

Proposal 57

Effect of Proposal:

Create an unlimited antler restricted registration hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3.

Wrangell Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



1

Proposal 57

Current Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Draw Permit	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
Zarembo Island	DE324	Oct 1-Oct 31	Oct 1-Oct 31

1 bull by permit

Negative C&T



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Proposal 57

Proposed Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Registration Permits	Resident and Nonresident Season
Zarembo Island	Unlimited	First Saturday of Nov to Third Sunday of Nov.

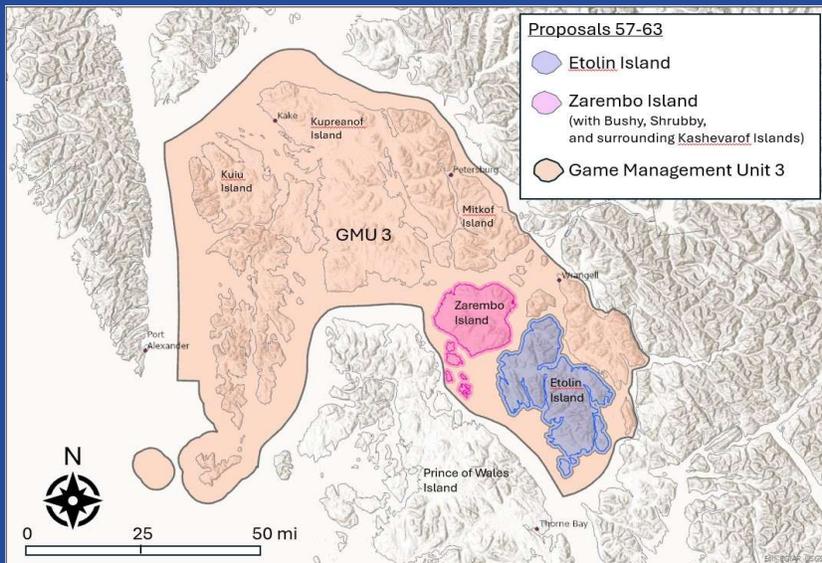
1 bull with at least 3 points on one side by permit



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Proposal 57



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Proposal 57

Background

- Hunting elk on Zarembo Island was closed between 2006-2023 due to population concerns.
- It is difficult to effectively survey the area but based on limited survey data and public reports the Zarembo elk population is estimated at ~ 50 total animals.
- In 2023 the Board adopted a new drawing hunt (DE324) for elk on Zarembo Island. Initially 1 permit was issued, and 1 bull was harvested. DE324 permits have increased to 2 for the 2026 season.

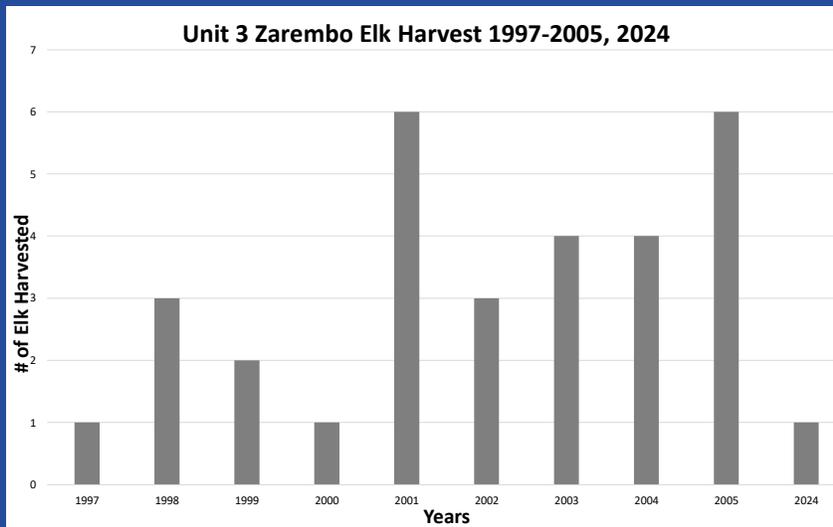


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Proposal 57

Unit 3 Zarembo Elk Harvest 1997-2005, 2024

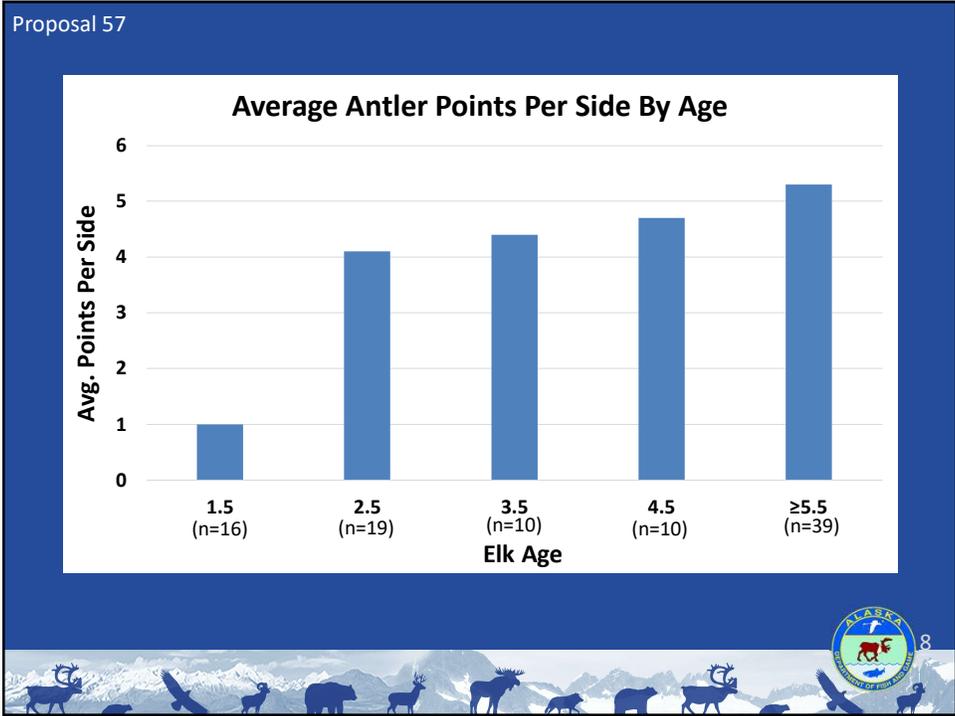


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Proposal 57

Discussion

- We anticipate harvest success would be higher on Zarembo Island than Etolin Island because of greater access via widespread logging roads.
- Trail camera images show that bulls, other than 1.5-year-old spikes, have at least 3 points on each antler. The hunt structure as proposed would likely not be sustainable.
- If adopted this would be the first elk hunt with antler restrictions in the state.



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Proposal 57

Discussion

- Concern exists that elk are being illegally harvested on Zarembo Island during Etolin Island drawing and registration permit hunts.
- This additional unreported harvest from a relatively small population of elk compromises the long-term stability of the Zarembo Island elk herd.



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Proposal 57

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



11

11

Proposal 57

Effect of Proposal:

Create an unlimited antler restricted registration hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3.

