


Unit 6 Proposals

Charlotte Westing
Area Biologist



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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

Proposal 76:
Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 6

∅ Nonresident hunters— One [Four] deer

Department Position: NEUTRAL on the allocative nature of the proposal. A bag limit reduction would not have a meaningful biological impact but would unnecessarily reduce opportunity.

This is a public proposal



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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

Population Information: **Proposal 76:**

- Sitka black-tailed deer were introduced to Unit 6 (1916–1923)
- Primarily limited by snow depth and duration (little predation)
- Peak rutting behavior occurs in November

Survey Year	Mean Pellet Groups/Plot
2006	1.30
2007	1.25
2008	1.35
2009	1.28
2010	1.35
2011	1.48
2012	1.00
2013	0.55
2014	0.75
2015	0.90
2016	0.65
2017	1.50
2018	1.35
2019	1.38
2020	1.65
2021	1.65
2022	1.25
2023	1.15
2024	0.90
2025	0.85

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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

Background: **Proposal 76:**

Current Season:

- Aug 1–Dec 31
- Only bucks may be taken before Oct 1
 - Resident hunters— 5 Deer
 - Nonresident hunters— 4 Deer- \$300 big game tag per animal
- Positive C&T finding
- ANS of 1,000–1,250

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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

Hunt Information

Proposal 76:

- Severe winters → high harvest and high winter kill
- Mild winters → low harvest and low winter kill
- Average harvest (RY15–RY24) approximately 2,000 deer
- Harvest ranged from almost 3,000 deer in RY21 to nearly 1,500 deer in RY22
- Buck harvest has been 57–69% with the average of 64%
- Emergency order authority

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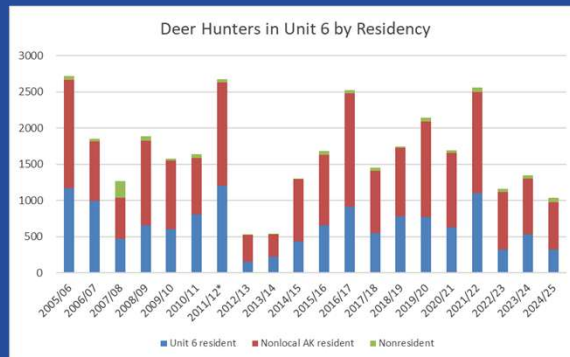
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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

Hunter Information:

Proposal 76:

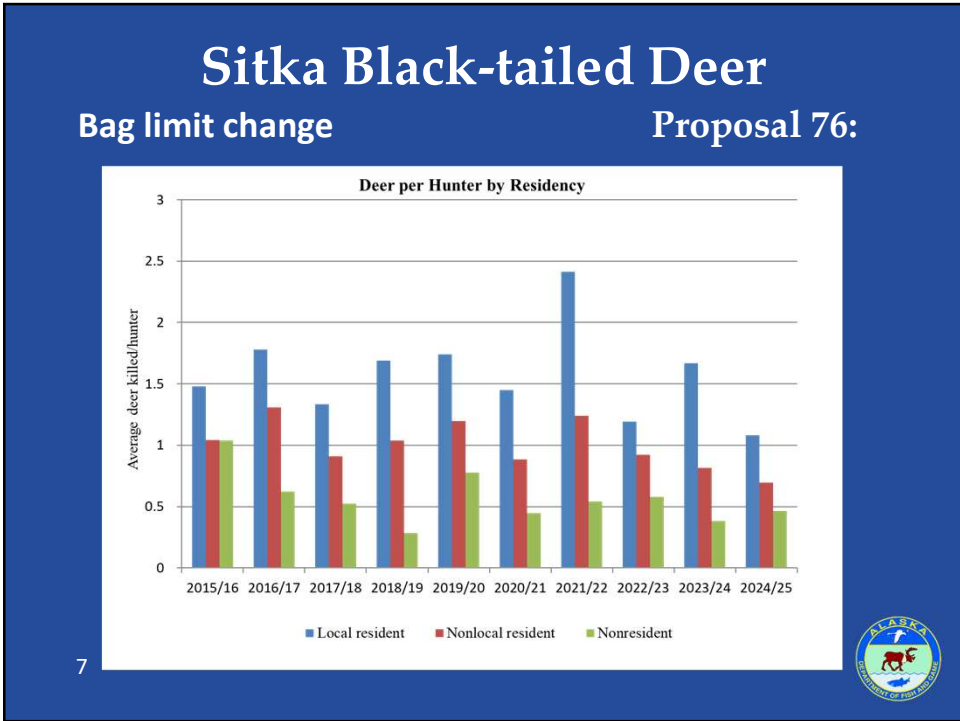
- About 1,400 hunters pursue deer in Unit 6 each year
- Over 90% are residents of Alaska



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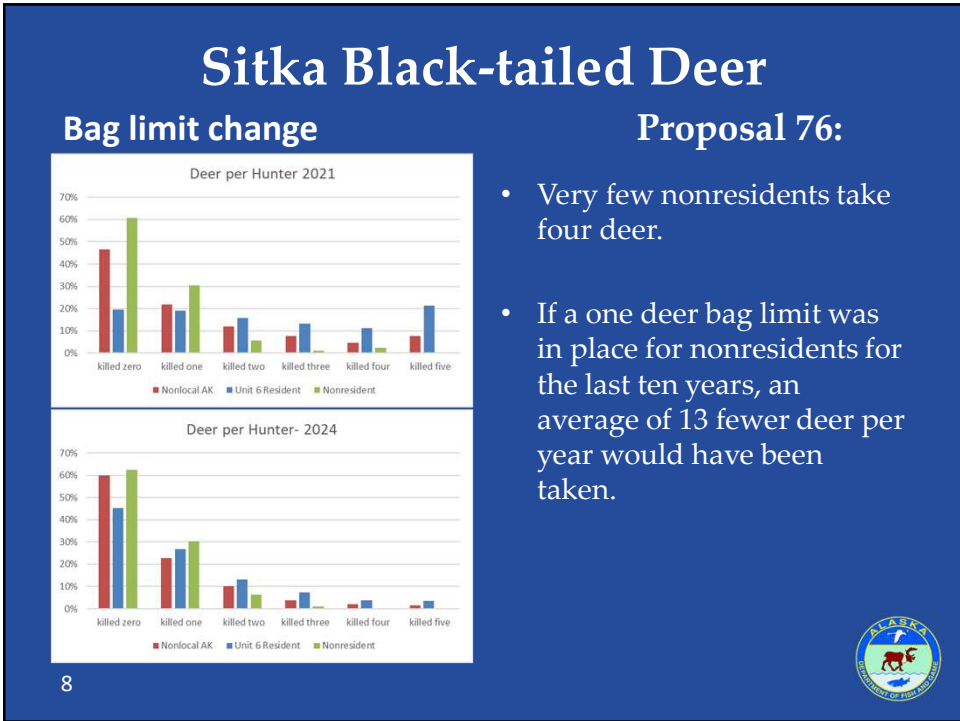


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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

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This is a public proposal

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Mountain Goat Unit 6D Nonresident Drawing Hunt

Proposal 77:

Create a nonresident draw hunt for goats in GMU 6D to replace the registration nonresident permit hunts

Department Position: NEUTRAL on the allocative aspects of this proposal. With shorter seasons and more hunters afield, it is becoming more difficult to stay within the MAH. A limited hunt structure might provide a longer season and more certain opportunity.

