

Your Comment

On behalf of the board and over 300 members of the Denali Citizens Council (DCC), I am submitting comments on the Board of Game's 2013/2014 Proposed Changes to Regulations. DCC represents local, regional and national citizens with a particular interest in maintaining the natural integrity of this region. We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments online. This forum is easier for many local residents to use, and makes the public process easier and more accessible to many Alaska citizens.

Proposal 51, Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals (Lengthen the wolf season) – Oppose

We are opposed to increasing the length of the season for taking wolves in game management Subunits 20A and 20C. The wolf populations are already at extreme lows in nearby federal lands, and are likely also at low population levels on state lands, and this action is not needed.

Proposal 52, Brown bear tag fee exemptions – Oppose

We are opposed to tag fee exemptions for brown bears. As a state resource, we feel that a \$25 fee is nominal and does not need to be reduced or eliminated.

Proposal 97, Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose (reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A) - Oppose

We understand that the Department has found that moose numbers in 20A are down to a point at which an antlerless hunt is not necessary in this area. Because of this, and widespread local opposition because of the social impacts, we are opposed to the reauthorization of the antlerless moose hunt in 20A at this time.

Proposal 98, Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose - Support

We support reducing the chance of waste (in the case of hunters shooting a bull then realizing it did not meet antler restrictions), and taking pressure off the largest bull moose in a population by changing regulation to “any bull” in 20A.

Proposal 99, Controlled Use Areas (Remove the Wood River CUA) - Oppose

Proposal 100, CUA (Modify the boundaries of the Wood River CUA) - Oppose

We support the preservation of non-motorized hunting opportunities, which is a scarce opportunity for hunters who desire a non-motorized hunt. Eliminating areas for non-motorized hunts and promoting more motorized access is not equitable for hunters who prefer an opportunity for non-motorized access. There are already so few opportunities for non-motorized hunting in Interior Alaska, and eliminating or reducing the size of the Wood River CUA would make this type of hunting opportunity even more scarce.

Proposal 101, Hunting Season and bag limits for moose -Needs clarification. It's unclear how additional hunting opportunities in the Yanert CUA or the Wood River CUA will alleviate problems with moose on the road system.

Proposal 103, Taking of game by proxy (limit in Units 20A and 20B) – Support

Limiting proxy hunting to one per year would help to reduce localized overharvest. Keeping the limit at one would still provide an opportunity for those who need a proxy.

Proposal 104, and 105, Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures (allow harvest of brown bear over black bear bait sites in 20A and 20B) – Oppose

Proposal 162, Feeding of Game (clarify that brown bears can be taken over bait)– Oppose

Using bait to hunt grizzly bears is an unethical form of hunting that should not be allowed. Not only is it unethical, it habituates bears to food, and creates a public danger for nearby cabin owners and recreational users. We are opposed to the baiting of both black and grizzly bears. Baiting of black bears inevitably will attract grizzly bears, which is why baiting of black bears should be eliminated.

Proposals 116, CUA (Create Nenana-Totchaket Resource Development Corridor CUA) – Support

Proposal 117, CUA (Reinstitute the Nenana CUA) – Support

We support the reinstatement of the Nenana Controlled Use Area, and/or the Nenana-Totchaket Resource Development Corridor Controlled Use Area. Access to this area has improved due to recent natural gas developments and road improvements, which will lead to increased use of the area for hunting, specifically motorized hunting that may not have

been possible, or at least would have been much more difficult before the development occurred. At a minimum, we hope the Board will create a temporary Controlled Use Area to ensure that negative impacts to local residents and wildlife populations are not dramatically increased from this increased access. We support the preservation and establishment of non-motorized hunting opportunities, which is a scarce opportunity for hunters who desire a non-motorized hunt.

Proposal 172, Remove black bears from the furbearer classification – Support

The practice of snaring bears is unethical and should be eliminated. It can condition bears to food (creating a danger for nearby residents and recreational users), and also increases the “incidental take” of brown bears who are drawn to the same bait set up for snaring black bears. Like bait stations (see comments on Proposals 104, 105, 162), this form of hunting should not be allowed.