

Board of Game Testimony Matanuska Valley Advisory committee**SHEEP**

- 71 & 72) **Sheep Intensive management**
 - o Unanimously opposed as the committee felt that this was unnecessary due to the long term negative effects such as difficulties with establishing predators and their Prey, such as what wolves killed caribou and what wolves killed sheep. This was also opposed due to the effects of sheep potentially being a statewide subsistence species. Speak briefly to the early support of this last year
- 107) Change dall sheep hunts in unit 7 and 15 to drawing hunts
 - o This was unanimously opposed 0-15 as we were adamantly opposed to going to draw tags as a management solution.
- 108) Change all or some sheep in unit 7 and 15 to archery only
 - o We were unanimously opposed 0-15 as we felt this was not necessary but there was discussion of using archery as a management tool if the department deemed it appropriate.
- 174) **Reduce the sheep harvest to one ram every other year**
 - o This was opposed unanimously for multiple reasons such as the major fact that is far to complex of a single proposal, should have been multiple proposals. The 5% to non-res is not a logical percentage and many residents greatly desire the opportunity at being drawn back to back.
- 177) **Extend DS140, 240 to add five days**
 - o Supported 9-6 as those that were opposed felt that that the season was long enough and that this could conflict with putting more sheep on the mountain. Those in support felt that due to inclement weather and other weather related events can effect sheep movement and therefore limit the 10 day season. This was also supported due to historically being a very low success rate with 1-3 sheep per year.
- 178) **Split the DS141 draw hunt into two hunt periods AS AMENDED**
 - o This was supported 14-0-1 as amended as originally a large majority was opposed to cutting the tags in half but supported splitting the season. Amendment to support keep original tag amount but split the season in half was supported 13-2. Large majority felt that this tag can get crowded therefore splitting the season is justified, while maintaining the opportunity. The one abstention was due to not being present in the room during the discussion.
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- 179) **Remove the east fork Eklutna from the sheep hunt area DS 124, 125, 126 and 224 for unit 14c**
 - o This was opposed unanimously as we felt this would ultimately be a loss in opportunity, specifically rifle hunters.
- 180) **Expand the DS123 hunt in 14C**
 - o We were opposed 4-11 as those that supported wanted to see a “super tag” that would include both res and non-res as well as support for an any ram harvest. Those opposed felt that this would be bad optics if a non-res drew and there would be support if this was for resident only. As well as not wanting to add additional pressure to the area.
- 181) **Allow 2nd degree kindred sheep hunters to hunt under their relatives permit for sheep in 14C**
 - o We opposed this 3-12 as those that supported wanted to see the ability to for permits to transfer to family and giving an opportunity to those wishing to hunt a dall sheep as a non-resident. Those opposed felt this would increase the amount of draw entries, therefore lowering the odds for residents to hunt and would slowly back residents out. There was also extensive discussion regarding verification for 2nd degree kindred.

Brown Bear

- 135-136) **Change BOG finding to manage mortality cap in unit 7 and 15 to spring and fall caps**
 - o This was supported 14-0 as we felt guaranteeing the fall hunt in the case of a spring closure
- 137) **Remove the current harvest cap rate for RB300 in unit 7 and 15 AS AMENDED**
 - o This was opposed in a tie vote 7-7 as amended to increase the cap. Amendment passed 14-0 although those opposed did not want to support the proposal as they felt that prop 135 covered this issue. Those in support wanted to see additional opportunity in a large area by increasing the sow quota.
- 191) **Create archery only drawing permit for brown bear in 14C**
 - o This was opposed 1-14 as we felt that there was already a tag established here DB470 and rather than create a separate hunt, just increase the tags altogether.
- 192) **Establish archery only registration Brown Bear hunt in Chugach State Park Management area**
 - o This was opposed 2-14 with those opposed having similar comments to 191 for just adding more tags to DB470 and those in support saw the benefits of the department having to take the necessary steps to establish a registration hunt and gather more data about the brown bear population in the state park.