Wrangell Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



12

12

Proposal 58

Effect of Proposal:
 Create an unlimited registration permit elk hunt on Zarembo Island.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
 Oppose




13

Proposal 58

Current Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Draw Permit	Resident and Nonresident Season
Zarembo Island	DE324	Oct 1-Oct 31

1 bull by permit
 Negative C&T




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Proposal 58

Proposed Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Registration Permits	Resident and Nonresident Season
Zarembo Island	Unlimited	Aug 1-Nov 30

1 bull by permit

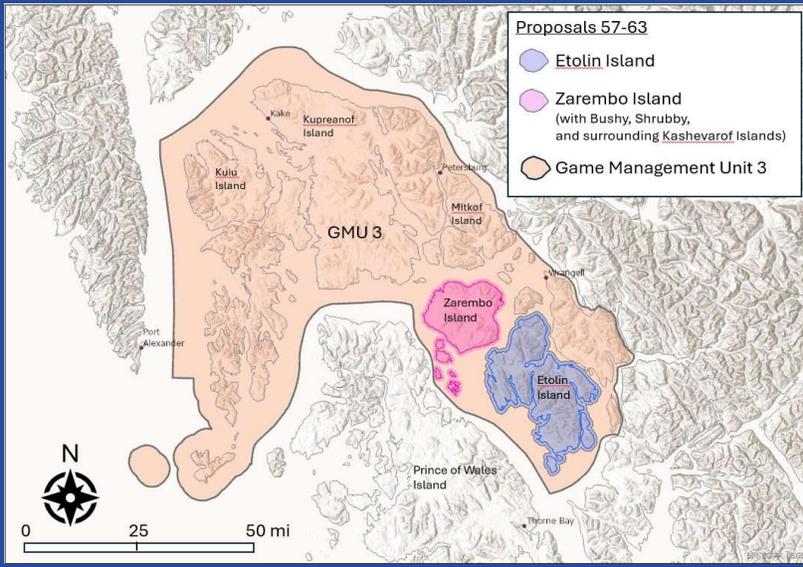


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Proposal 58



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Proposal 58

Background

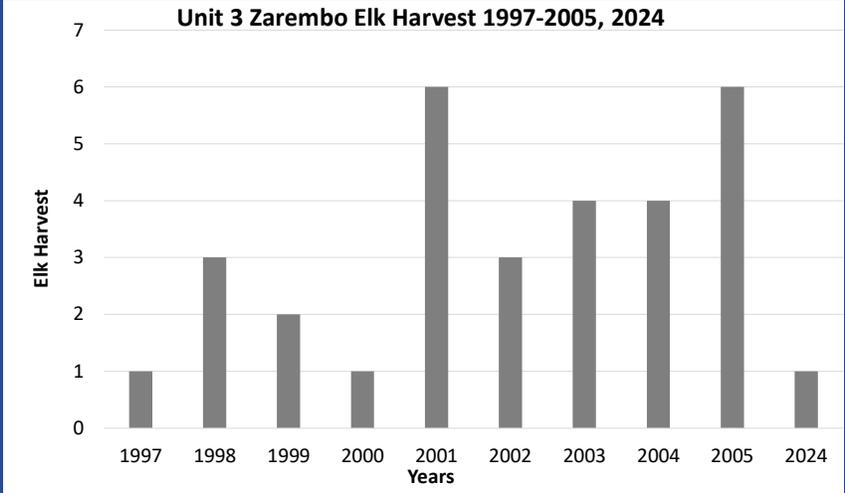
- Hunting elk on Zarembo Island was closed between 2006-2023 due to population concerns.
- It is difficult to effectively survey the area but based on limited survey data and public reports the Zarembo elk population is estimated ~ 50 total animals.
- In 2023 the Board adopted a new drawing hunt (DE324) for elk on Zarembo Island. Initially 1 permit was issued, and 1 bull was harvested. DE324 permits have increased to 2 for the 2026 season.



17

Proposal 58

Discussion



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Proposal 58

Discussion

- We anticipate that harvest success would be higher on Zarembo Island than Etolin Island because of greater access via widespread logging roads.
- Concern exists the elk are being illegally harvested on Zarembo Island during Etolin Island drawing and registration permit hunts.
- This additional unreported harvest from a relatively small population of elk compromises the long-term stability of the Zarembo Island elk herd.



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Proposal 58

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



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Proposal 58

Effect of Proposal:

Create an unlimited registration permit elk hunt on Zarembo Island.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



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Proposal 59

Effect of Proposal:

Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE318 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

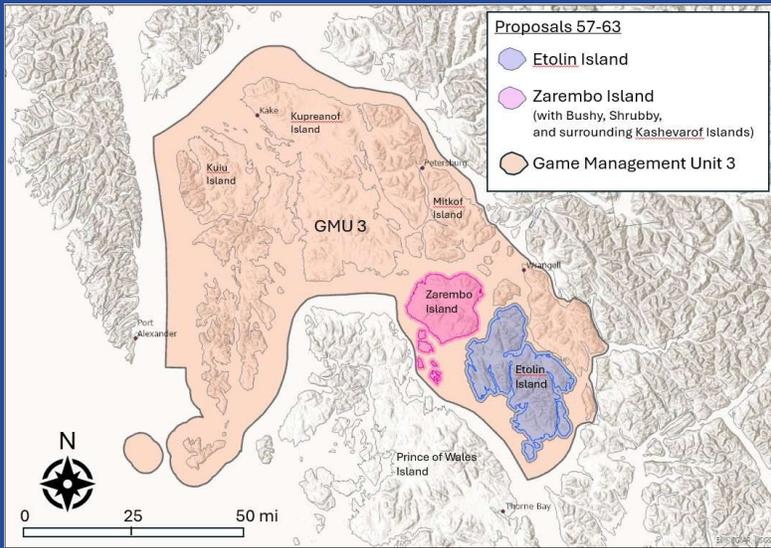
Neutral



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Proposal 59



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Current Regulations

Hunt	Permits	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
DE318	25	Sept 1-Sept 30	Sept 1-Sept 30

One bull by permit
(by bow and arrow only)

Negative C&T



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Effect of Proposed Hunt Structure

- A limit of up to 10% of tags allocated for the DE318 elk drawing hunt would be available to nonresidents.
- No DE318 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued.



Proposal 59

DE318 Permits by Residency, 2015-2024

Year	DE318 Permits	Resident	% Resident	Nonresident	% Nonresident
2015	25	24	96	1	4
2016	25	23	92	2	8
2017	25	25	100	0	0
2018	25	25	100	0	0
2019	25	22	88	3	12
2020	25	25	100	0	0
2021	25	21	84	4	16
2022	25	21	84	4	16
2023	25	23	92	2	8
2024	25	22	88	3	12



Proposal 59

DE318 Harvest by Residency, 2015-2024

Year	DE318 Permits	Resident Harvest	% Resident Harvest	Nonresident Harvest	% Nonresident Harvest	Total Harvest
2015	25	0	0	0	0	0
2016	25	2	100	0	0	2
2017	25	1	100	0	0	1
2018	25	2	100	0	0	2
2019	25	0	0	0	0	0
2020	25	1	100	0	0	1
2021	25	0	0	1	100	1
2022	25	0	0	1	100	1
2023	25	0	0	0	0	0
2024	25	0	0	0	0	0



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Proposal 59

Discussion

- Both residents and nonresidents are eligible to obtain drawing (DE318, DE321, DE323) and registration (RE325) permits for Unit 3 elk.
- Of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024, only 26 reported hunting and only 3 were successful.



