

On-Time Comment Index

Advisory Committee Comments

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee..... AC01

Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee AC02

Public Comments

James Aldrich PC01

Algaaciq Tribal Government PC02

Garry Hutchison PC03

Raymond Bahma PC04

Mark Burcar PC05

Scott Collins PC06

Ben Dubbe PC07

Jacques Etcheverry PC08

Adam Grenda PC09

Anthony Marchini..... PC10

Matthew Merrell PC11

Philip Nuechterlein PC12

Resident Hunters of Alaska..... PC13

Christopher Sandland PC14

Dustin Tallman PC15

Scott Wade PC16

Michael Wilson..... PC17



AC01

Name: Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

ACR 1: Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18

Oppose. AC members do not believe this ACR constitutes an emergency since it does not correct anything unforeseen, therefore it does not meet the criteria of an ACR.

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Oppose. AC members in opposition did not believe this ACR met criteria as the Department of Law was the one that struck down this portion of proposal 190 from the statewide Board of Game meeting, therefore there is no error in regulation.

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. AC members in favor supported removing confusing language and conflicts in state regulations and that this ACR can easily resolve current conflicts.

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. The AC members in support believe this ACR would create a resident sheep hunt in 19C if this proposal were to pass, which can still be closed by emergency order. Another AC member wants to support this ACR because that Board of Game, if they take up this proposal, will take up discussion on whether or not to open a resident hunt for sheep in GMU 19C even if this proposal does not open a resident hunt.



**Anchorage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, November 4th, 2025
William Jack Hernandez Hatchery**

I. Call to Order: 6:01 by Matt Moore, Acting Chair

II. Roll Call

No	First Name	Last Name	Present/ Excused/ Unexcused
1	Kevin	Taylor	Excused
2	Matt	Moore	Present
3	Nicole	Schmitt	Excused
4	Bryce	Eckroth	Excused
5	Paul	Warta	Present
6	Christina	Ahlstrom	Present
7	Ernie	Weiss	Present
8	Katya	Karankevich	Present
9	Kneeland	Taylor	Present
10	J R	Gates	Present
11	Michelle	Bittner	Present
12	Ed (Harold)	Horton	Excused
13	Scott	Crowther	Present
14	Tom	Vania	Present
15	Lynette	Moreno Hinz	Present/Late
16	Matthew	Stone	Present
17	Grace	Kirkey	Present

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 11 required for quorum; 12 and then 13 present with Lynette Moreno Hinz arriving just prior to consideration of Proposal 12.

List of User Groups Present:

Neil DeWitt, former AAC member and hunter

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Leila Williams, Regulatory Program Assistant for the Southcentral Region and Board Support

IV. Guests Present: Neil DeWitt

V. Approval of Agenda



Motion to approve agenda, motion seconded, agenda approved.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous Meeting Minutes already approved.

VII. Reports

- a. Chair’s report: No report from the chair
- b. Fish Subcommittee: No report from the Fish Subcommittee.
- c. ADF&G: None present.
- d. Others: None present.

VIII. Public Comment: No public comment.

IX. Old Business: No old business to conduct.

X. New Business

- a. Board of Game Southeast Proposals
- b. Board of Game Agenda Change Requests
- c. Other Fish and Game Business as Needed

Alaska Board of Game Southeast Region Meeting

January 23-January 27, 2026 | Wrangell, AK | Comment Deadline January 16, 2026

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
<i>Regionwide & Multiple Units</i>			
1	Prohibit the take of big game animals between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in Units 1-5		



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2	Prohibit the take of deer between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in Units 1-5		
3	Allow the same day airborne take of goats in Units 1-5		
4	Amend the definition of a "taken" mountain goat in Units 1-5 to align with the definition of a "taken" brown bear in Units 1-5		
5	Increase the brown bear bag limit in Unit 1 Remainder, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years		
6	Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons for Unit 1B, 1C and 1D to May 31		
7	Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons for Unit 1A, 1B & 1C to May 31		
8	Establish an open season for hunting cougar in the Southeast Region		
Oppose	6	6	Scott Crowther, never knew there was cougar in Southeast Alaska. Kneeland Taylor, opposed to the killing of cougar in Alaska because they are rare; if there is no season, does that mean that they are an unclassified animal that anyone can shoot? Yes. Opposed because the season is too long, it's open, and the SDA prohibits shooting wildlife for game. Paul Warta, if you put a season and limit on cougar then it's classified and hunting seasons and bag limits apply so I'll support it.
9	Establish hunting and trapping regulations for taking mountain lion in the Southeast Region		
10	Remove the sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5		
Oppose	0	12	Paul Warta opposed because the Department needs the information on beaver numbers harvested; Kneeland Taylor