- **193) Change the DB468 brown bear draw hunt for Eklutna management area in 14C to registration hunt.**
 - o This was opposed due to staff comments referring back to needing good collar data to establish a registration and adding more tags to draw if necessary.
- **194) Extend brown bear season unit 14C remainder to June 30**
 - o This was opposed 7-8 as those opposed felt that hair quality and user conflicts would be present and those supported wanted to see more opportunity.
- **195) Allow same day airborne take of black and brown bear at bait stations in unit 14C remainder**
 - o This was our proposal and we supported 14-1 as we felt this would allow for greater opportunity to check and hunt baits in Matanuska Valley without having to wait until the following day. Due to the nature of bear baiting, it would remain sporting due to thick cover in which baits are normally placed. The one opposition felt their might be user conflicts.
- **196) Restrict bear baiting within 5 miles of Knik river road**
 - o This was opposed unanimously as this would encompass a large majority of the knik river area and is not necessary.
- **234) Shorten the spring brown bear season on Kodiak Island Unit 8 to start April 20**
 - o This was opposed unanimously 0-12 as there was not much discussion as we did not feel there was any reason for starting the season later in the season. Weather factors were also considered, making a longer season more realistic.
- **235) Count a wounded bear against a hunters bag limit in Unit 8**
 - o TNA as this is already regulation regarding Kodiak Brown Bear
- **236) Remove the sow restriction and penalties for residents in Kodiak Brown Bear hunt areas 8-16 and institute a sow skull size restriction for resident hunters**
 - o This was opposed 2-10 with those in support wanting no penalty for a hunter to take a larger/older sow and those opposed citing this would be difficult for hunters to judge in the field and not the most simple method for avoiding sow take. Although, it was recognized that this would help the downstream effect of resident number of tags.
- **237) Require all non resident hunters to apply for unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents**
 - o This was Supported 6-5-1 with those in support wanting to support the premise although reallocate portion would likely need to be rewritten. There was also support from optics perspective of wanting more resident allocation. There was also mention of resident hunters would have to move out of state, become a resident out of Alaska to obtain one of these tags. Those opposed that the system in place now is effective and has its own qualifications for guides to have

their clients books by December 15th. There was also one abstention as they felt the board would not support this but it needed to be addressed in some way.

- **238) Require resident hunting brown bear in unit 8 to complete an online education course specific to Kodiak Island brown bear**
 - o Supported unanimously as this was our proposal and while we understand if there is a biological capability to allow sow harvest, there are those that will just want to come home with a bear regardless, our belief is that through this education, a lower resident sow take would therefore allow for additional tags allowed for residents to hunt brown bear in Unit 8.

Moose

- **79) Shorten the non-res hunting season for moose in unit 6A**
 - o This was supported 12-2 as those opposed felt there was no reason to shorten the season due to other similar hunts in the southcentral region. Those in support felt that it goes against biological reasoning and there was very limited access, especially later in the season.
- **80) Create a new drawing in unit 6D along the Richardson hwy**
 - o This was opposed unanimously as department staff provided evidence for minimal user conflict and conflicting valdez municipal rules.
- **89) Open an early season archery only hunt unit 7**
 - o This was opposed unanimously as we felt that it was to late to the normal season and many members did not feel there should be a special season for archers in this area.
- **90) Change bag limit for moose hunts in unit 7 and 15 to 10 legal antler points**
 - o This was unanimously opposed as we felt this added a level of unnecessary complexity and did not understand the background behind this theory.
- **91) Shift the moose hunting season and motorized restriction for unit 15C from September to October**
 - o This was unanimously opposed 0-15 as we felt there would be conservation concerns with the season shift.
- **92) Shift moose season on Kalgin Island**
 - o This was supported unanimously 15-0 AS AMENDED to keep dates and add 5 days to end of season. This was mostly due to safety concerns getting to the island spreading out the hunters even more.