This is a public proposal

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Mountain Goat

Proposal 77:

- 8 hunt areas in Unit 6D
- Managed with MAH and goat points
- Nanny harvest regulation since 2015
- Mandatory goat hunter quiz in all areas of Alaska
- Positive C&T finding
 - ANS for 6C and 6D 15–26 goats



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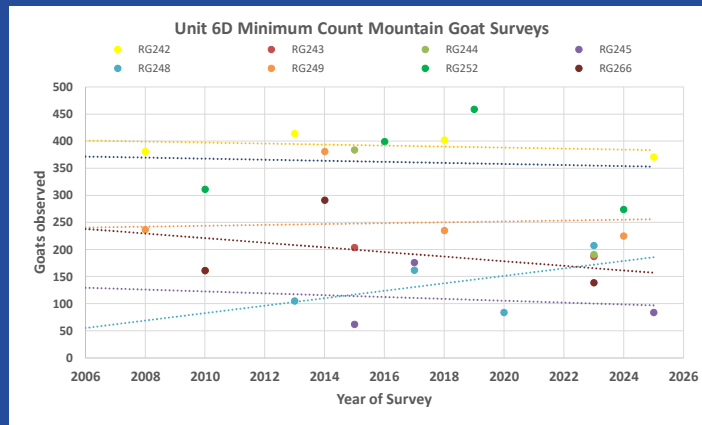


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Mountain Goat

Population Information:

Proposal 77:



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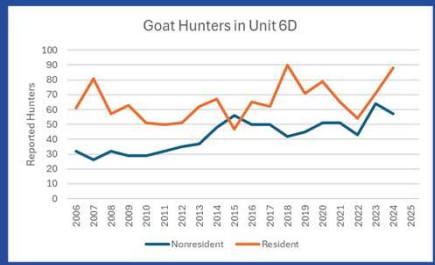
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Mountain Goat

Hunt Information:

- Increased interest in goat hunting
- Seasons are closing earlier
- Difficult hunt management
- Delayed reporting
- Mandatory horn check

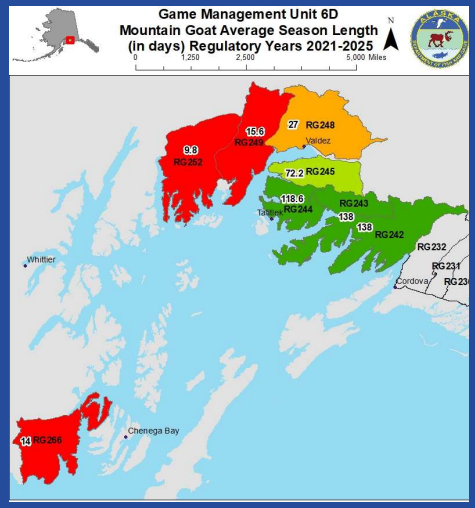
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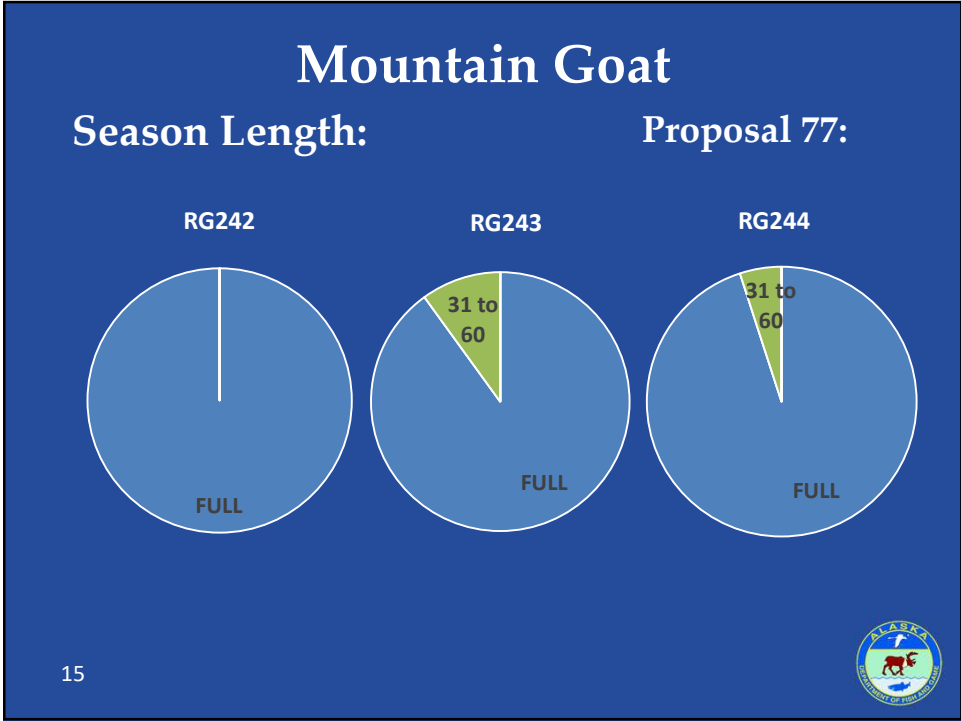