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			opposed because the Department requires sealing so the requirement should not be removed.
11	Allow the use of cameras or other sensory devices that can send messages through wireless communication for trapping furbearers in Unit 1-5		
12	Prohibit the use of night vision devices for taking furbearers in Units 1-5		
Support	10	3	(Lynette Moreno Hinz arrived so the numbers of members voting changed from 12 to 13). Kneeland Taylor thinks that night vision devices should be prohibited. Scott Crowther, so it's infrared devices and they are currently legal now. Question to Tom Vania, do they have any data that night vision devices are a problem? Matt Moore, no data. Kneeland Taylor, one of the reasons for prohibiting the use of night vision devices is because deer hunters would cheat and say that they are just out there trapping. That's why I support this proposal
13	Prohibit the use of night vision for taking furbearers in Unit 1-5, during state and federal deer seasons		
Support	11	2	Paul Warta supports because it is during deer season. Lynette Moreno Hinz is originally from Southeast and the people of Southeast need deer meat to survive. Tom Vania asks what is the season for deer? J.R. Gates responds that it's a long season. Matt Moore states that the season for hunting deer is October 15-31 for the youth hunt and November for the rest of hunters. Matt Stone states that the Unit 1 season starts August 1 for deer. Lynette states that her brother hunts deer in Southeast and they start taking deer during September through December.
14	Change the bag limit for taking fisher from one to three per season in Southeast Region Units		
No Action (13 support)			Kneeland Taylor, I ended up supporting this because Paul Warta made a good point that if you take one fisher you are done trapping and trapping marten can result in trapping fishers so if you trap one fisher then you would have to stop trapping for the season altogether. Paul Warta states that there is not a huge



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			number of fishers. Doesn't think we have any good estimates for how many fishers there are. J.R. Gates states that this is a proposal that we should take no action on because we don't have any good information. I wouldn't know how to vote on this without making a mistake. We should have a wildlife biologist to provide us with information about fishers and whether this is a problem. Lynette Moreno Hinz asks what is a fisher. Matt Moore states that it's like a marten but bigger. Grace Kirkey notes that this is the only furbearing animal in this region that has a bag limit so there must not be very many so we do need more information. Paul Warta states that they don't have much value so not very many people trap them. J.R. Gates proposes that we take no action on this proposal because we do not have enough data. 13 vote to support taking no action.
15	Remove the bag limit for trapping fisher in Units 1-5		
No Action (13 support)			J.R. Gates proposes that we take no action because we do not have enough data.
16	Shift the season dates for hunting migratory birds and waterfowl in Unit 1-5 to October 8-January 22		
17	Change the bag limit for grouse in the Southeast Region		
18	Shift the hunting season for grouse in Units 1-5 to August 10 through May 31		
<i>Sitka Area – Unit 4</i>			
19	Extend the resident hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4 to May 31		
	9	3	Kneeland Taylor states that he voted against this because the end of May is good kayaking season and it's summertime so he is opposing this proposal because of hunter conflicts with nonconsumptive users and recreations users. Christina Ahlstrom asks if bears change their behavior at the end of May. Katya



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			Karankevich states that brown bear behavior does change at the end of May. Matt Moore states that brown bears behavior changes at the end of May because they start mating. J.R. Gates states that we don't have data. Lynette Moreno Hinz states that there is a big problem with bears down there getting into trash cans. She doesn't agree to extend the season to May 31 until we hear from the people in Southeast. J.R. Gates states that he would support this proposal because it's a registration hunt so the Department would know how many bears are being taken. Tom Vania states that he would rather vote on this proposal because it provides regulatory consistency and gives priority to resident hunters over nonresident hunters. (1 abstention)
20	Extend the season for the RB088 brown bear registration hunt from May 20 to May 31, to align the season for all of Lisianski Inlet in Unit 4		
21	Extend the season for the RB088 brown bear hunt in Unit 4, to align the season for all of Northeast Chichagof Island		
22	Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4		
23	Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 4		
24	Modify the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area in Unit 4, to exclude drainages near Tenakee Inlet		
25	Clarify the northern and southern boundaries of the Sitka Road System Closed Area in Unit 4		
<i>Juneau, Haines, Skagway & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D, & 5</i>			
26	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1C from hunting goat in Unit 1C for the following four regulatory years, and require nonresidents to forfeit nanny goats taken		
Oppose	4	9	J.R. Gates states this is a well-intentioned proposal and would solve a problem but it's very difficult to tell a nanny goat from a billy



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			goat. Residents would get penalized for four years and nonresidents really wouldn't be penalized because they are unlikely to return during to hunt goats. So this proposal overpenalizes resident hunters. Instead, they should reduce how many goats are shot. Kneeland Taylor supports this proposal because it's no good to take a nanny goat, for conservation purposes, and because he likes to see goats while he's hiking. Lynette Moreno Hinz states that, in Southeast, they use goat hair for weaving traditional blankets. Agrees with J.R. Gates that this would penalize residents. J.R. Gates states that they can shut this hunt down early if too many nanny goats are shot.
27	Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to four bucks		
28	Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to two bucks		
29	Require an antler restriction for bucks harvested in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to at least one forked antler on one side		
30	Establish a moose hunt for disabled hunters on state lands in the Unit 5A, the Yakutat Region		
31	Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear resident hunt area in unit 1C to include the Chilkat Range, and change the bag limit to one bear every year		
32	Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear hunt area in Unit 1C to include the Chilkat Range, and change the bag limit to one brown bear annually		
33	Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 5, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years		
Oppose	6	6	Michelle Bittner is opposed because there is no population data on the density of brown bears. Kneeland Taylor notes that this is not a Department proposal. J.R. Gates states that Unit 5 encompasses