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Proposal 59

Discussion

- Since the creation of the DE318 drawing hunt in 2003, nonresidents have been awarded 30 (6%) of the 531 permits issued and have harvested 2 elk, or 9% of the total DE318 harvest.
- Over the last 10 seasons (2015–2024) nonresidents have been awarded 19 or 8% of the 250 DE318 permits issued. During the same time period the reported nonresident harvest was two bull elk (2020 and 2021).



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Proposal 59

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



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Proposal 59

Effect of Proposal:

Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE318 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 60

Effect of Proposal:

Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE321 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

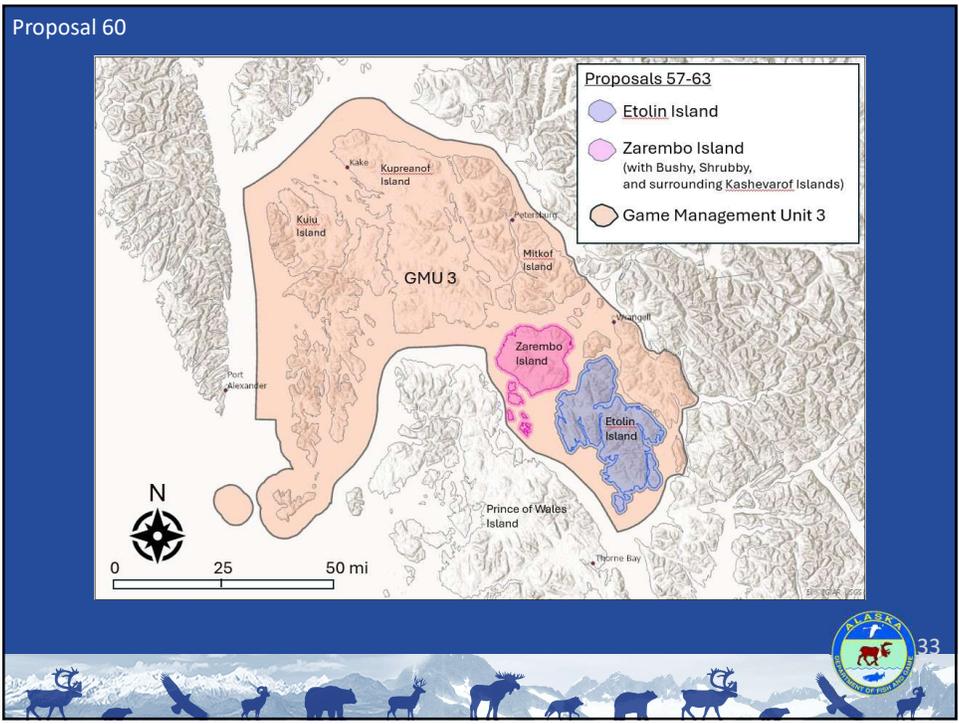
Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Current Hunt Structure

Hunt	Permits	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
DE321	50	Oct 1-Oct 15	Oct 1-Oct 15

All hunts 1 bull by permit
(unrestricted weapon)

Negative C&T

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Effect of Proposed Hunt Structure

- A limit of up to 10% of tags allocated for the DE321 elk drawing hunt would be available to nonresidents.
- No DE321 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued.



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Proposal 60

DE321 Permits by Residency, 2015-2024

Year	DE321 Permits	Resident	% Resident	Nonresident	% Nonresident
2015	50	46	92	4	8
2016	50	45	90	5	10
2017	50	48	96	2	4
2018	50	50	100	0	0
2019	50	46	92	4	8
2020	50	45	90	5	10
2021	50	47	94	3	6
2022	50	40	80	10	20
2023	50	48	96	2	4
2024	49	44	90	5	10



36

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Proposal 60

DE321 Harvest by Residency, 2015-2024

Year	DE321 Permits	Resident Harvest	% Resident Harvest	Nonresident Harvest	% Nonresident Harvest	Total Harvest
2015	50	4	100	0	0	4
2016	50	1	100	0	0	1
2017	50	5	100	0	0	5
2018	50	2	100	0	0	2
2019	50	3	100	0	0	3
2020	50	3	100	0	0	3
2021	50	2	100	0	0	2
2022	50	1	50	1	50	2
2023	50	3	100	0	0	3
2024	49	0	0	0	0	0



37

Proposal 60

Discussion

- Both residents and nonresidents are eligible to obtain drawing (DE318, DE321, DE323) and registration (RE325) permits for Unit 3 elk.
- Of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024, only 26 reported hunting and only 3 were successful.



38

Proposal 60

Discussion

- Since the creation of the DE321 drawing hunt in 2005, nonresidents have been awarded 53 or 5% of the 1,049 permits issued and have harvested 1 elk, or 2% of the total DE321 harvest.
- Over the last 10 seasons (2015–2024) nonresidents have been awarded 40 or 8% of the 499 DE321 permits issued. During the same time period the reported nonresident harvest was one bull elk (2022).



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Proposal 60

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



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Proposal 60

Effect of Proposal:

Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE321 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 61

Effect of Proposal:

Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE323 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

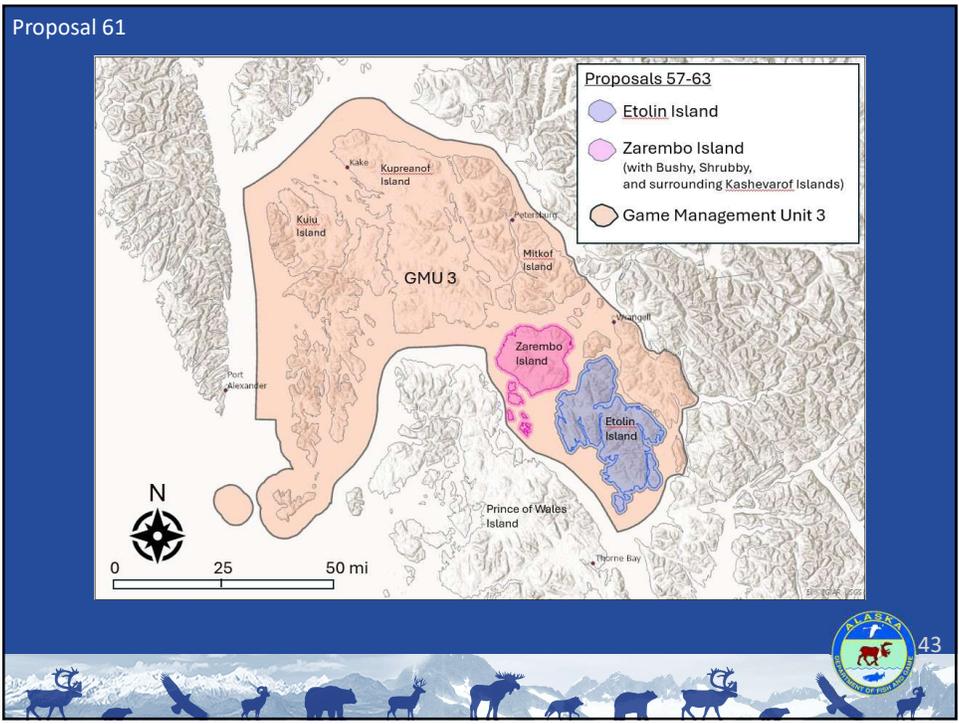
Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Current Hunt Structure

Hunt	Permits	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
DE323	50	Oct 16-Oct 31	Oct 16-Oct 31

All hunts 1 bull by permit
(unrestricted weapon)

Negative C&T

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Effect of Proposed Hunt Structure

- A limit of up to 10% of tags allocated for the DE323 elk drawing hunt would be available to nonresidents.
- No DE323 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued.