Mountain Goat

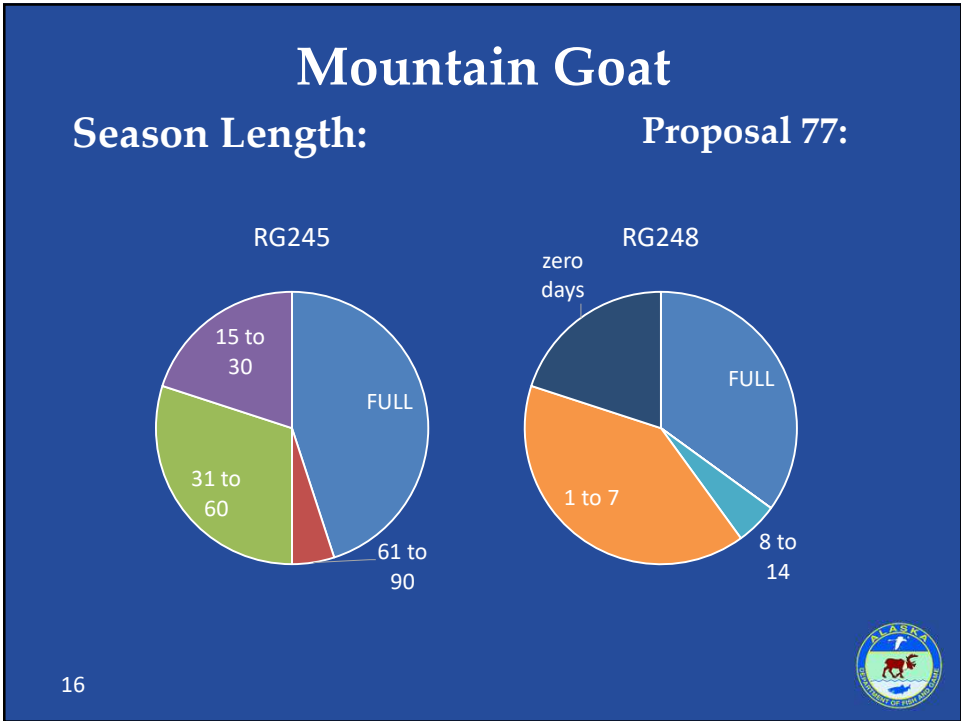
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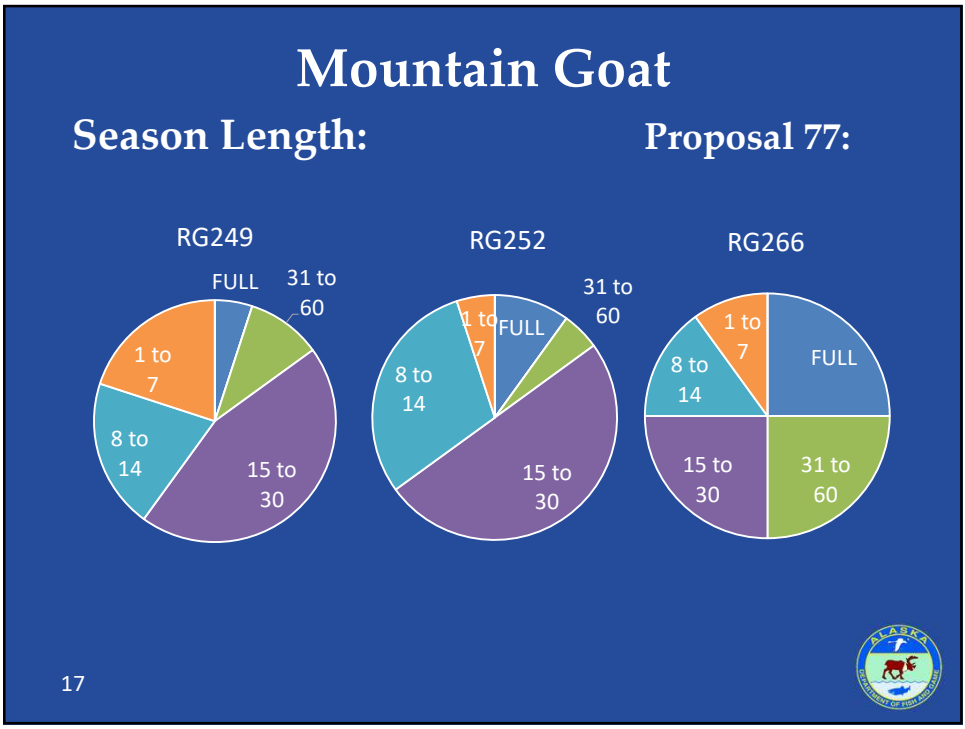




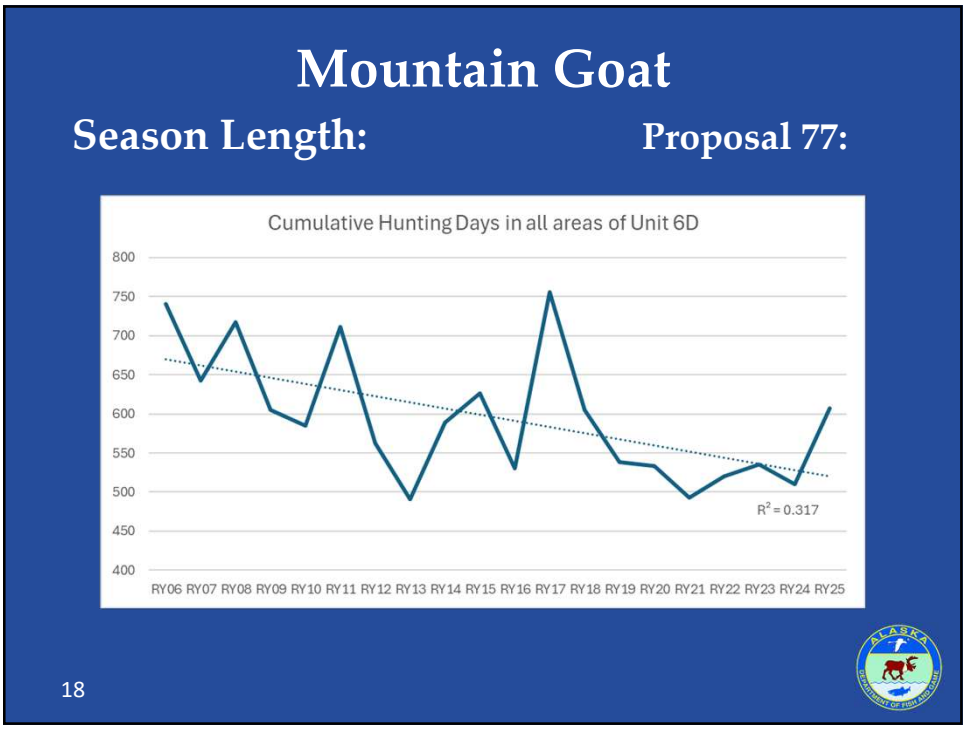
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Mountain Goat

Proposal 77:

Hunt Information:

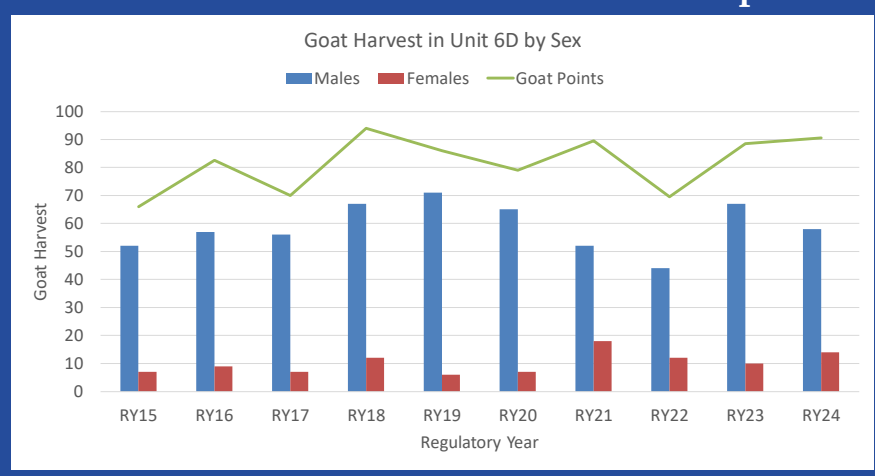
- Land ownership map
- Guide authorizations
- Goat hunters 2nd kindred-7%