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			the areas in and around Yakutat and that we don't have information or know anything about the biology and population of brown bears in this area. Proposes to take no action on this proposal due to lack of information. 11 people opposed taking no action so that failed. (One person voted to abstain)
34			Allow archery only hunting for big game in the Juneau Road System Closed Area in Unit 1C
35			Open the area within ¼ mile of Thane Road in Unit 1C, to taking big game by archery only
36			Shift the ptarmigan season in Unit 1C to start August 15 instead of August 1
<i>Ketchikan Area & Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2</i>			
37			Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four to three bucks
38			Reduce the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to three
39			Reduce bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to two
40			Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to one
41			Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to one
42			Change the nonresident start date for the deer hunting season in Unit 2 to August 15
43			Increase the deer bag limit and extend the season length for resident and nonresidents on the Cleveland Peninsula
44			Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG005, to “up to” 20% of the available permits



Alaska Board of Game Southeast Region Meeting

January 23-January 27, 2026 | Wrangell, AK | Comment Deadline January 16, 2026

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
45	Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG006, to “up to” 20% of the available permits		
46	Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG085, to “up to” 20% of the available permits		
47	Eliminate the Unit 2 meat salvage requirement for resident black bear hunting in May		
48	Increase the Unit 2 wolf population objective		
49	Change the season start date for wolf trapping in Unit 2 to December 15 or January 1		
50	Move the start date of the wolf trapping season in unit 2 to December 15		
51	Extend the wolf trapping season to 45 days on Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2		
No Action			Kneeland Taylor states he wants to vote on Proposals 51-55 and asks why we would take no action on these proposals. Paul Warta states that we took no action on the Prince of Wales proposals because they are very controversial among the people in Southeast, there are a couple of advisory committee proposals on these issues, so we should let them decide.
52	Add Unit 2 as an area for intensive management of wolves		
Oppose	0	10	Kneeland Taylor strongly opposes intensive management of wolves. Requires information on the prey and predators including population data in order to adopt an intensive management plan. Katya Karankevich asks if there's data to suggest that other causes for why the population of deer are declining other than wolves. Michelle Bittner states that one of the primary reasons deer are declining is because the old growth forests which provide habitat for the deer have been clear cut. J.R. Gates states that a proposal for intensive management should be proposed by the Department. Paul Warta states that intensive management proposals are



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			<p>generally targeted at the prey population and not the predator population. Lynette Moreno Hinz states that all she knows being originally from Southeast Alaska is that the indigenous people use wolves for traditional regalia, some people want to limit the wolves, and some people want to conserve the wolves. Her grandmother was almost attacked by a pack of wolves and promised the wolves that she would not harm them and they did not attack her so Lynette Moreno Hinz has mixed thoughts on this proposal. Paul Warta is opposed to this proposal because the Department is already having to restrict the season for harvesting wolves. This is not a good time for intensive management targeting wolves. Scott Crowther asked if there has been a history of intensive management in Southeast. Kneeland Taylor stated that he doesn't know. Grace Kirkey stated that deer populations ebb and flow with logging as the forest regrows after being clear cut. (3 abstained from voting)</p>
53	Require an online trapping education course for trapping wolves in Unit 2		
54	Require the identification tags be attached to traps and snares in Unit 2		
Oppose	5	5	<p>Katya Karankevich states that they have ID tags on traps in the lower 48. Kneeland Taylor states that he proposed ID tags on traps statewide and that law enforcement requested ID tags on traps statewide about 5 years ago but the Board did not adopt the requirement. He made the proposal again, law enforcement came in and supported it, and the Board rejected it again. But Kneeland Taylor supports this proposal. J.R. Gates does not support this proposal because he doesn't think we should make it easier for people to find out who is trapping and where they are trapping because some people harass trappers. ID tags could ruin trap sets and he is opposed for those reasons. People can easily look up the numbers on traps if names are not used. Katya Karankevich states that people could set up a game camera if they want to know who is trapping. Kneeland Taylor states that there would just be</p>



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			<p>numbers on ID tags and they would be confidential. Kneeland Taylor asked law enforcement whether if you have a dog caught in a trap or you are injured from being caught in a trap, then could you get information and law enforcement stated that the public is not entitled to that information. Christina Ahlstrom stated that they could amend it. Tom Vania stated that, for myself, this seems like it shouldn't be a big deal, but the proposal isn't specific enough and doesn't state the problem to be addressed. The proposal doesn't identify that there's a problem and what is going to be on the ID tag so he is leaning towards opposing the proposal. Katya Karankevich states that there could just be a serial number on the ID tag. Tom Vania states that generating serial numbers could result in a cost to the Department. Katya Karankevich states that people already get hunter ID numbers so the system is already there. Tom Vania states that new systems are never as simple as you think they are going to be. Kneeland Taylor states that law enforcement wastes a lot of time trying to figure out who owns the traps at the end of a trapping season if trappers don't retrieve their traps. Ernie Weiss states he is going to abstain. (3 people abstained from voting)</p>
55	Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking furbearers in Unit 2		
56	Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking furbearers in Unit 2, during state and federal deer seasons		
<i>Petersburg & Wrangell Areas – Units 1B & 3</i>			
57	Change the season, bag limit, and permit requirement for hunting elk on the Zarembo Island in Unit 3		
58	Open a registration hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3		



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January 23-January 27, 2026 | Wrangell, AK | Comment Deadline January 16, 2026