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Proposal 61

DE323 Permits by Residency, 2015-2024

Year	DE323 Permits	Resident	% Resident	Nonresident	% Nonresident
2015	50	49	98	1	2
2016	50	50	100	0	0
2017	50	49	98	1	2
2018	50	48	96	2	4
2019	50	48	96	2	4
2020	49	46	94	3	6
2021	50	50	100	0	0
2022	50	49	98	1	2
2023	50	46	92	4	8
2024	51	47	92	4	8

46

Proposal 61

DE323 Harvest by Residency, 2015-2024

Year	DE323 Permits	Resident Harvest	% Resident Harvest	Nonresident Harvest	% Nonresident Harvest	Total Harvest
2015	50	2	100	0	0	2
2016	50	0	0	0	0	0
2017	50	0	0	0	0	0
2018	50	2	100	0	0	2
2019	50	2	100	0	0	2
2020	49	1	100	0	0	1
2021	50	2	100	0	0	2
2022	50	0	0	0	0	0
2023	50	0	0	0	0	0
2024	51	2	100	0	0	2



47

Proposal 61

Discussion

- Both residents and nonresidents are eligible to obtain drawing (DE318, DE321, DE323) and registration (RE325) permits for Unit 3 elk.
- Of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024, only 26 reported hunting and only 3 were successful.



48

Proposal 61

Discussion

- Since the creation of the DE323 drawing hunt in 2005, nonresidents have been awarded 26 or 2% of the 1,050 permits issued.
- Over the last 10 seasons (2015–2024) nonresidents have been awarded 18 or 4% of the 500 DE323 permits issued.
- There has been no reported nonresident DE323 harvest.



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Proposal 61

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



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Proposal 61

Effect of Proposal:
Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE323 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Proposal 62

Effect of Proposal:
Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE324 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

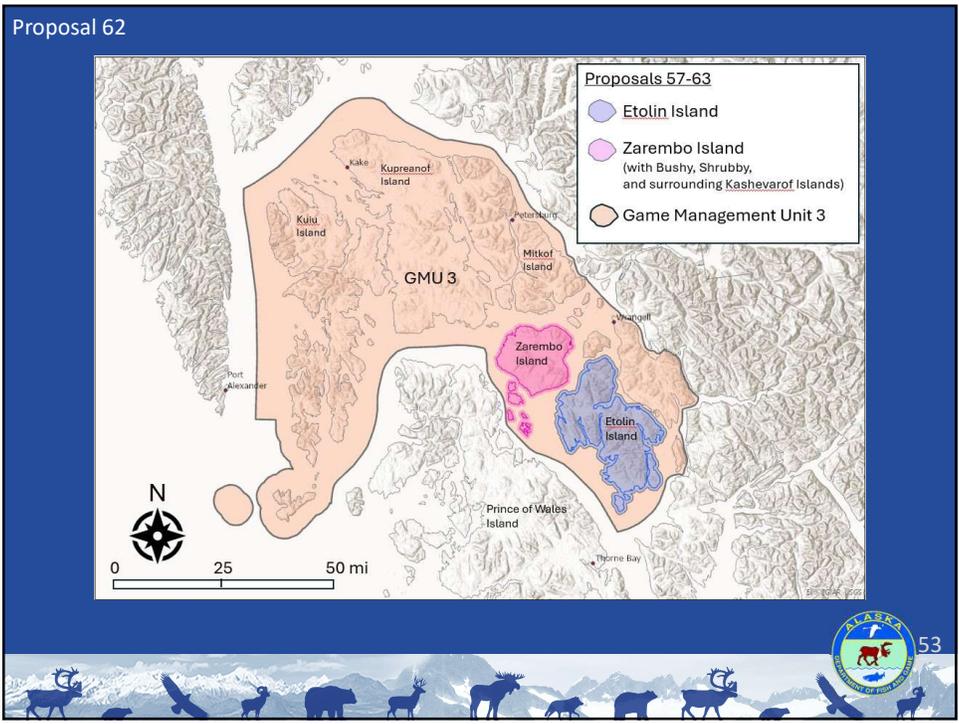
Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Current Hunt Structure

Hunt	Permits	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
DE324	2	Oct 1-Oct 31	Oct 1-Oct 31

All hunts 1 bull by permit
(unrestricted weapon)

Negative C&T

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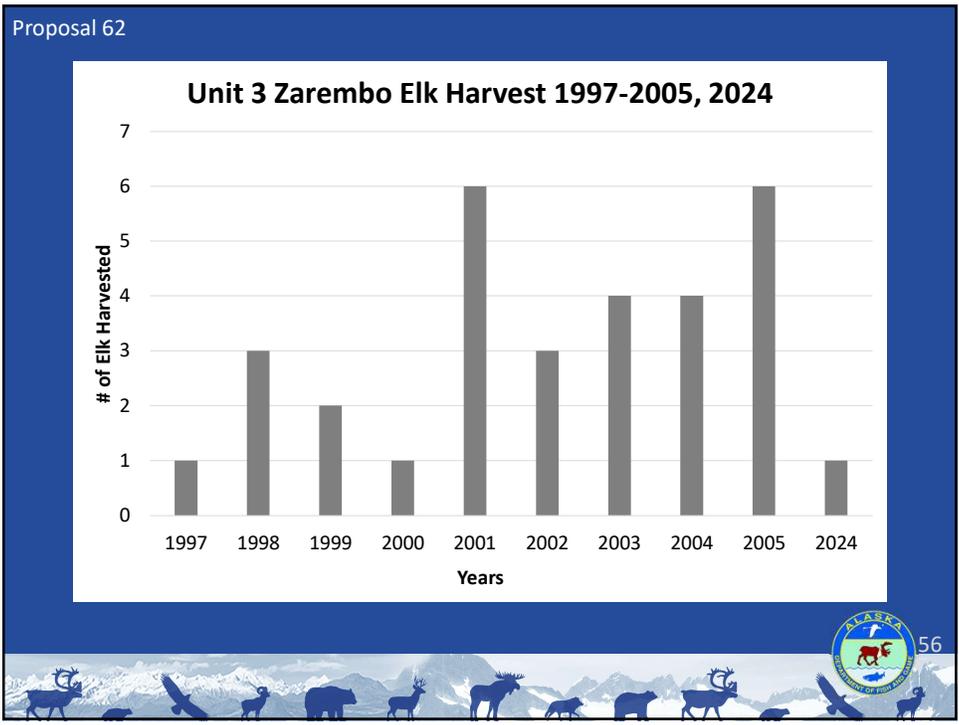
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Effect of Proposed Hunt Structure

- A limit of up to 10% of tags allocated for the DE324 elk drawing hunt would be available to nonresidents.
- No DE324 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued.



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Proposal 62

Discussion

- Both residents and nonresidents are eligible to obtain drawing (DE318, DE321, DE323) and registration (RE325) permits for Unit 3 elk.
- Of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024, only 26 reported hunting and only 3 were successful.



57

Proposal 62

Discussion

- During the 2023 Southeast Region Board of Game meeting the board adopted a new drawing hunt (DE324) for elk on Zarembo Island.
- One permit was issued the inaugural season (2024). The 2024 DE324 permit was issued to an Alaska resident who successfully harvested a bull.