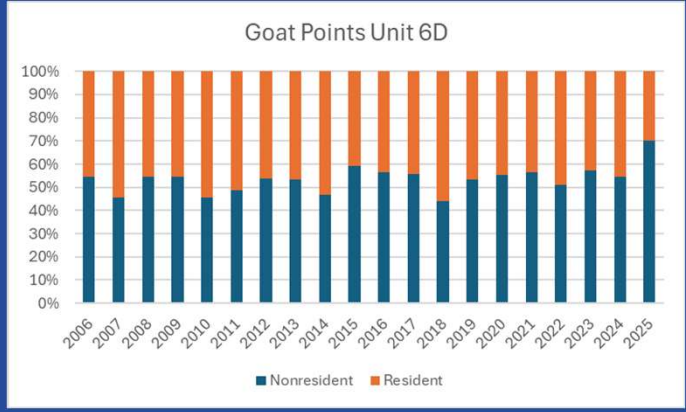
Mountain Goat

Hunt Information:

Proposal 77:



Mountain Goat Hunter Information: Proposal 77:

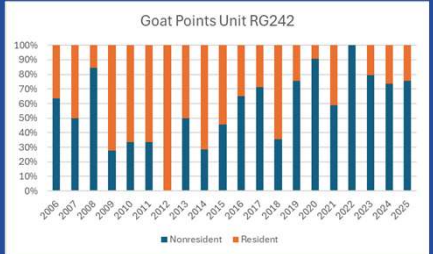
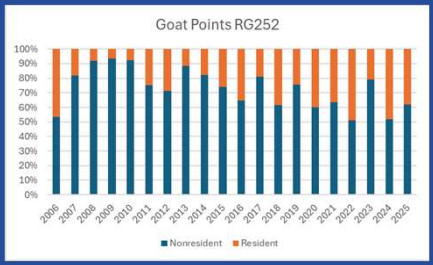


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Mountain Goat Hunter Information: Proposal 77:



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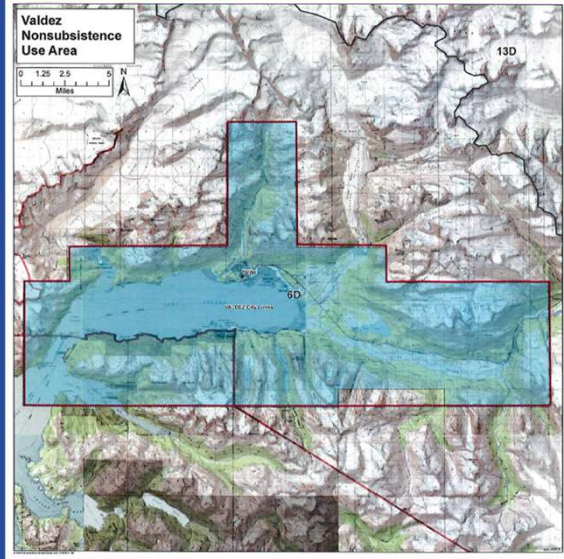


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Mountain Goat

Proposal 77:

This area overlaps portions of RG245, RG248 and RG249



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Mountain Goat Unit 6D Nonresident Drawing Hunt

Proposal 77:

Create a nonresident draw hunt for goats in GMU 6D to replace the registration nonresident permit hunts

Department Position: NEUTRAL on the allocative aspects of this proposal. With shorter seasons and more hunters afield, it is becoming more difficult to stay within the MAH. A limited hunt structure might provide a longer season and more certain opportunity.

This is a public proposal



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Mountain Goat Archery only

Proposal 78:

Create an early season archery goat hunt within the RG248 hunt area available by registration permit with a bag limit of 1 Billy and season dates of September 10th–20th

Department Position: NEUTRAL due to allocative nature.

This is a public proposal

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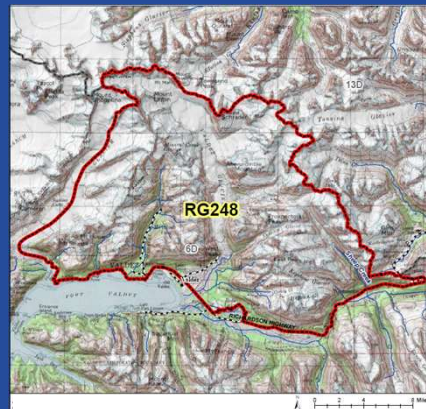
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Mountain Goat

Proposal 78:

Current Season:

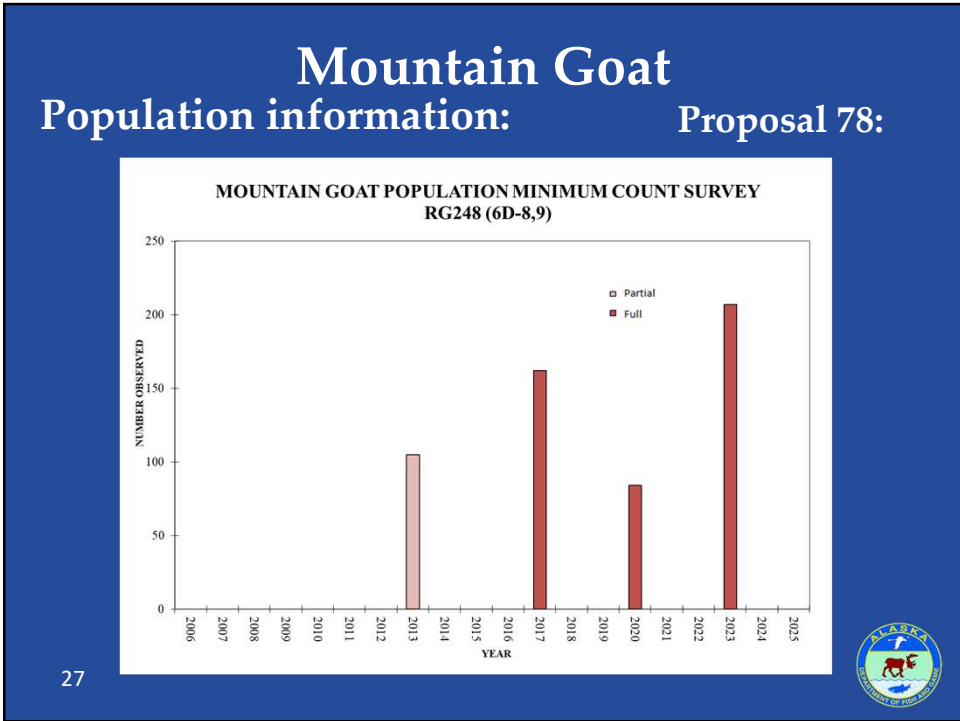
- Units 6C and 6D Sep 15–Jan 31 (Oct 1-31 used)
- Nanny provision
- Positive C&T
- Valdez non-subsistence area
- Managed using goat points



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- ## Mountain Goat
- Hunt information:** **Proposal 78:**
- Hunt has occurred 16 of the last 27 years
 - Season length— Expanded from ten days to 31 days
 - Emergency Order closure not used since 2018
 - Participation— limited permits issued with average 11 hunters per year
 - Goat points available— Average 5–6
 - Harvest— average 4 goat points
 - Since 2005, no hunters have indicated archery was used
 - 96% Alaska resident participation
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Mountain Goat Archery only

Proposal 78:

Create an early season archery goat hunt within the RG248 hunt area available by registration permit with a bag limit of 1 Billy and season dates of September 10th–20th

Department Position: NEUTRAL due to allocative nature.