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
59			Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3, elk drawing hunt DE318, to “up to” 10% of the available permits
60			Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3, elk drawing hunt DE321, to “up to” 10% of the available permits
61			Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3, elk drawing hunt DE323, to “up to” 10% of the available permits
62			Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3, elk drawing hunt DE324, to “up to” 10% of the available permits
63			Adjust the season dates for the DE318 elk hunt in Unit 3, and open a new drawing hunt in September
64			Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C, and 3
65			Remove the antler restriction for the moose hunt in Units 1B and 3 and replace with a shorter, any bull hunt in October
66			Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 3 to one bear every regulatory year
67			Repeal the Petersburg Road System Closed Area in Unit 3, and add the area to the Petersburg Management Area, to allow for big game hunting by archery only
68			Repeal the Blind Slough Closed Area in Unit 3, and add the area to the Petersburg Management Area, to allow for big game hunting by archery only
69			Extend the grouse hunting season in Unit 3, to close June 15 instead of May 15



Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests

December 2, 2025 | Web conference | Comment Deadline November 24, 2025

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
ACR 1	Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18		
Oppose		12	<p>Matt Moore states the geographic boundaries for ACR 1 and that the intent of the ACR is to correct an error in the regulation. J.R. Gates doesn't understand how this passed muster to become an ACR. Tom Vania states that we need to decide whether this ACR meets the requirements of an ACR and not discuss the merits of the ACR. Matt Stone asks if there is an emergency to consider. Tom Vania states that he finds it difficult to believe that the problem this ACR is trying to correct is unforeseen. J.R. Gates states that if there is illegal hunting taking place, then probably, but are poachers going to follow the law, then no. So this doesn't meet the requirement of an ACR. (1 person voted to abstain)</p>
ACR 2	Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
Oppose	4	9	<p>J.R. Gates states the history on this is this area is the Alaska Range West of Denali National Park and the sheep population has decreased so there was a decision to shut down sheep hunting. Even though the Department shut it down, there was an outcry among resident hunters. The Board voted to establish a Sheep Working Group and which submitted a plan, the Board passed the Sheep Working Group's proposal and the Department of Law said they did it wrong. So this group is trying to deal with a technicality. Katya Karankevich asks what is a guide concession program. Scott Crowther states that only one guide and assistant guides can hunt in a specific area with nonresidents. The concession area is the area where they can hunt. J.R. Gates states that Alaska is unique in that the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that assigning guides to one area is unconstitutional so there is a difference between hunting and guide concessions on state and federal lands. The big game guides really want a concession because they want the business on state lands so the Department would decide which guides can hunt on state lands. This would be a pilot program to launch a concession program. Katya Karankevich asks is an ACR appropriate at this time to establish a guide concession program. Scott Crowther states that he was on the Sheep Working Group and we tried to determine the appropriate rules for when the population had crashed. The purpose of the committee was to review current regs and propose future regs to help the sheep population rebound. One guide, for resident</p>



Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests

December 2, 2025 | Web conference | Comment Deadline November 24, 2025

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>hunters, 20 permits. 20 people would be allowed to hunt. The guide also proposed that we start the guide concession area. The original purpose of the committee was not what came out of the committee. There really wasn't much discussion about the process and we were caught off guard when the proposal was thrown out. Scott Crowther thinks we should oppose this proposal because it would be better to give it time for discussion and thought by stakeholders. Christina Ahlstrom asks whether the resident hunter tags went through. Scott Crowther states yes. J.R. Gates states that he would oppose because not an emergency. Matt Stone states that the Board passed 20 tags, 16 are resident, 3 nonresident, 1 nonresident guided by a relative. In the past two-three years, residents have only shot 13 sheep. Might actually have more hunting pressure by having 20 tags. Kneeland Taylor states that he likes the idea that the BOG will talk about both of these issues at the upcoming meeting. Tom Vania states that if you think ACR 4 meets the criteria then ACR 2 meets the criteria for an ACR. This is the classic reason why the ACR process is here. There was an error in regulation in ACRs 2 and 4. The BOG should consider. Scott Crowther states that the sheep population has crashed and they need more time to recover before they are hunted. What the sheep need is time to recover with no hunting pressure on them. Tom Vania states that we are here to vote on whether this meets the criteria or not. J.R. Gates doesn't think this ACR meets the criteria because there is no error of regulation, the Department of Law struck it down. Matt Stone states has he needs to understand that there is not a concession cycle but there is a regulation that will allow 4 nonresidents to hunt in 2026 so confused about how this will work. Tom Vania states that nonresidents can hire any guide. Scott Crowther states that there's no need for a guide concession.wv49</p>
ACR 3	Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state		
Support	10	1	<p>J.R. Gates states if the Department is going to say that this is an emergency because there's a patchwork or different regulations around the State, then that doesn't make sense because there are lots of statewide conflicts among regulations. Why did this one come in as an ACR by the Department? Tom Vania states that it's probably risen to the level where they can't put it off anymore because there's too much conflict, they can't keep ignoring it, or it's crossing multiple regions but it's not statewide. Kneeland Taylor is opposed. There's no mention of Unit 14, but on the</p>



Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests			
December 2, 2025 Web conference Comment Deadline November 24, 2025			
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			other hand, don't want to go messing with all these regulations. Paul Warta state that he wants the Board to clarify what you can do and where. Katya Karankevich states that she doesn't care that they are not taking up all the confusing language and conflicts in state regulations and that they can resolve this one. (2 people voted to abstain)
ACR 4	Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C		
Support	12	1	Scott Crowther states that his ACR will open resident hunting in Unit 19C. I think they are trying to say that any resident can hunt in 19C. J.R. Gates states that Scott is are correct. They want a general resident hunt in 19C. Christina Ahlstrom asks if a general season hunt is different from a registration hunt. Matt Stone states that they can still close it through an emergency order. Kneeland Taylor states that he is going to support this ACR because he think that the Board will take up the whole issue and he does want them to talk about whether there should be a resident hunt.