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Proposal 62

Discussion

- After review of 2 years of trail camera data the number of DE324 permits was increased to 2.
- There has been no reported nonresident harvest of elk on Zarembo Island since a hunting season was established in 1997.



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Proposal 62

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



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Proposal 62

Effect of Proposal:

Limit nonresident allocation of elk drawing hunt DE324 to “up to” 10% of available permits.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 63

Effect of Proposal:

Adjust the season dates for the DE318 elk hunt and open a new drawing hunt in September.

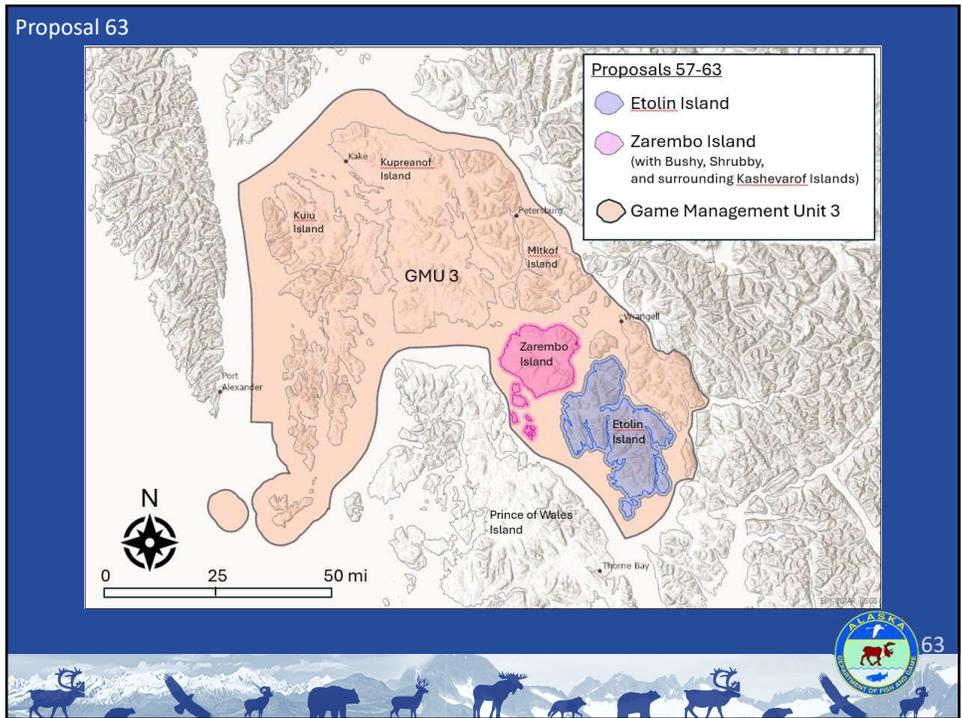
Ketchikan Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposed Hunt Structure

Hunt	Permits	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
DE318	25	Sept 1-Sept 30 Aug 16-Sept 15	Sept 1-Sept 30 Aug 16-Sept 15
New Hunt	Unk	Sept 16-Sept 30	Sept 16-Sept 30
DE321	50	Oct 1-Oct 15	Oct 1-Oct 15
DE323	50	Oct 16-Oct 31	Oct 16-Oct 31
RE325	registration	Nov 15-Nov 30	Nov 15-Nov 30

All hunts 1 bull by permit

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Proposal 63

Etolin Island Elk Permits and Harvest, 2015-2024

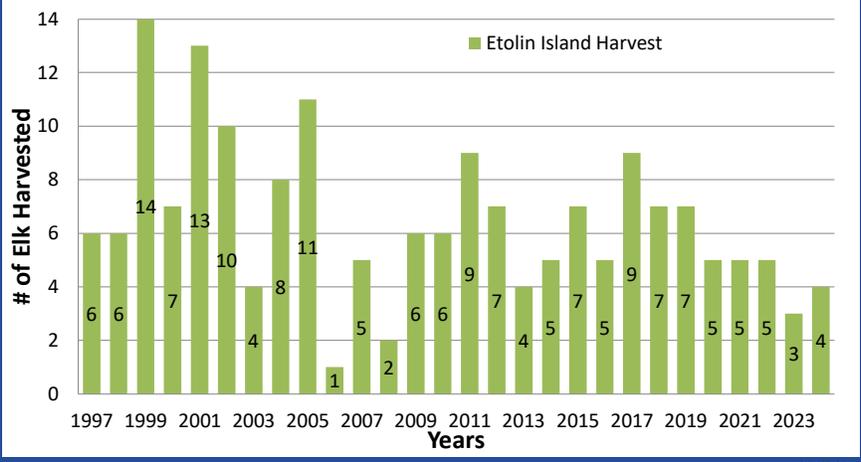
Reg Year	Total Permits	Permits Hunted	% Permits Hunted	% Hunter Success	Reported Harvest
2015	188	59	31	12	7
2016	197	73	37	7	5
2017	175	81	46	11	9
2018	190	87	46	8	7
2019	184	87	47	8	7
2020	168	74	44	7	5
2021	157	59	38	8	5
2022	174	66	38	8	5
2023	175	60	34	5	3
2024	159	62	39	6	4



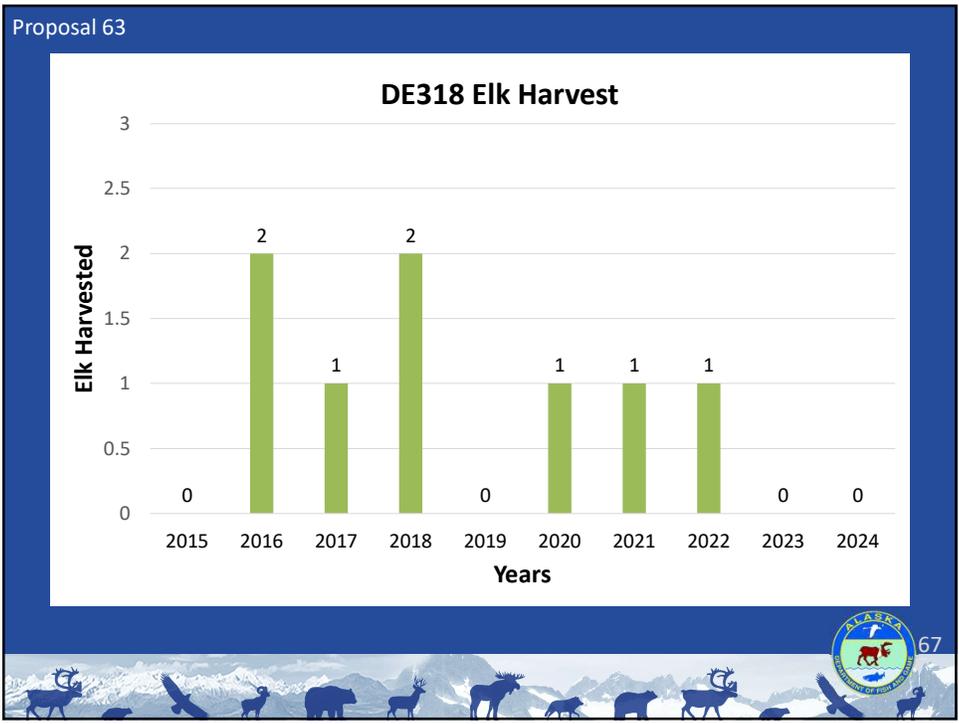
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Proposal 63