This is a public proposal

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Moose Nonresident season

Proposal 79:

Shorten the nonresident moose season in Unit 6, to end on Oct. 31

Proposer clarified the intent to focus on Unit 6A remainder

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocation

This is a public proposal

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Moose

Proposal 79:

Current Season:

- Unit 6A remainder
 Nonresident– One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side
 Harvest Ticket Sept 1–Nov 30
- Negative C&T

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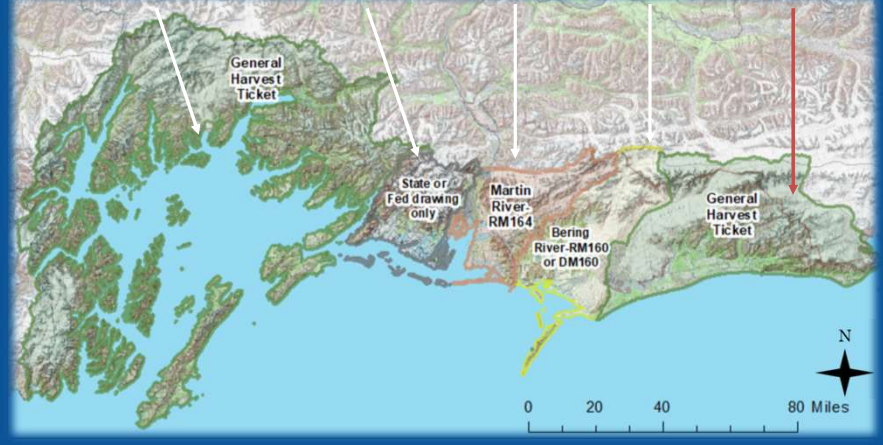


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Moose

Proposal 79:

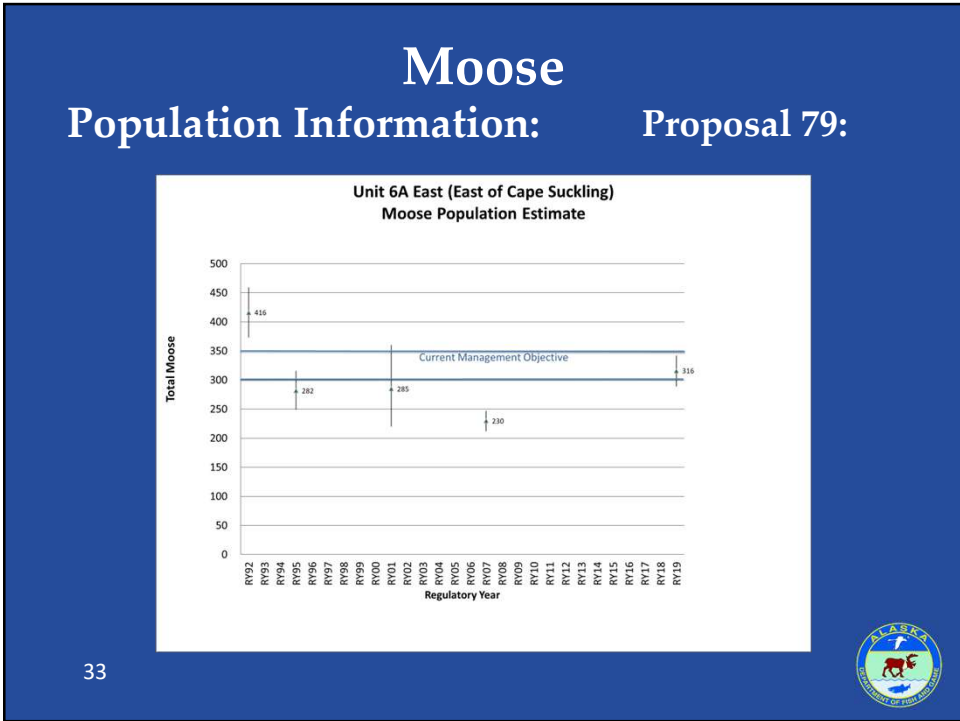
	Unit 6D	Unit 6C	Unit 6B	Unit 6A West	Unit 6A East
Permit	Harvest Ticket	Drawing (25%Bull) and Federal (75% Bull 100%Cow)	Registration	Registration (Res)/ Drawing (Nonres)	Harvest Ticket
Regulations	Any Bull	Any Bull or Cow (Federal)	Any Bull	Any Bull	Antler Restricted



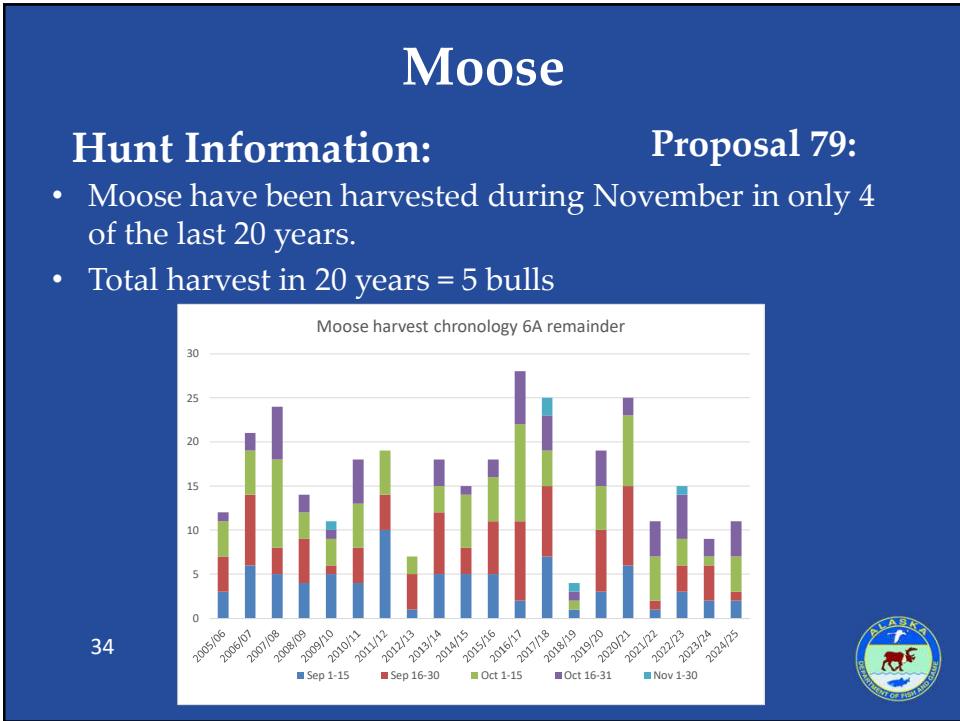
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Moose
Nonresident season