XI. Set next meeting date: Currently slated for Tuesday, December 2nd at the Hatchery at 6pm

XII. Other: There is a Fish Subcommittee meeting on November 10 at 3:00 pm, need to reach out to Kevin Taylor to confirm. There is a Game Subcommittee meeting on November 12 at 6:00 pm at Bass Pro Shops.

XIII. Adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

XIV. Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Michelle Bittner

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____



AC02

Name: Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

Please see attached meeting minutes for all comments made on ACRs 2 and 4.

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. The advisory committee members support opening up a resident hunt for GMU 19C sheep as there is no biological concern not being open to harvest ticket for residents.



Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Zoom Only

I. Call to Order: 7:00pm by Herb Mansavage, Chairman

II. Roll Call

First Name	Last Name	Profile
Herb	Mansavage	Chair X
Dan	Montgomery	Vice Chair Game X
Michelle	Heun	Secretary X
Andy	Couch	Joined late. Did not vote
Vacant		
Dom	Nickles	A/E
Hunter	Hongslo	X
Birch	Yuknis	X
Danny	Lewis	A/E
Robert (Bob)	Cassell	A/E
Ed	Soto	X
Bruce	Privett	X
Steve	Bartelli	A/E
Vacant		
Pete	Imhof	X
Austin	Manelick	Alternate A/UE
Dewey	Bitler	Alternate A/UE

*Present: **X**

*Members Absent (Excused): **A/E**

*Members Absent (Unexcused): **A/UE**

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: Hunting guide, sport hunter, subsistence hunter, fishing guide, commercial fishing, sport fishing, subsistence fishing, trapping, wildlife photographer, wildlife viewing, conservationist

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Leila Williams



IV. Guests Present:
Carrie Ann Mueller, Board of Game

V. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve by Mr. Montgomery, second Mr. Soto.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion approved without objection at previous meeting allowed for committee reviewed and approved meeting minutes of October 22, 2025, be sent electronic via email to members and Board Support. (Copy of meeting minutes can be viewed in secretary’s book upon request.)

VII. Reports

- a. Chair’s report: Chair Mansavage asked if any member wanted to have Bristol Bay Fin Fish proposals reviewed at the next meeting to get the information to him.
- b. ADF&G: Ms. Williams reported there is a salmon management plan proposal (Naknek Salmon Management Plan) missing for Bristol Bay for Board of Fisheries (commenter stated the wrong community on record).
- c. Others

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

Board of Game Agenda Change Requests
Motion to take up Agency Change Request (ACR) 2 made by Mr. Montgomery, second Mr. Soto.

Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests			
December 2, 2025 Web conference Comment Deadline November 24, 2025			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			



Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests

December 2, 2025 | Web conference | Comment Deadline November 24, 2025

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
ACR 1	Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18		
			(Previously discussed and not taken up for this meeting.)
ACR 2	Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
Oppose	4	4	<p>After talking to a couple of people, the Fairbanks Advisory Committee did not take it up. They found it more of a housekeeping issue. It seems a little more than housekeeping.</p> <p>I want to see law flush it out first. I will not be supporting it due to the legislature not providing any funding to the department to support the work required to establish the pilot program and the department has not identified funding to support the required staff work needed to work with the Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish the program. Are they asking the board to set more housekeeping on this? Supporting this would not hurt anything. At least it is on the agenda, and they could lobby the legislature. The Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) submitted this.</p> <p>I am surprised it has gotten to this point. Is it more of a statement? Law was at the Board of Game (BOG). More than likely it will go whether it has funding is unknown.</p> <p>Probably not realized at that time.</p> <p>(Staff): There is a letter BOG executive director sent. (Read Ms. Tibbles letter that BOG must consult prior to establishing a Guide Concession Program (GCP).)</p> <p>Targeting sheep would be limiting the number of guides for sheep. I submitted letters to Director Scott and all BOG with concerns about unnecessary spending trying to establish a concession. The only reason we're going to concession is for three guides. Let them fight for the tags. This will go into litigation. Unit 14C works, TMA works Delta works may the best guide win. We take care of draw areas. Guides are respectful. I pulled harvest data for 34 years, 69 percent of the harvested rams were by non-residents. Reduce the number of tags, go to a draw and eliminate the concession. Its not the states responsibility to assure guides make money.</p> <p>Out of the scope of the ACR discussion.</p> <p>Tag onto member Imhof easiest way is to go to a draw.</p> <p>Personally, I do not care how this one goes. I will support this specifically that something like this is not an emergency but the way Agenda Change Requests (ACR's) are worded to describe are skewed.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests

December 2, 2025 | Web conference | Comment Deadline November 24, 2025

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>The department passed the regulation, and they cannot go forward unless they do this. This will have to be taken up and will have to be funded. The current regs expire in 2028. Must go through the whole process of a draw. Something is going to be done one way or another. Guides will still have to compete. Personally, there is not a need for residents to have a draw permit. Residents will not make that much of any impact. The BOG passed this already and will have to take this up. Just regulating sheep hunting with the guides.</p> <p>The information will allow adequate opportunity for consultation. This must go back to legislation in 2026.</p> <p>I do not see any reason to advance this. They can take it up in 2027. I do not think I would support the program in the end. I do not see it as an emergency.</p> <p>What I am scared of is litigation that may string this out for years. We don't want any delay opening to residents. I don't want to see it past 2028. There are multiple units in worse shape than 19C. The only reason we're doing 19 is because of guide crowding issues, not residents. They are trying to get started. BOG started this. I am for anything to control the problem. We do not need a draw permit for residents in the area. No reason to restrict residents. I will support the board they wanted it.</p> <p>Housekeeping perspective. Call the question. Support: Mansavage, Montgomery, Soto, Imhof Oppose: Heun, Hong slo, Yuknis, Privett</p>
ACR 3	Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state		
No Action			Personal feedback from a member of the trapper's association on proposals is agreement normally with anything from the department.
ACR 4	Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C		
Support	8	0	<p>These comments came from a previous AC meeting on October 22nd.</p> <p>Discussion on ACR 19C sheep. In 2026/27 there will be a draw, concessions in 2028.</p> <p>Chair Mansavage thinks ACR verbiage is an emergency, but not necessarily an emergency, but it's possibly a violation of state</p>



Alaska Board of Game Agenda Change Requests

December 2, 2025 | Web conference | Comment Deadline November 24, 2025

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>constitution. There is zero warrant to go to a draw from the number of draw harvests from residents. I am in full support.</p> <p>Mr. Privett: Who asked who drafted/reason? Fairbanks AC, and no biological concern not being open to harvest ticket for residents. No reason to close it this year (Proposal 90).</p> <p>Mr. Imhof: Not hashed out at the working group. A 10 percent allocation? There was a stalemate at that.</p> <p>Mr. Bartelli: The whole thrust of the ACR is the non-resident guided hunts who took all the sheep and now we have a concern. Their solution is a harvest permit for residents.</p> <p>Chair Mansavage: The plan in place to turn into a concession. Still unclear how that will be done. Will go back to normal in three years to take care of that gap. Mr. Privett: Resident harvest tickets in 19C.</p> <p>Mr. Hongslo: At least there will be a season. Mat Valley AC Page 4/7</p> <p>Chair Mansavage: Will have to make draw permits this season.</p> <p>Ms. Williams (staff): ACR comments are due November. 1. Comments are due January 16, 2026.</p> <p>Chair: Those who drew tags would get washed.</p> <p>Question was called. Unanimous support for ACR, 8-0.</p>

XI. Next meeting date: (Set from meeting of October 22.)
Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm, Mat-Su College and Zoom

XII. Adjourn: 7:36pm

Minutes Recorded By: Michelle Heun
Minutes Approved By: Herb Mansavage, Chairman
Date: November 23, 2025



PC01

Name: James Aldrich

Community of Residence: Fairbanks

Comment:

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. I agree that an error was made in the 2022 trapping regulations that allow shooting beaver. I would like to encourage the board to consider this question. As a former beaver trapper in the interior, I do not believe that shooting beaver is the best use of the resource.





Alaska BOG Comments
December 2, 2025 ACR meeting
Via web-teleconference

Comments from the Algaaciq Tribal Government, St. Mary's, AK
Sven Paukan, Tribal Administrator

These comments are in reference to ACR #1.

ACR #1 – Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18.

The Algaaciq Tribal Government is in **full support** of ACR#1. The Algaaciq Tribe is one of two federally recognized tribes here in St. Mary's, which is in Unit 18 “remainder (includes Lower Yukon hunt area.)”

Over the last several years community members from St. Mary's, and other Lower Yukon villages, have seen a year-by-year increasing influx of non-local Alaskan resident and “outside” non-resident hunters who are only going after trophy moose antlers and not necessarily the meat. The largest moose with the strongest genetics for population stability and health are being taken out of the population, leaving the younger bulls that may not have the strongest genetics to prorogate the herds during mating season.

Over the years, and increasingly most recently, there have been reports of wanton waste, including: headless moose carcasses being discovered along the local waterways; moose carcasses that have only been partially salvaged in the field; buried moose meat and carcasses in an attempt to avoid detection; spoiled and discarded moose meat, many times still in game bags, in the local landfill. All these occurrences have been witnessed and documented by local community members, after the fact, and many times they have been reported to both state and federal authorities, with little or no response or actions taken.

One community resident who works at the only air cargo company that fly's between St. Mary's and Anchorage reportedly counted over 300 sets of intact moose antlers or moose heads/skulls with antlers attached during the month of September when the non-resident moose hunt is open for one antlered bull only. To date this is the most he has ever seen over the years of his employment with the cargo carrier.

The influx of non-local hunters have increasingly trespassed on Alaska Native Corporation lands and private Native Allotments. Native Allotment owners have reported their cabins or other structures have been used without their approval, in some cases being broken into and causing damages to these private properties.

