Prince of Whales Island, as well as the Naha/Mosher Bay in the Ketchikan area, indicated that all types of peddlers' were still around through the end of December.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity to hunt full plumaged ducks. Possibly, a lost opportunity to increase ducks through hunters' voluntary efforts to select drakes for their shot. Potential over harvest of hens in the early September season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. While I am not a trained biologist, I think most hunters target drakes over hens for color and conservation. As such, this would help with nesting success as more hens would be available for reproduction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? I have heard in the past that this would make it easier for kids to hunt by opening Christmas break and get youth into waterfowl hunting. Another benefit is that it would increase the opportunity for hunters who participate in other types of game which conflict with the opening. The waterfowl season peaks later in southern Southeast, and this would better align the season with the majority of ducks migrating through Southeast Alaska. September waterfowl, especially geese, are thought to be primarily resident birds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The negative that I could see is those who count on Labor Day weekend as a day off to get to go duck hunting. Those who have historically done duck and large mammal combination hunts in the early season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A split season with a resting period in the middle would be an alternative which occurs in some states down south. I believe this would be hard to track and enforce over a large geographical area, and it adds confusion to a hunting season that already has its own separate publication for limits and rules outside the main hunting publication.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Lanham and Others (HQ-06F-G-045)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Amend the waterfowl season dates as follows:

Units 1-4, resident open season (subsistence and general hunts): September [1]16 - December[16]31: non-resident open season: September [1]16 – December [16]31. This would delay the start of the migratory bird hunting season in all of southeast Alaska (Units 1-4) until September 16 and extend the end of the season until December 31. The total number of days would remain at the maximum allowed of 107 days.

ISSUE: The existing season for migratory game birds, including ducks, sea ducks, all geese, cranes and snipe, does not fully provide the best times to hunt in southeast Alaska (Unit 1-4). Alaskan youth on Christmas break are not able to hunt water fowl. There is a loss of opportunity to hunt full plumaged dabbling ducks, geese and sea ducks late in the season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a loss of opportunity to hunt late season waterfowl. Families cannot take advantage of hunting waterfowl together when little other hunting opportunities are available. Another item to consider is that anecdotal evidence suggests migrations are being delayed because of increasingly warmer fall temperatures. This causes the season to be open when there are only small, “local” populations available to hunt. If nothing is done, the seasons would continue to open when less waterfowl are available to hunt. The season for southeast currently opens the same time as northern areas. The season opens in the north at this time to presumably take full advantage of abundant waterfowl that are still on the breeding ground or have just started south. If they are still abundant in the north, how can they be abundant in the southeast at this time?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would be hard to judge if this proposal would improve the quality of the resource harvested or products produced. One benefit is it would provide for better sea duck hunting during the winter months. It would also provide for fully plumed birds to be harvested. In times of conservation, it would provide for conservation minded hunters to better distinguish between drakes and hens.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The biggest benefit would be for Alaskan youth that are home on Christmas break. Deer and goat hunting are still open at this time, however, that type of hunting is usually more intensive. Deer and goat hunting usually involves crossing open water to get to the hunting area. In winter conditions, this can be very dangerous, whereas, waterfowl hunting, in most communities in SE, can be conducted from the road systems or can be done with short boat rides. Waterfowl hunting is also more conducive to bringing young kids along because of the lower amount of physical activity involved (unlike hiking up a steep, slippery hillside after a goat or deer). Hunters who wish to hunt fully plumed waterfowl will have more opportunities with a later season. Early season hunters could actually benefit by the season opening more in the peak of early migrations of dabblers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those hunters who would like to start hunting between September 1 and September 15. These hunters typically hunt pintail, teal, widgeon and snipe. These species are present during the first two weeks of September, but I have not observed them to be abundant until later in the month when the migration of these birds starts to pick up. These species, with the possible exception of snipe, are available to harvest throughout the season even into December. Some hunters who hunt sea ducks may actually be concerned that too many sea ducks would be harvested during this later time period. The department currently has very liberal bag limits for sea ducks. This implies the department has little concern over the sea duck populations at this time. If they did, bag limits could always be reduced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None were considered. However, adjustments to the waterfowl hunting in southeast have been considered during numerous past board meetings. Those adjustments were not accepted because they were too radical of changes (split seasons, delaying the start by a longer period, dividing SE into more sections, etc.) and had more negative effects to southeast hunters as a whole than benefits. This proposal is within the confines of what the state is allowed to do with its waterfowl seasons. It still provides benefit to those people who would like to hunt early migrations of widgeon, teal and pintail. In fact, with higher fall temperatures, it may also benefit those people by ensuring the season opens with more waterfowl available to hunt. As a whole, southeast hunters would benefit by the adoption of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Troy Thynes (HQ-06F-G-023)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 92.520. Closures and restrictions in state game refuges.
Implement hunting zones within the refuge and require hunter education as a means to eliminate conflicts between hunters and homeowners bordering the refuge.