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- 98-99) **Clarify motorized use in Lower kenai controlled use area**
 - o We supported these unanimously as we traditionally support the Homer AC as they do they due diligence when submitting proposals and we felt this would be a good clarification of a heavily used area although we did not have substantial experience and knowledge of this area.
- 169) **Create moose drawing permit in eagle river management area in 14C**
 - o Supported 11-4 as amended. This was a large discussion regarding many aspects. This included conversation about making all weapons, boundary changes and concerns with no information with moose population. Department staff was there to answer questions regarding 14C as a whole. The first amendment failed 1-14 to include any weapon. This was due to concerns with the public and recreation within that area. The single vote not liking the limitation to archery only. The discussion then revolved around boundaries, moose population and season dates. A motion to amend was put for to change season dates to Sept 1 – 30 as there was concerns with the current season dates proposed being to late into the season. The amendment passed and more discussion was made favoring the original intent to be an archery only season. Leave it up to the department to establish boundaries
- 170) **Close RM445 to non-resident**
 - o Supported 13-2, as most felt that this was a hunt most appropriate for residents due to the locality. Those opposed didn't feel there was enough effect from non-res and that military that were not yet residents could utilize this hunt
- 171) **Create a new registration archery moose hunt in unit 14C, east fork Eklutna**
 - o This was opposed unanimously, mostly due to the fact that creating this registration hunt would add complexity to the department in establishing this hunt where there is already a lot of crowding and there already being a very similar hunt on the books.
- 172) **Include wounded moose toward bag limits for all hunts**
 - o This was supported 13-2 with those in support quoting ethics perspectives and supporting the department proposal. Those opposed felt that it in clear, non-mortal shots this would be an ineffective regulation. And that this hunt is designed to remove moose from the base, and that cutting a tag for wounded moose does not help that particular moose or the mission.
- 173) **shift season dates on DM211**
 - o This was opposed 1-12-2 with one support due to no issues with dates due to antlerless. Opposed felt that this was to late and that there would be a loss in opportunity with the hunt dropping to 31 days. Those abstained cited they would like to hear from the public and let the board decide.

- 174,175) **Reauthorize antlerless moose in twentymile/partage/placer and unit 14C**
 - o Discussion with department staff led us to support this with one abstention stating they would like to hear from people of this particular area. Historically we have supported the department in using antlerless tags as a tool in the tool box for managing moose populations.

GOAT

- 70) **Restrict hunters from who take a nanny in units 6,7,14C, 15 from hunting goats in 6,7,8,14C and 15 for 5 years**
 - o We were opposed as those that supported felt there needed to be a response/penalty such as this for taking nannies in those units and that there was plenty of information for judging goats and patience needs to be taken. Those opposed felt it wasn't fair to not be able to hunt many other areas for a legal infraction in one particular area. This was the case for several members who wanted to see unit 8 removed from the proposal and could support without.
- 77) **Change the non-res goat hunts in unit 6D from drawing hunts to registration**
 - o We supported this as AMENDED 11-3 as this was originally amended to make non-res 33% allocation which failed 2-12 and then a motion to amend to 10% non-res allocation was made and passed 11-3. Those opposed felt that there were areas that residents do not hunt as much and would limit non-res and one member liked the original writing of the proposal. Those opposed felt that there was a substantial increase in non-res pressure and limiting this to 10% non-res allocation would allow for more resident opportunity, specifically in the closer units to Whittier. There was also discussion on how to divide these units up so there was more opportunity for residents on the closer units and reasonable opportunity for the farther units for non-res.
- 78) **create a fall archery registration goat hunt in unit 6D RG248, 1 billy**
 - o This was opposed unanimously as there was little data to show archery effort in this area and some would rather see this turn into a draw due to ease of access.
- 110) **open a goat drawing hunt in unit 7 east of Russian river, south of kenai river and west of copper river**
 - o This was supported 8-7 AS AMENDED to 1 billy permit as we had extensive discussion with the area biologist regarding the amount needed to create a tag. This is already a tag area, DG 337. Those in support felt that a 1 tag billy limit

would have no biological concerns. Those opposed felt it was so small of a population to risk a nanny being taken.

- 111) **Create a new registration archery only hunt for goat in unit 7 remainder**
 - o This was supported 10-5 as those in support felt that this mirrors already established archery only goat hunts and those opposed did not want to see a special archery season overall.
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- 159) **Create archery only registration permits for goat in 14C**
 - o This was opposed unanimously opposed 0-15 with the general opposition was due to the already existing hunts on the books, dangerous hunting conditions, concerns whether there would even be any extra allocation and potential support if this was an any weapons hunt.
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- 221) **Lengthen the season for the RG480 goat hunt in unit 8 to start Aug 1**
 - o 5-7 opposed as those that were opposed felt there was no reason for adding additional days to an already very long season, unless that time was used to create a goat hunt. It was also said that this is during the time the department surveys the goats on the island. Those in support would like the additional opportunity on the island when the weather is fair and would allow those in school to participate in the hunt.
- 222) **Change the bag limit for hunting goat in unit 8 to one billy only, and require horns to be sealed.**
 - o Opposed unanimously as we didn't understand how this would increase the size of the billies if only billies were allowed. The population appears to be stable and sizeable percentage of hunters would take a nanny regardless. The question of whether the department could handle the influx of sealing with quotes was also asked.