Proposal 79:
Shorten the nonresident moose season in Unit 6, to end on Oct. 31
Proposer clarified the intent to focus on Unit 6A remainder

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocation

This is a public proposal



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Moose
Road corridor hunt area and drawing

Proposal 80:

- Two new hunt areas would be created:
 - Archery-Only Zone: From Valdez (milepost 0) to milepost 12 on the Richardson Highway and only within 100 yards on either side of the highway right-of-way.
 - Any-Weapon Zone: From milepost 12 to milepost 25 on the Richardson Highway and only within 100 yards on either side of the highway right-of-way.
- Each hunt area would have a drawing hunt for a bull or cow without a calf.
- Season Dates: October 1 to February 28

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocation

This is a public proposal



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Moose

Proposal 80:

Current Season:

- Unit 6D
 - Resident or Nonresident– One bull
 - Harvest Ticket Sept 1 – Sept 30
- Negative C&T

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Moose

Proposal 80:

Population Information:

- Considered an “overflow” population
- Not surveyed but could be growing based on harvest
- Current strategy allows for compensatory harvest but also the possibility of population growth.

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Moose

Hunter Information:

- Number of hunters pursuing moose in Unit 6D is growing

Proposal 80:

Year	Local	Non-local AK	NON-RESIDENT	UNKNOWN RESIDENCY
2014	15	5	0	0
2015	18	5	0	0
2016	32	5	2	0
2017	35	2	0	0
2018	45	10	5	0
2019	48	0	0	0
2020	45	5	5	0
2021	45	5	2	0
2022	50	5	5	0
2023	52	10	5	0
2024	45	15	5	0

- Statewide, archery accounts for 1–3% of harvest annually
- In Unit 6, harvest by bowhunters averages <1%
- Archery-only rule applied for public safety in city limits

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Moose

Harvest in 6D

- Harvest has increased over the last 25 years.
- Most hunters are Alaska residents
- Very few roadkill moose have been reported to ADFG

Proposal 80:

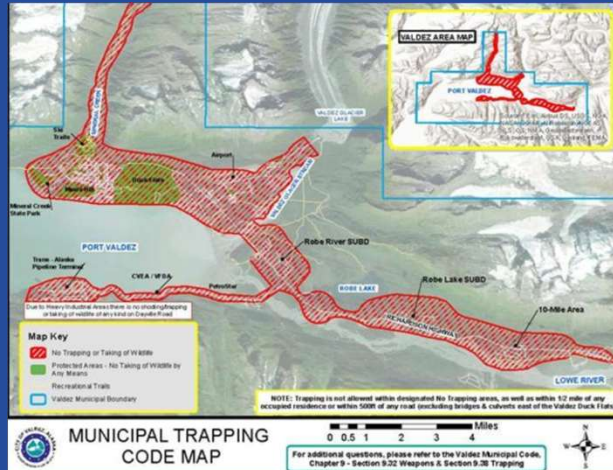
Year	Harvest
RY00	2
RY01	2
RY02	2
RY03	3
RY04	3
RY05	2
RY06	7
RY07	4
RY08	7
RY09	5
RY10	4
RY11	6
RY12	4
RY13	3
RY14	3
RY15	3
RY16	4
RY17	8
RY18	7
RY19	12
RY20	10
RY21	6
RY22	4
RY23	14
RY24	9

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Moose

- City ordinance may prevent “taking of wildlife” within the described corridor.



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Moose

Road corridor hunt area and drawing

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 - Archery-Only Zone: From Valdez (milepost 0) to milepost 12 on the Richardson Highway and only within 100 yards on either side of the highway right-of-way.
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- Each hunt area would have a drawing hunt for a bull or cow without a calf.
- Season Dates: October 1 to February 28

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocation

This is a public proposal

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Antlerless Moose Season

Proposal 81:

Seeks to reestablish the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C

Department Position: SUPPORTS this proposal because it increases options for hunt management

This is a Department proposal

Advisory Committee Votes:

Copper River PWS 12-0

Valdez 8-0

Whittier No Action

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Antlerless Moose Season

Population information:

Proposal 81

- Moose calves transplanted 1949–1958
- Previously geographically isolated by glaciers
- Mild winters—little winter kill
- High calf survival
- Twinning rates >40% in all years surveyed
- Growing or stable population despite high cow harvest

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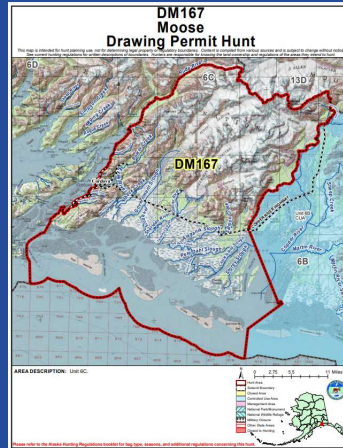
44

Antlerless Moose Season

Hunt Administration

Proposal 81

- DM167-State drawing permit for 25% of bull MAH
- Federal Draw- Administered by USFS 75% of bull MAH and 100% of cow MAH
- RM169- Late season hunt TBA for antlerless moose
 - Intended to take unfilled quota
 - Not yet used due to high success rates



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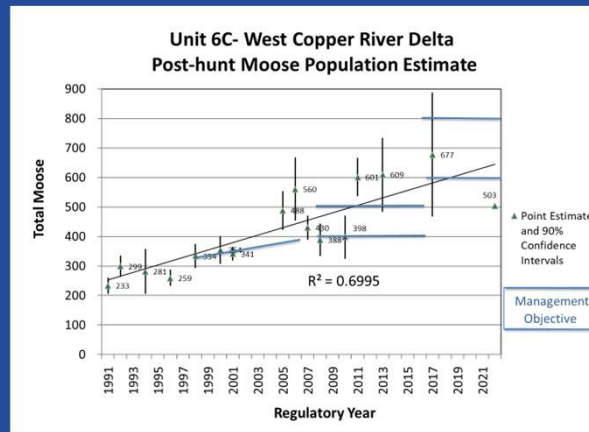


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Antlerless Moose Season

Population information:

Proposal 81



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46

Antlerless Moose Season

Hunt information: **Proposal 81:**

- Moose hunting in Unit 6C since 1960
- Federal subsistence cow hunt in Unit 6C since 2000
- Variable permits based on objectives and current information
- Ten-year average— 31 antlerless moose permits issued
- Ten-year average success rate for combined federal hunts— 95%
- No nonresident hunting opportunity in this area

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Antlerless Moose Season


Proposal 81:

Seeks to reestablish the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C

Department Position: SUPPORTS this proposal because it increases options for hunt management

This is a Department proposal

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Black Bear

Proposal 82:

Change the season dates for black bear in GMU 6D to September 10th to May 31st; reducing the season by 10 days in the spring

Department Position: OPPOSED to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity.