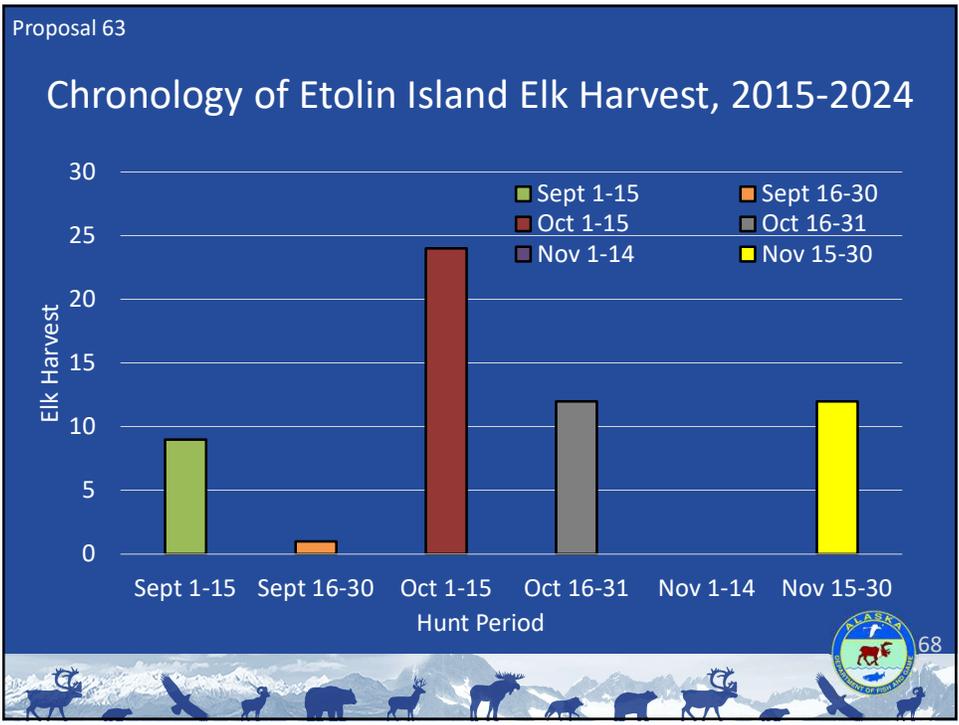
Unit 3 Etolin Island Elk Harvest 1997-2024



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Background

- Elk have a negative C&T finding in Unit 3.
- Abundance and composition of elk populations cannot be reliably monitored in the dense coastal rainforest of Unit 3.
- However, recent aerial surveys combined with anecdotal reports suggest low productivity and recruitment in the Etolin Island elk herd.



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Discussion

- Changing the last two weeks of September from an archery season to a nonrestricted weapons season could result in an increase in harvest that is unsustainable.
- Bull elk are more susceptible to harvest during the rut, which runs from mid-September through mid-October.
- Harvest and hunter success have declined in recent years, and concern exists that a portion of the reported harvest from Etolin Island have been bulls illegally taken on Zarembo Island.



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Proposal 63

Discussion

- In 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board determined that rural residents of Units 1-5 have customarily and traditionally used elk on federal lands in Unit 3.
- In 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board established a registration elk hunt in Unit 3 outside of Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands open to federally qualified subsistence users of Units 1-5.



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Proposal 63

Effect of Proposal:

Adjust the season dates for the DE318 elk hunt and open a new drawing hunt in September.

Ketchikan Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 64

Effect of Proposal:

Eliminate the regulation specific to the RM038 moose hunt that damaged, broken, or altered antlers are not considered spike-fork moose as defined by 5 AAC 92.990(46)(B).

Wrangell Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



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Current Antler Restrictions

5 AAC 92.150(c)

...In Unit (B), that portion of Unit 1(C) south of Port Hobart, including all Port Houghton drainages, and Unit 3, a damaged, broken, or altered antler is not considered a spike-fork antler as defined in 5 AAC 92.990.



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Background

In the early 2000s managers noticed that during antler restricted hunts some moose antlers were being altered to meet the antler point requirements.

The two methods of alteration included:

- Intentional breaks
- Points filed or ground down



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Background

- The intentional alteration of antlers was most prevalent in the RM038 hunt area.
- This compromised the selective harvest strategy, as most of the broken antlered moose fell within the protected middle age class.
- This could impact the desired bull:cow ratio.



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Background

- The regulations at the time failed to address broken antlers.
- It was extremely difficult to prove that antlers had been intentionally altered.
- This was frustrating for AWT, ADF&G, and conscientious moose hunters.



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Background

- ~ 9% of the annual harvest included bulls with broken antlers that affected legality.
- In 2006 25% of the Stikine River harvest included bulls with broken or suspiciously altered antlers, and the season was closed by emergency order.
- That same year a joint AWT and ADF&G proposal was submitted to address the issue.