Local hunters have reported being harassed or “buzzed” by private airplanes, generally the types used by hunters such as the Piper Super Cub, which are recognizable by the “tundra tires”. Local have even reported seeing these planes, many with no tail markings, flying low and slow and even circling over the river ways and lands in the area as if scouting, and many times below 300 feet elevation.

These problems have only increased over the years and are expected to increase in the future unless something is done to curb these problem. We believe ACR#1 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you.



PC03

Name: Garry Hutchison, Alliance CPAs LLC

Community of Residence: Fairbanks

Comment:

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the agenda request relating to the error in beaver trapping regulations described as 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)(B). This regulation allows use of firearms for taking beaver, state-wide, and conflicts in unit 20(B) with regulations for the “remainder of 20(B)” written in regulation 5 AAC 92.095 (a)(10). This regulation limits allowable methods to underwater traps and snares in the open water season from September 25 through October 31 and from April 16 through May 31. The “remainder of 20(B)” described in the regulations includes the Salcha, Chena, and Chatanika rivers, waters important to the trapping residents of the Interior.

This error in regulations has led to an over-harvest of beaver in these rivers. Beaver are being shot, and trapping is occurring with out-of- water traps. This situation will only worsen as outdoor groups increasingly promote shooting beaver for bear baiting and dog food.

Errors occur in life, and what is important is that they are fixed by those responsible. I request that 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)(B) be removed.



PC04

Name: Raymond Bahma

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

ACR 1: Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18

Support. must be destroyed to the existent to no longer used for trophy value but can be used for tools or art locally made items.

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Oppose. Resident hunters should be priority to this resource.

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. Clearly state same rules for entire state where beaver trapping is approved with stated methods and means.

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. approve ACR 4 as written.



PC05

Name: Mark Burcar

Community of Residence: Talkeetna

Comment:

Not only have the ADF&G biologists identified surplus Rams to be harvested currently, the past record of sheep taken by guided non-resident hunters has FAR EXCEEDED the number of rams harvested by resident non guided hunters. It is CLEAR that limiting resident hunting opportunities in 19c is not the right thing to do. Just as it's clear that unlimited non resident guided sheep hunting opportunities must stop.

As a resident of Alaska, small business owner and owner of land that I staked over ten years ago in unit 19 I wonder how my contributions to our economy are factored in?! I am a licensed bonded general contractor and almost all of the money spent on every house I build is spent on employee wages that are all Alaskans, Alaskan businesses and Alaskan sub contractors. I generate a not insignificant amount of income that helps drive our economy. I participated in the land staking program, and have fully paid for that property. Every time I visit that property I spend more money, supporting more Alaskan businesses.

There are surplus sheep in 19c, Resident Alaskans should not be PUNISHED for years and years of unlimited guide opportunities. Yes a guide concession program needs to be implemented, it must be regulated with reasonable limits. In the meantime, residents that contribute to this states economy and hunt in 19c SHOULD NOT have to suffer the consequence's of years of what can only be viewed as abuse of our resource by these unlimited opportunities.

Sincerely, Mark Burcar 25year resident of Talkeetna Alaska

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. I believe the acr meets the criteria to be heard based on rule #5. That is clearly yes!



PC06

Name: Scott Collins

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. ACR 4 meets the criteria #5 for acceptance and should be heard at an upcoming meeting out of cycle. The current regulation will result in a harvestable surplus of legal rams not getting harvested in 2026, and for an unknown number of future years. ACR 4 can correct that undesirable and unforeseen situation.



PC07

Name: Ben Dubbe

Community of Residence: Homer

Comment:

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. ACR 4 clearly meets criteria #5 to be accepted as a proposal out of cycle. If this proposal is not heard out of cycle then there will be a lost opportunity for resident harvest. ADF&G has stated that there are no conservation concerns posed by resident hunters. Without BOG action this year the resource (legal rams) will be unavailable in the future due to natural mortality.



PC08

Name: Jacques Etcheverry

Community of Residence: North Pole

Comment:

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Support. I agree a concession program is needed

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. I agree this is needing done as there is too much conflicting guidelines now.

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. Listening to fish and game testimony they say there is an adequate amount of legal rams for a resident hunt to be opened.



PC09

Name: Adam Grenda

Community of Residence: King Salmon

Comment:

ACR 1: Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18

Oppose. Doesn't need to happen

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Support. I think it's finally time that we capitalize on this program and a great possibility to do so

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. I support this and this is the closest area for me to take my oldest daughter sheep

Hunting and this should be open to residents as a priority.



PC10

Name: Anthony Marchini

Community of Residence: Wasilla

Comment:

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Support. I support this.

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Oppose. With the state of dall sheep throughout the entire state we all need to start making some changes. A free for all as it has been for so long is not sustainable. If we want the resource to continue for future generations all party's must make sacrifices. I also support a 9 year old minimum age requirement. With the scarcity of sheep and everyone wanting a "grip & grin" to post on their social media many more sub legal animals are being taken in my opinion.



PC11

Name: Matthew Merrell

Community of Residence: FNSB

Comment:

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. ACR 4 meets the criteria for acceptance under #5 and should therefore be accepted



PC12

Name: Philip Nuechterlein

Community of Residence: Eagle River

Comment:

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. ACR 4 meets the criteria for acceptance under #5 and should therefore be accepted

**RESIDENT HUNTERS OF ALASKA** unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

Working hard to ensure our wildlife is managed sustainably with an emphasis on protecting and enhancing resident hunting opportunities!