This is a public proposal

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Black Bear

Current Season:

- Unit 6D
 - Resident or Nonresident– One Bear
 - Registration Hunt RL065: Sept 10 – June 10
- Positive C&T
 - ANS 80-120

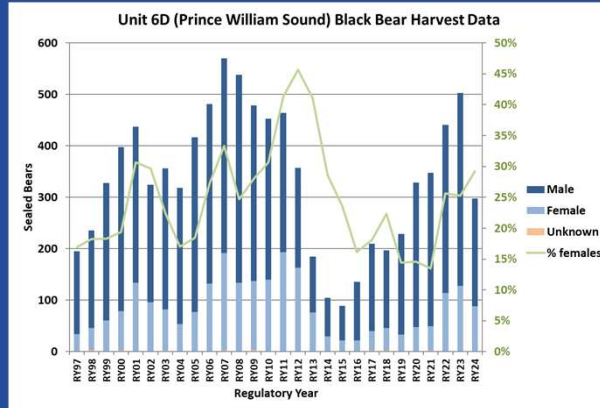
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Black Bear

- Harvest increases, followed by declines
- Increasing take of females may also foretell decline



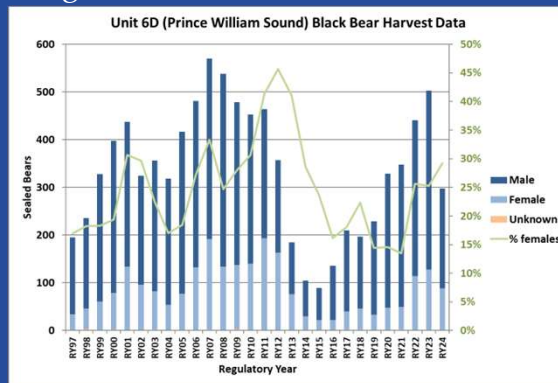
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Black Bear

- Imposed Restrictions:
- Boat shooting, RY03
 - Spring season length, RY05
 - Bear baiting, RY05
 - Fall season length, RY09
 - Emergency closure RY14
 - RY15 Registration Hunt RL065



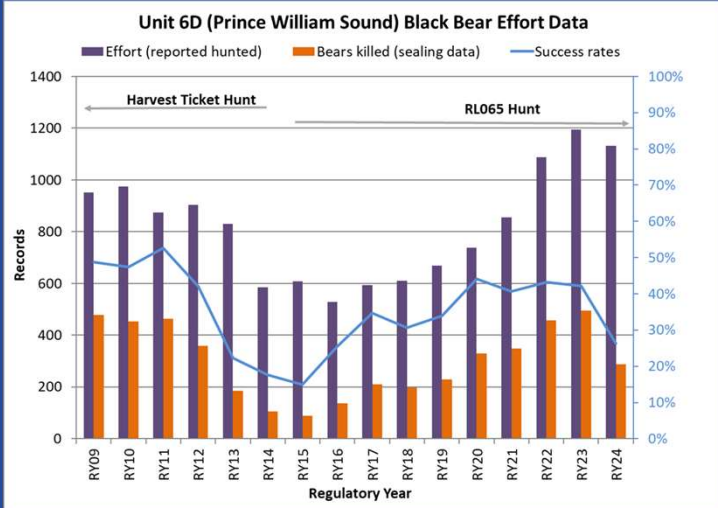
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Black Bear

- Effort has been monitored since RY09



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Black Bear

Proposal 82

- Bears are more vulnerable in early June when in breeding behavior.
- No Emergency Order closures.
 - Harvest monitoring in season is difficult.
 - 3-day reporting requirement.

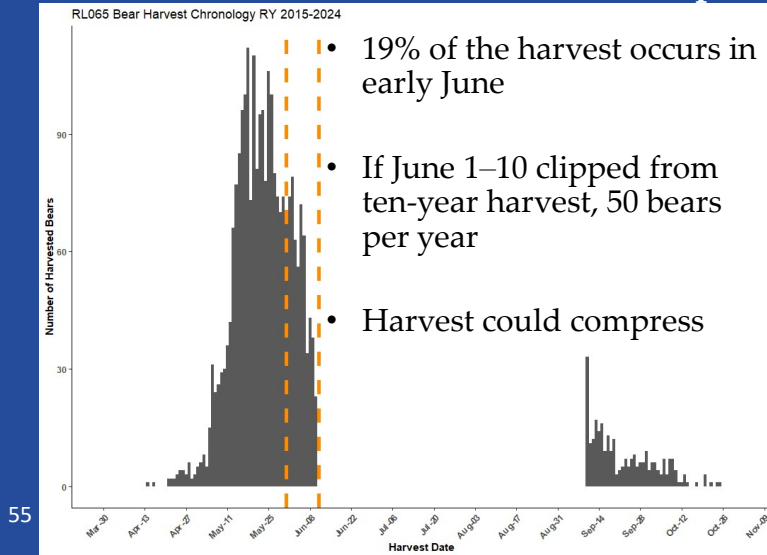
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Black Bear

Proposal 82



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Department Position: OPPOSED to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity.

This is a public proposal

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Black Bear

Proposal 83:

Increase the bag limit for RL065 to two bears for Alaska residents

Department Position: **OPPOSED** to an increase in the black bear bag limit when concerns about increasing harvest rates exist.

This is a public proposal

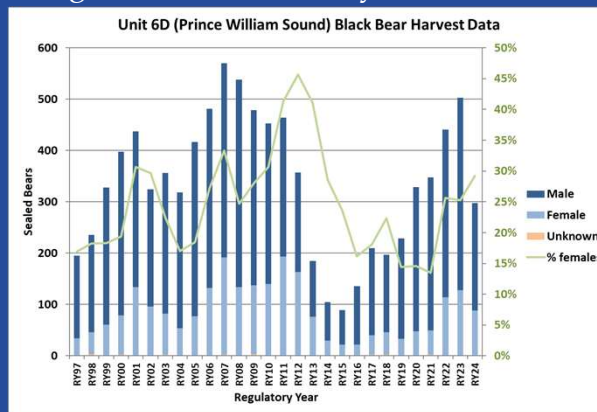
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Black Bear

- Harvest increases, followed by declines
- Increasing take of females may also foretell decline