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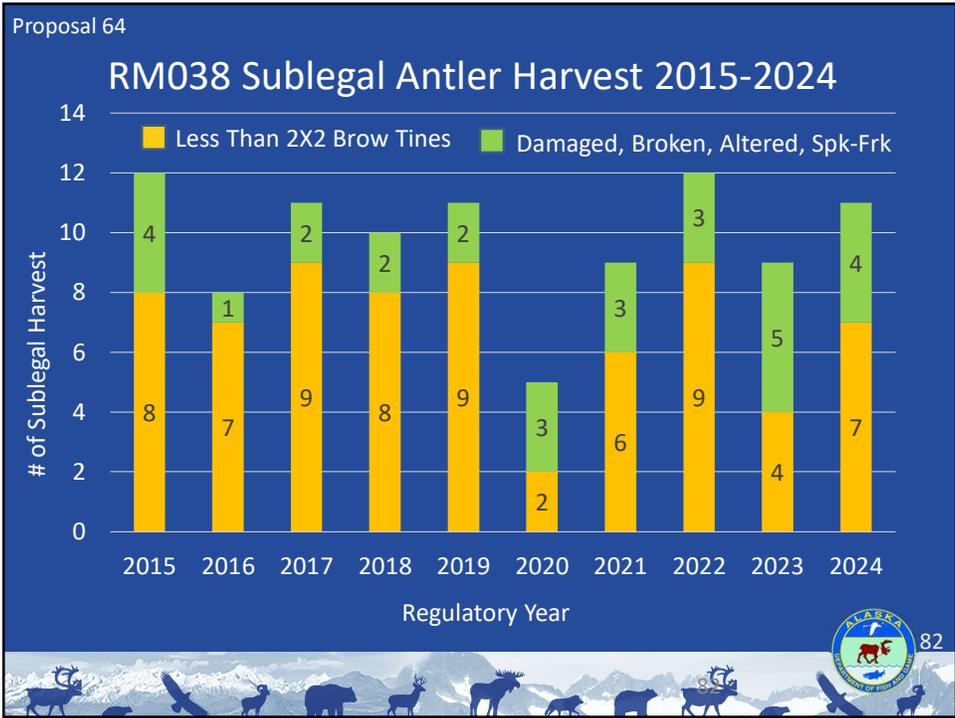
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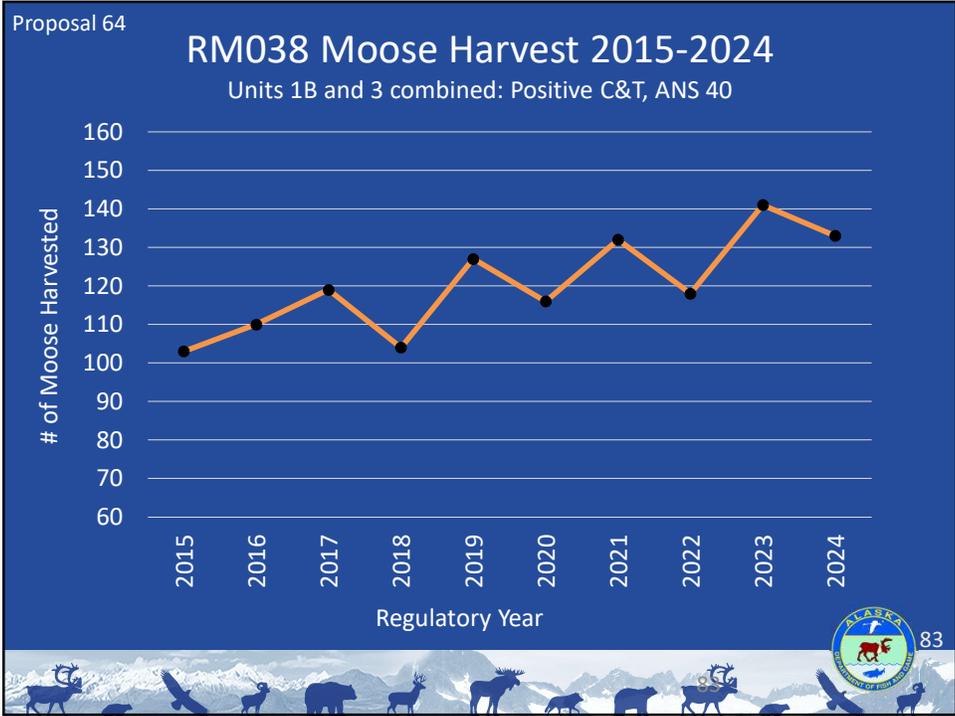
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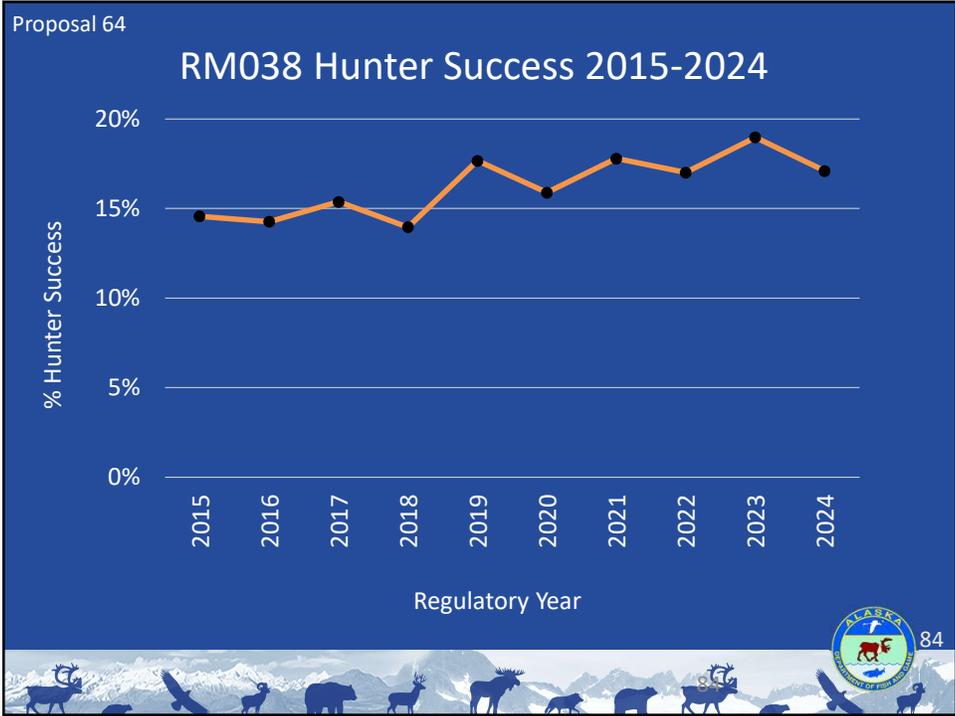
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Proposal 64

Discussion

- Prior to the adoption of the regulation, average of 9% (range of 7-11%) of the annual harvest included bulls with broken antlers that impacted legality.
- Over the last 10 seasons, after adoption of the regulation, the harvest of spike-fork bulls with “broken, damaged, or altered” antlers declined to an average of 2% (range of <1%-4%).



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Proposal 64

Discussion

- The RM038 hunt has the most liberal antler restrictions in the state.
- The current moose season fully encompasses the rut and is open for a full month.
- Adoption of this proposal would likely result in a decrease in bull moose harvested as the number of bull moose in the population declines over time.



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Proposal 64

Effect of Proposal:

Eliminate the regulation specific to the RM038 moose hunt that damaged, broken, or altered antlers are not considered spike-fork moose as defined by 5 AAC 92.990(46)(B).

Wrangell Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



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Proposal 65

Effect of Proposal:

Replace the RM038 antler restricted moose hunt with a shorter October any bull hunt.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



88

Proposal 65

Proposed RM038 Moose Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Bag Limit	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
Units 1(B) and 3	1 Bull spk frk, 50", 3 or more brow tines one side, 2 or more brow tines both sides.	Sept 15-Oct 15	Sept 15-Oct 15
Units 1(B) and 3	Any Bull	Oct 1-Oct 15	Oct 1-Oct 15