DEER

- 76) **Reduce non-res bag limit to one deer in unit 6**
 - o This was opposed 2-12 as those in support felt there might be an increase in non-res pressure due to lower limits possibly in Kodiak. Those opposed felt the non-res pressure was limited as well as there is currently no biological concern.
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- **198) Shorten the nonresident hunting season for deer in unit 8 remainder**
 - o Unanimously opposed as we felt that it was unnecessary and a non-issue. Also noting that the pressure assumingly drops off as the season gets closer to the end.
- **199) Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 remainder**
 - o This was opposed unanimously, I would ask to review our comments as this had mixed discussion but ultimately was unanimously opposed due to how it was written to include deer not just bucks.
- **200-201,203) Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in unit 8 remainder from one to two bucks**
 - o This was opposed 3-10 as the majority of those were opposed due to crowding issues and not for a lack of game. There was also conversation around that anecdotally many of the non-res using transporters would just shoot another deer instead of just looking for a single good buck. This was also supported by a committee member detailing how he looks at hunting deer on Kodiak. Those in favor of adding an additional buck for non-res stated there was no biological reason to limit it to one buck.
- **202) Change the bag limit for deer in unit 8 for guide use areas 08-01, 02, 26-28 to two bucks only through december 1 and antlerless deer after december 1**
 - o This was opposed unanimously 0-12 mostly due to ambiguity within the proposal and suggestions that this might be more of a local proposal with unique disagreements.
- **208) Prohibit the take of fawns or does with fawns in unit 8**
 - o This was unanimously opposed because if there is no biological reason, there is no reason to not include fawns or does with fawns, with brief discussion on taking younger deer from a meat harvest perspective.

ELK

- **210 Reallocate Elk Permits in hunt areas DE715,717,721,723 and RE706 and limit RE706 tags issues in port lions and Ouzinkie to one per household**
 - o This was opposed unanimously from the strict perspective that we do not believe in reallocation of draw permit and that all registration permits should be available online.

Black Bear

- **82) Shorten the spring hunting season for black bear in unit 6D by 10 days**
 - o This was supported unanimously 13-0 as dept staff presented data that was a higher overall harvest and higher sow harvest. Some believed not having to take the meat after June 1 gave more reason to support the subtraction of 10 days.
- **83) Increase the resident bag limit for RLo65 un unit 6 to two bears**
 - o We were unanimously opposed 0-14 as the dept staff had concerns of indiscriminate take and potentially decreasing opportunity for others while adding for some. There was also a comment regarding opposition and possibly creating another subunit to address any areas with higher populations.
- **84) Shorten Season for black bear in unit 6D**
 - o We were unanimously opposed 0-14 as the dept staff said it would have minimal impact and many of the members felt the same and also expressed that this would limit opportunities later in the season.
- **134) Shorten resident and non resident black bear season and require registration permit in unit 7 and 15**
 - o This was opposed unanimously 0-15 as the department stated there is no biological concern making this unnecessary.
- **184) Create a resident, black bear hunt for Highland Mtn in unit 14C**
 - o This was supported 13-1-1 with those in support wanted additional opportunity for hunters and a possible effective method to control the black bear population in the anchorage area. Those that were opposed or abstained was due to concerns with access points.
- **185) Increase the number of drawing permits for the DL455 hunt on base**
 - o This was supported due to biologist explanation during the meeting and supporting the department in their proposal.
- **186) Include wounded black bear to count towards the bag limit for DL455**
 - o Similar conversation regarding wounded moose with this being supported 12-3

Non-Resident Tag Allocation

- **87-89 Limit non resident permit allocation unit 15 caribou AS AMENDED up to 10%**
 - o This was supported 13-2 as those opposed as they wanted to see nonresidents still have an opportunity and these particular hunts may not be effected if at 20%. There was also discussion regarding tags unused by residents going to non-residents. Those in support wanted to see 10% standard across the board for residents to have more opportunity which was based on being consistent with what the lower 48 has been doing.