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November 23, 2025

**Comments to Alaska Board of Game
Agenda Change Request Meeting
December 2, 2025**

ACR #2– Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

OPPOSE

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) opposed Proposal 190 that was passed by the board at the March 2025 Statewide meeting, which not only established a pilot Guide Concession Program (GCP) in Unit 19C, but also restricted resident sheep hunting opportunities until such GCP was implemented.

ACR 2 seeks to address the failure of the board (after passage of Proposal 190) to receive testimony or written comment on the record that there was consultation with the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Big Game Commercial Services Board about this Pilot Program *as required by statute*.

The enabling statute authorizing a pilot GCP states (*our emphasis*):

“Sec. 16.05.263. Establishment of big game guide concession areas.

(a) The Board of Game shall consider and approve or disapprove a proposal to establish a big game guide concession area that would be administered by the Department of Natural Resources under AS 38.05.021 in a single game management unit or subunit. **The board may only establish a big game guide concession area by approving a proposal submitted under this section to do so.** A big game guide may conduct a hunt in a concession area established under this section only if the guide holds a big game guide concession area permit issued under AS 38.05.021.

(b) **A person may submit a proposal to the Board of Game for the establishment of a big game guide concession area.** After providing 15 days' public notice, **the board may consider the proposal at the board's**



next regular meeting in the region where the big game guide concession area is proposed.”

None of how Proposal 190 came before the board (as an Agenda Change Request) and where it was considered (at the Statewide meeting outside the region where the pilot GCP would be established), and that it included allocation aspects, seems to comply with the enabling statute as to how this is supposed to come before the board. Yet the Department of Law took no issue with those inconsistencies.

If the board accepts this ACR, it is our understanding that it would then come before the board as a proposal at one of the upcoming 2026 regular meetings, neither of which is in the region where Unit 19C is located. Again, the statute clearly states that the board may only consider a proposal to establish a pilot GCP “in the region where” the GCP area is proposed.

Further muddying the waters is the fact that the GCP pilot program in Unit 19C is still tied to proposal 190 in that allocations and restrictions among user groups are completely dependent on a GCP in Unit 19C being implemented. In essence, establishment and implementation of a GCP area in Unit 19C is being used as means to restrict resident sheep hunting opportunity.

And while ACR 2 may meet the criteria for acceptance, it doesn’t comport with the enabling statute that the board will hear this proposal (if accepted) in the region where a pilot GCP will be established.

ACR #4– Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C

SUPPORT

RHAK strongly supports the acceptance of ACR 4, and if accepted, it be heard at the 2026 Region II Southcentral meeting.

The Department told the board at the 2025 Statewide meeting during deliberations on Proposal 190 that there was a harvestable surplus of legal rams in Unit 19C for continued resident general sheep hunting opportunity and that they had no conservation concerns with continued resident general sheep hunting opportunity, even though the population was in decline. But



the board still restricted resident sheep hunting opportunity at that meeting to a draw-only hunt with very limited permits and very low odds of drawing.

It's known that once Dall sheep rams reach 8 years old, their mortality rate increases. An 8-9 year-old ram has a 23% mortality rate, a 9-10 year-old ram a 43% mortality rate, and an 11-12 year-old ram a 62% mortality rate.

The current and unnecessary restriction on resident general sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 19C precludes a biologically allowable resource from being harvested. That resource (legal rams) will die on the mountain and be unavailable in the future. That is what ACR 4 is about and why it should be accepted.

Respectfully,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)



PC14

Name: Christopher Sandland

Community of Residence: North Pole Ak

Comment:

ACR 1: Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18

Oppose. If antlers have to be destroyed then why not just close moose hunting period until populations of moose return if that's the reason antler destruction. If just stop

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Support. Pilot program sounds good

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. In my experience shooting beaver in the water has a poor retrieval out come about 50% success verses 95% plus using traps or snares for retrieval

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. Make one sheep every 4 years since sheep are more of a trophy animal than a meat animal compared to moose or caribou. I believe that Kodiak had a harvest of brown bear ever 4 years seems like it works well



PC15

Name: Dustin Tallman

Community of Residence: Wasilla

Comment:

ACR 1: Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18

Oppose. I respect the concerns brought forth as the basis for this proposal, but I think there needs to be more information available to the public before I can support it.

ACR 2: Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

Oppose. Dall Sheep hunting in 19C was closed to Alaska Resident sheep hunters unnecessarily. The focus of Unit 19C should be to find a way for Alaska Resident sheep hunters the opportunity to hunt for Dall sheep again. A guide concession pilot program takes monet

ACR 3: Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

Support. I'm all for getting rid of conflicting and redundant laws, rules, and regulations.

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. Delaying a general season sheep hunt means some legal rams won't be available in the future as they will not have survived over the winter. A draw hunt with few permits does not provide enough opportunity for residents and contradicts what ADF&G stated that a general season resident only sheep hunt poses no sheep conservation concerns.



PC16

Name: Scott Wade

Community of Residence: North Pole

Comment:

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. I believe that residents should have this opportunity to hunt sheep during a resident only season.



PC17

Name: Michael Wilson

Community of Residence: Wasilla

Comment:

ACR 4: Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

Support. It will ensure compliance with the Alaska constitution.

I also own a cabin in the area that I hunt from.