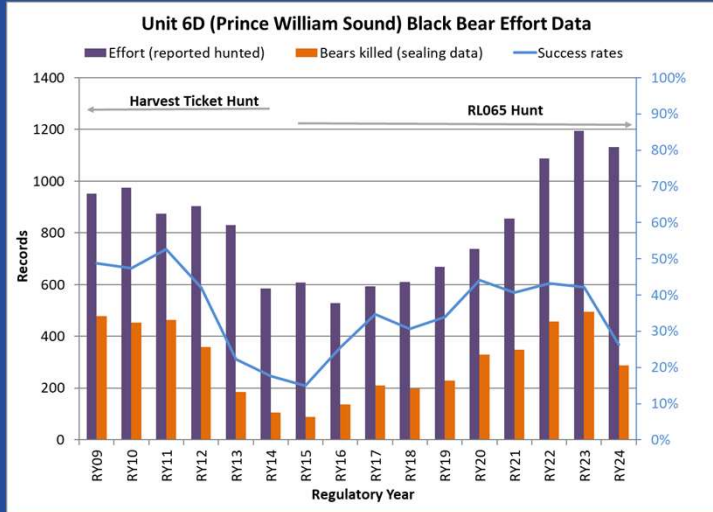
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Black Bear

- Effort has been monitored since RY09



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Black Bear

Proposal 83

- Harvest objective will be reached more rapidly.
- Harvest is increasing more quickly than desired already.
- Two bear limit may lead to indiscriminate harvest.
- Many other areas have two bear limit and a desire to reduce bear populations.

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60

Black Bear

Proposal 83:

Increase the bag limit for RL065 to two bears for Alaska residents

Department Position: OPPOSED to an increase in the black bear bag limit when concerns about increasing harvest rates exist.

This is a public proposal

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Black Bear

Proposal 84:

Shorten the season for black bear hunting in Unit 6D from September 10 – June 10 to October 1 – June 10

Department Position: OPPOSED to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity.

This is a public proposal

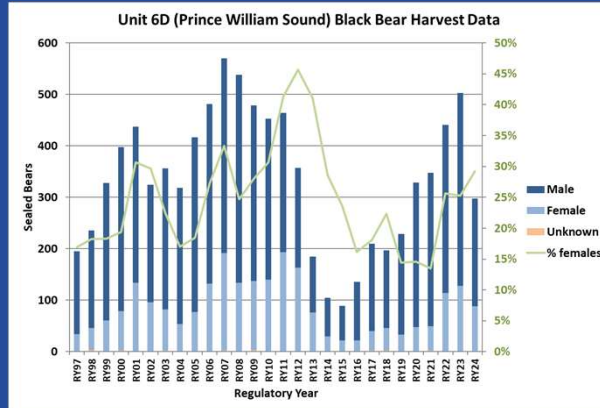
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Black Bear

- Harvest increases, followed by declines
- Increasing take of females may also foretell decline



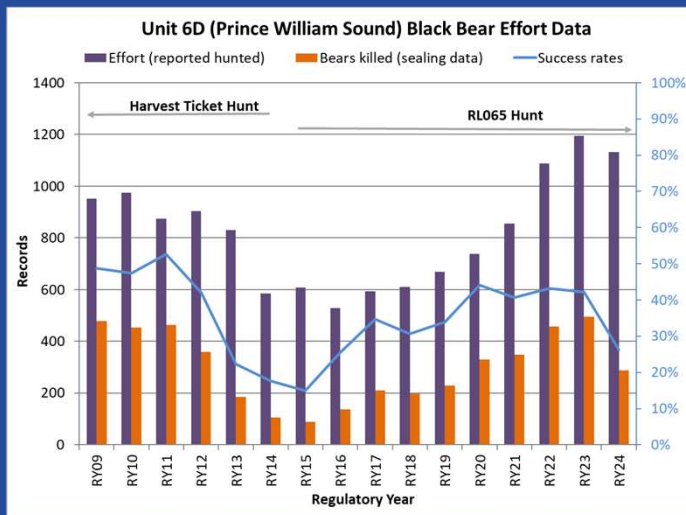
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Black Bear

- Effort has been monitored since RY09



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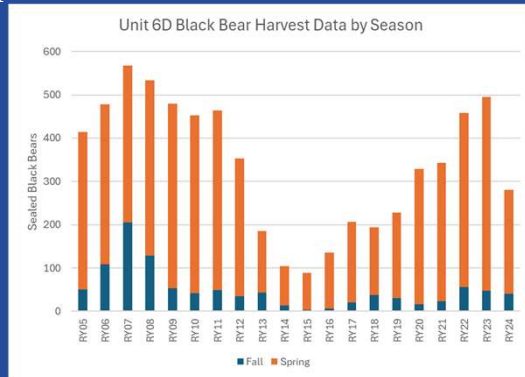


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Black Bear

Proposal 84

- Most of the harvest happens in the spring (84%)
- Take of females is higher in the fall (45%) than in the spring (30%) but the contribution to the total harvest is minimal



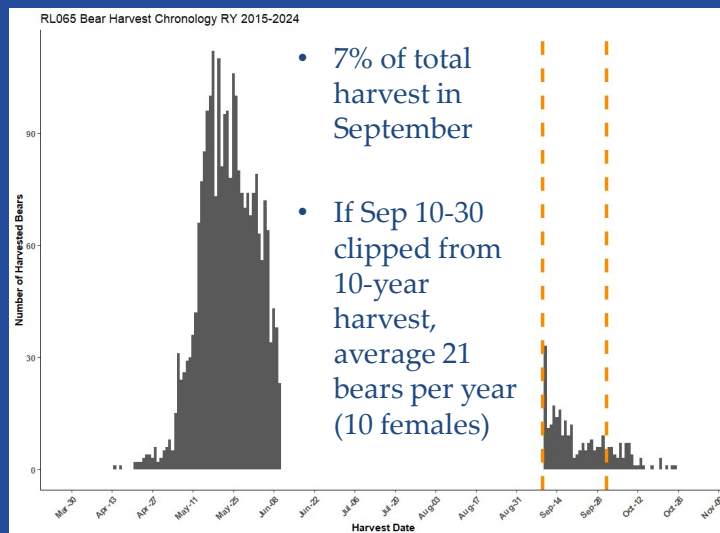
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Black Bear

Proposal 84



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Black Bear

Proposal 84:

Shorten the season for black bear hunting in Unit 6D from September 10 – June 10 to October 1 – June 10

Department Position: OPPOSED to the unnecessary reduction in opportunity.

This is a public proposal

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All Big Game

- **Proposal 85:**

- Restrict hunters from shooting big game from a boat in Units 1–6 without a permit

- **Department Recommendation:** Neutral

- **This is a public proposal**

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All Big Game

Proposal 85

- Shooting from a boat is used during heavy snow winters and results in high harvest
- Wounding loss could be reduced
- Would also apply to inland boat-based hunting
- Extends rule currently used in Units 1–5 to Unit 6
- Currently used for black bears in Unit 6D

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All Big Game

- **Proposal 85:**
 - Restrict hunters from shooting big game from a boat in Units 1–6 without a permit
- **Department Recommendation:** Neutral
- **This is a public proposal**

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