

Cordova Area Proposals – Unit 6

PROPOSAL 59

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

Change the RG231 to an archery only hunt for goat in Unit 6 for certified bowhunters as follows:

RG231 One goat by **bow and arrow only** by permit available in person in Cordova beginning Sept. 22 **by certified bowhunters.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? RG231 in Unit 6C routinely closes down early because of high success rates and has a high rate of nanny harvest. (This information was obtained from a local wildlife biologist.) In addition, there are limited opportunities for hunters who enjoy the challenge of archery hunting mountain goats. Switching RG231 to archery only would have multiple benefits.

First, it would create a safe environment for hunters who wish to pursue archery hunting for goats without having to worry about being shot over while stalking or having goats chased off by hunters using longer range tactics.

Second, the limited harvest rate of archery would reduce the overall take of goats providing for a longer season and more hunting opportunity, but less impact on population.

Third and most important, the time and attention required to successfully harvest a mountain goat with archery equipment will make it much less likely to kill a nanny. Often, it requires many hours, even days, of close proximity observation before getting close enough to shoot a goat with a bow and this time will be invaluable in studying gender characteristics to ensure harvest of only billies.

This represents another situation where using archery hunting as conservation tool is an excellent option.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F22-146)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Create an archery only deer hunt in Unit 6 for resident and nonresident certified bowhunters only as follows:

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 deer total, bucks only from August 1-September 30 **by bow and arrow only, but during Nov. 1 - Nov. 15 open to certified bowhunters only**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 6 deer are relatively easy to access from major population centers and are very vulnerable during the November rut. In addition, the area is open to rifle hunting from August 1-December 31, so there are many periods of time when hunters can legally use rifles to hunt but currently no window of time when those who prefer archery hunting can hunt deer without worry of rifle hunters shooting over them while stalking deer.

The season is very long but the deer are concentrated in certain areas during much of the years making it very difficult for hunters to have a quality and safe experience if they choose to bow hunt. On Kodiak Island there is an archery season so that hunters who wish to bow hunt can have a period of time during which they can safely hunt and this is lacking in Unit 6.

Most importantly, there is an increase pressure on that deer population and overall relatively low numbers in many areas during recent years. Using an archery hunt during some of the deer’s most vulnerable time period would decrease the overall harvest while maintaining the same hunting opportunity for anyone willing to use a bow during that two week period. This would be of benefit to the population and to the hunters in the community.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (EG-F22-148)

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Lower the resident and nonresident general season bag limit for deer in Unit 6 as follows:

General Season

Unit 6

Nonresidents

Bag limit: **Two** [FOUR] deer total (see details in season dates below)

Season Dates

Bucks: Aug. 1 – Sep. 30

Any deer: Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

Hunt requires harvest ticket

General Season

Unit 6

Residents Only

Bag limit: **Three** [FIVE] deer total (see details in season dates below)

Season dates:

Bucks : Aug. 1 – Sep. 30

Any deer: Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

Hunt requires harvest ticket

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident sport hunters for deer in Unit 6 do not need five deer and nonresidents do not need four. Deer populations in Unit 6 “seem” to not be doing as well in recent years. Between bad winters and “meat hunts” where deer are taken off the beach from a boat, the quality of the hunt is going down.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (EG-F22-159)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 85.045(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Re-establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 moose [BULL] by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits <u>for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose</u> may be issued; or	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose [BULL] by registration permit only;	Nov. 1-Dec. 31	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts are used to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support. Antlerless moose hunting opportunity has been consistently provided in Unit 6C since 1984. The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee did not meet during 2021 and was unable to reauthorize the hunt, thus it had to be removed from regulation.

The population objective in Unit 6C is 600–800 moose. A population estimate completed during March 2018 yielded an estimate of 677 moose, 32% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, the state has not held an antlerless hunt since RY99.

A registration hunt was approved by the board (RM169) to provide additional hunt opportunity if harvestable surplus existed after federal hunts were administered. Without an antlerless moose hunt, this hunt cannot function as intended if it is needed.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-059)

PROPOSAL 63

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

Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 6D, excluding Montague Island as follows:

Brown/Grizzly Bear:

Resident and Nonresident

Unit 6D Remainder: One bear every four regulatory years

Oct. 1 – May 25

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 6D, except Montague Island as follows: October 1 through May 25. Changing the season opening would align with the opening of doe (antlerless) deer season. General public would be able to harvest a bear legally, instead of DLP (Defense of Life or Property) or unreported take during brown bear confrontations while black-tailed deer hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Woods (HQ-F22-005)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 92.095(4). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Change the minimum jaw spread for trapping land otter in Unit 6 as follows:

[5 7/8] **5 1/8**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Inside jaw spread of 5 7/8” or greater. That is the equivalent of a number five long spring which most people cannot set with their hands. Otter season should end with the end of mink season or the inside jaw spread should be 5 1/8” or greater, or do away with jaw spread requirements.

This poses an inconvenience and safety hazard.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Facticeau (EG-F22-016)