- **93,94 Limit non resident unit 7 and 15C permit allocation to 10%**
 - o This was supported 15-0 for unit 15C and 13-2 for unit 7 as we felt this should be a resident priority hunt from an aspect of availability of meat close to where they live.
- **109-133) Limit non resident sheep and goat unit 7 and 15 permits to 20% AS AMENDED TO LUMP TOGETHER**
 - o This was supported as amended 13-2 as those opposed felt that it would reduce opportunity for non-residents in areas that could potentially sustain non-resident amount of tags. Those in support offered that they felt the 20% was appropriate as there were particular tags that would grant a non-resident a tag but still limit the amount at an UP TO language perspective.
- **212-219) Limit non-resident permit allocation in Unit 8 elk “up to” 10% of the available permits**
 - o This was supported 10-2 with those opposed finding the up to language to restrictive and becoming allocative to the department by number of tags given out. Those in support felt that 90-10 was appropriate for Elk especially and the up to language was preferred. There was also discussion that Elk cow tags should not go to non-residents.
- **223-230) Limit the non-resident permit allocation to 20% for unit 8 Goat**
 - o This was supported 10-2 with those opposed felt this might be a better opportunity to leave the non-resident drawing alone and make the goat hunts registration for residents. Those in support almost voted against due to 20% instead of 10% but through discussion these were supported due to some of these being exclusive guide use areas.
- **155) Limit nonresident permit allocation for Unit 14C goat to 20%**
 - o This was supported 11-3-1 AS AMENDED (amendment passed 12-3) from 20% to 10% as those that were opposed felt it was to restrictive for those that are waiting for residency in the military and overall reduced opportunity and revenue. Those in support felt that the goats closer to the mat valley and anchorage should be prioritized for residents and therefore the amendment motion was made. There was an undertone comment as well that echos with the other non-resident allocation proposals which is to set a standard now due to worry of the future of drawing tags becoming more skewed towards non-residents.
- **161-168) Limit non-resident permit allocation for moose in 14C**
 - o Due to these being in 14C we felt the exact same and voted 11-3-1 for all the same reasons as the 14C goat.
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- 188-190) **Limit non-resident permit allocation for brown bear in 14C**
 - o Due to these being in 14C we felt the exact same and voted 11-3-1 for all the same reasons as the 14C Brown bear.

Trapping/ Other regulations

- 73) **Define permanent dwelling**
 - o We supported this 12-2 as those in support felt this was necessary housekeeping and a clearer definition was needed. Those opposed felt this could possibly create user conflicts.
- 74) **Count a wounded bear against a hunters bag limit**
 - o This was supported 11-3 as those in support felt this was felt it was good ethics and should be aligned with other units with this already in place. Those opposed felt that it could become a complex ethical question on how wounded is the bear and is the bear even wounded, such as a missed shot.
- 75) **Require an online trapping education course for trapping in southcentral region**
 - o This was supported unanimously as we felt this is a necessary step to preserve the trapping heritage and minimize user conflicts with the trapping realm. It was also noted that it aligns closely with required hunter education course.
- 85) **Restrict hunters from shooting big game from a boat in unit 6 without a permit**
 - o This was opposed 7-7 as those in support felt there were applicable situations for deer in the sound and those opposed wanted to mirror what units 1-5 already have established and would like it statewide.
- 141, 145) **Lynx trapping season**
 - o Please see minutes for our discussion, we took no action but had lengthy discussion but ultimately felt it was out of our area and not enough knowledge to specifics.
- 183) **Extend all hunting seasons for black and brown bear in unit 14C to June 15**
 - o We supported this 12-3 as those in support wanted the additional opportunity while those opposed felt there might be more user conflicts going further into summer and potential issues that might arise from the park management.
- 197) **Require identification on traps and snares in 14C**
 - o This was opposed 1-14 as we felt this could be subject to abuse from harassment and overall is an accountability issue. Those in support felt it was a small ask for trapper responsibility.
- 240) **Reduce bag limit for fox in unit 8 and prohibit the use of night vision for hunting**

- This was opposed 1-10 as the support came from believing it was not fair chase, and the support was rounded around current regulations on the book in rest of the state. Although there was discussion on limiting non-resident to two fox but no motion was made for an amendment.
- 243) **Require all snares set in the Kodiak road system within unit 8, to include breakaway mechanisms**
 - This was opposed unanimously as this could become too complicated as due to breakaway mechanisms and a comment was made that the department might have difficulty deciding on a breakaway poundage