Unit 1: The Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge, as described in AS 16.20.034, is closed to hunting, except for waterfowl including snipe and crane during established seasons; a person may not use any off-road or all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, or other motorized vehicle, except a boat within the refuge; **state certified hunter education is**

required for all waterfowl hunters on the Mendenhall State Game Refuge, except a hunter who is under 10 years of age [15 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER] must be accompanied by an adult, or must have successfully completed a certified hunter education course; before hunting, all hunters must register annually with the department and demonstrate an understanding of informational materials provided at the time of registration; **the permit is valid for all or specific waterfowl hunting zones within the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game refuge, subject to closure at the discretion of the refuge manager**; a person convicted of a hunting violation within the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge is not eligible to register to hunt in the refuge the following year; a hunter on the refuge shall present in the field, upon request, proof of registration.

ISSUE: In recent years several homeowners along the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge boundary have filed complaints with regulatory and public safety agencies describing errant shooting, trespassing, and illegal waterfowl harvest on the refuge. These complaints have led the City and Borough of Juneau to consider instituting a prohibition of the discharge of firearms within one-quarter mile of public streets, roads, or highways immediately adjacent to the refuge. Such a prohibition would dramatically decrease the area within the refuge that waterfowl hunters could use for hunting; possibly eliminating a long-standing traditional hunting location in the Juneau area.

By zoning the refuge and requiring hunter education, the department feels it will be better equipped to address specific zones (based on reports and investigation) on the refuge and to enact steps to resolve the issue without impacting the entire refuge. In addition, hunter education requirements will provide additional opportunity for the department to address local hunters on proper hunting practices and ethics, and to distribute refuge-specific information during hunter education instruction.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued tension will exist between hunters and refuge boundary homeowners. Allowable areas for discharging of firearms may be reduced by city ordinance, decreasing hunting opportunity in the Juneau area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All interested parties. Waterfowl hunters will have continued opportunity to hunt in the refuge, and boundary-area homeowners will have the knowledge that the department is actively managing refuge issues.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who desire the elimination of waterfowl hunting on the refuge.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Implement safety or buffer zones in areas of high residential density along refuge boundaries. This concept was not considered further because the department would have to place a significant number of safety-zone markers in the wetland for hunters to know that they were outside a safety zone. These markers would be expensive to procure and install, and would interfere with refuge aesthetics.

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.
Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow resident military personnel serving in Combat Zones to be reissued drawing hunting permits when they return from active duty and be allowed to transfer Tier II permits to substitute hunters in their absence.

ISSUE: The Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game have received several requests from soldiers who are currently serving in Combat Zones (the Kosovo area , Persian Gulf area and Afghanistan) and who are unable to participate in various drawing or Tier II hunts they have been awarded. We propose that the department accommodate these individuals by transferring permits to individuals acting on their behalf or reissuing permits in the following regulatory year. According to the military, *“A combat zone is any area the President of the United States designates by Executive Order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. An area usually becomes a combat zone and ceases to be a combat zone on the dates the President designates by Executive Order.”*

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Military men and women serving in Combat Zones will be unable to participate in drawing or Tier II hunts due to their service in Combat Zones such as in Iraq. In the case of Tier II permits, subsistence hunts will be forgone. For drawing permits, the individual would lose the opportunity to hunt and would not be able to apply for the same hunt in the subsequent year.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the harvested resource will not change but in some cases permits will have to be reissued (essentially transferred to a substitute hunter in the same year), and in other cases unused permits may be reissued in a subsequent year. The board and department suggest that Tier II permits be transferred the same year to a substitute hunter, and that drawing hunt permits be reissued the next hunting season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Military men and women who have been selected for Tier II and drawing hunts but are unable to participate due to deployment to a Combat Zone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? To compensate for permits reissued from the previous year, the number of drawing hunt permits may have to be adjusted downward, resulting in fewer new winners. In hunts where the number of permits is small and a permit is reissued, fine-scale management of the hunt in the following year will be challenging.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The board may also consider the eligibility of nonresident military personnel permanently stationed in Alaska and serving in Combat Zones to be part of this proposed program.

PROPOSED BY: The Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game
(HQ-06F-G-053)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change in definition of “highway” for Units 1-4. When the bridges and culverts have been removed and the roadway is water-barred, the definition shall be changed to deconstructed road, and no longer considered a highway.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting area is diminished by this definition of a highway.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Hunting areas will be expanded as they are now limited due to definition of deconstructed roadways.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will benefit by having the definition clarified, rather than individual interpretation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No harm done.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There should be no other consideration.

PROPOSED BY: E.C. Mossburg, Dennis Diamond and Roberta J. Shields
(HQ-06F-G-041)