Units 1B and 3 combined: Positive C&T, ANS 40

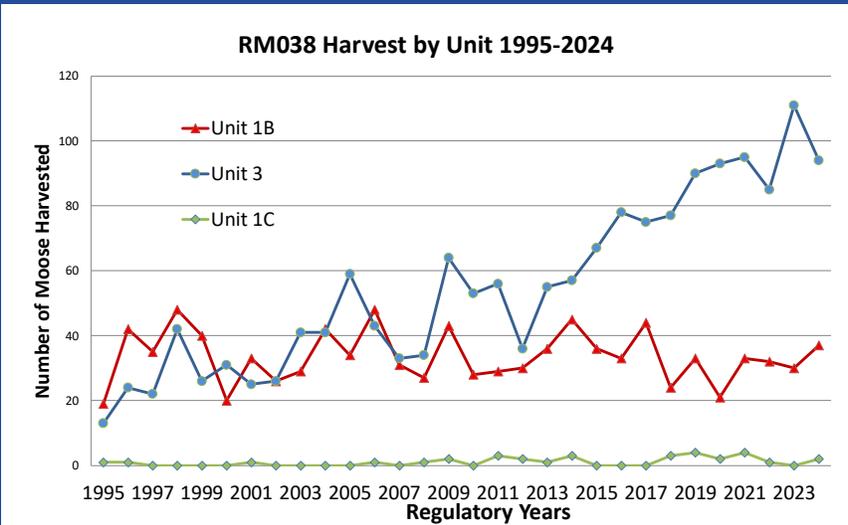

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Proposal 65

RM038 Harvest by Unit 1995-2024

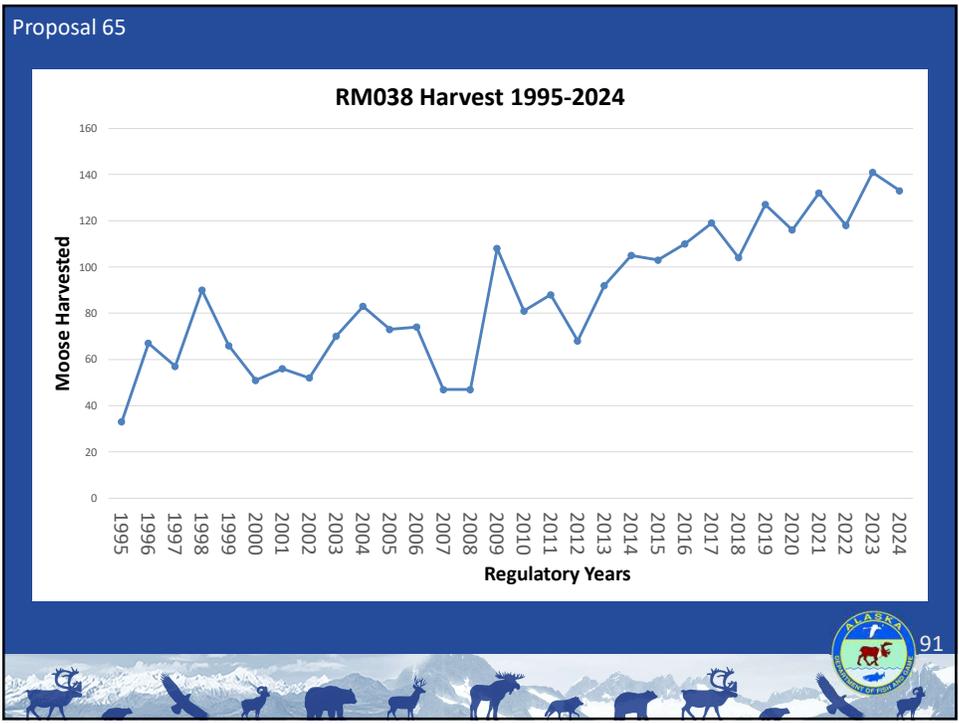


Regulatory Year	Unit 1B	Unit 3	Unit 1C
1995	18	12	1
1996	42	25	1
1997	35	22	1
1998	48	42	1
1999	25	28	1
2000	20	25	1
2001	32	25	1
2002	28	25	1
2003	30	42	1
2004	35	42	1
2005	32	58	1
2006	48	45	1
2007	32	35	1
2008	28	35	1
2009	42	65	1
2010	28	52	1
2011	28	55	1
2012	30	35	1
2013	35	55	1
2014	42	68	1
2015	35	78	1
2016	32	75	1
2017	45	78	1
2018	25	92	1
2019	32	95	1
2020	22	95	1
2021	32	85	1
2022	30	112	1
2023	35	95	1
2024	38	95	1

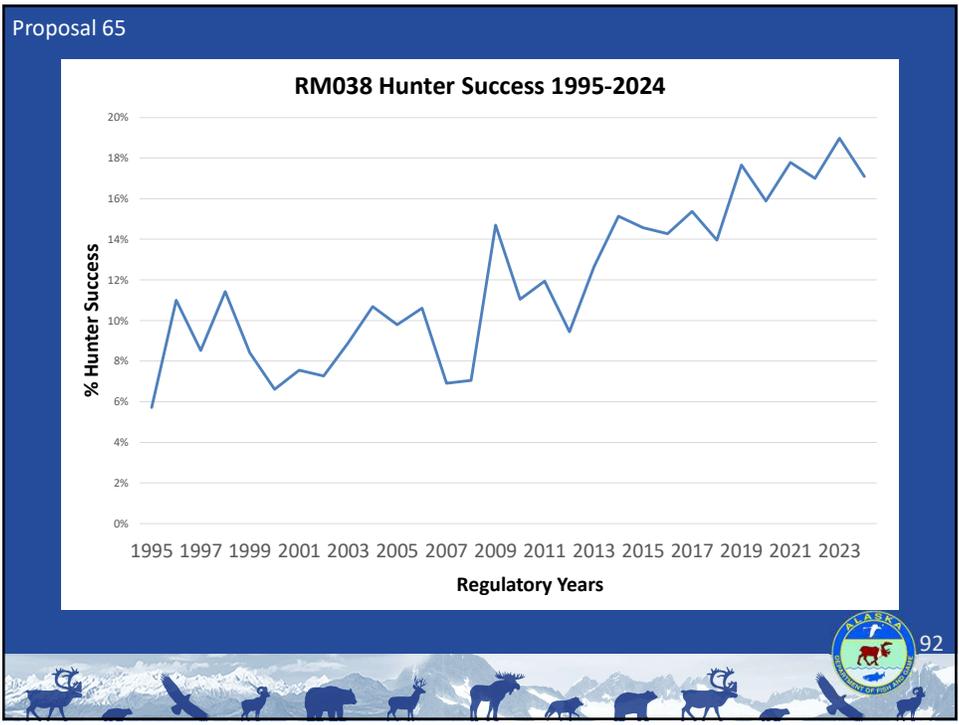

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Proposal 65

Discussion

- Because estimating moose populations is difficult in the densely forested habitats of the RM038 hunt area, managers rely on antler restrictions to ensure the annual harvest remains sustainable.
- The current antler restrictions for moose in the RM038 hunt are the most liberal in the state.
- The liberal antler restrictions, and a month-long season that encompasses the rut, affords hunters considerable opportunity to harvest a moose.



93

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Proposal 65

Discussion

- Antler restrictions protect a portion of the bull population. This strategy allows for maximum hunt participation while protecting a sufficient number of bulls for breeding.
- Adoption of this proposal would remove protection for middle-aged breeding bulls, which could lead to a decreased harvest over time.
- A shorter moose season could result in increased hunter concentration in the more intensely hunted areas like the Stikine River.



94

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Proposal 65

Discussion

- Under the current management strategy, moose harvest continues through the full season. Under the proposed season, harvest would be limited to a predetermined harvest level, resulting in less harvest compared to the current system.
- With the current antler restrictions moose harvest has increased and hunters are enjoying the greatest success since the RM038 hunt was established in 1995.



95



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Proposal 65

Discussion

- The Federal Subsistence Board has determined that rural residents of Units 1–5 have customarily and traditionally used moose on federal lands in Unit 1 and Unit 3.
- In April 2022 the Federal Subsistence Board considered a proposal that would have established a federal drawing permit hunt for up to 20 bull moose with any antler configuration on federally managed lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu islands in Unit 3.
 - This proposal was not adopted. However, future proposals could establish federal subsistence hunts that would result in moose harvest outside of state regulations.



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Proposal 65

Effect of Proposal:

Replace the RM038 antler restricted moose hunt with a shorter October any bull hunt.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



97

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Proposal 66

Effect of Proposal:

Change the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 3.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



98

98

Proposal 66

Proposed Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Resident Fall Season	Resident Spring Season
Unit 3	Sept 15-Dec 31	Mar 15-May 31

~~1 brown bear every 4 years~~
1 brown bear every regulatory year

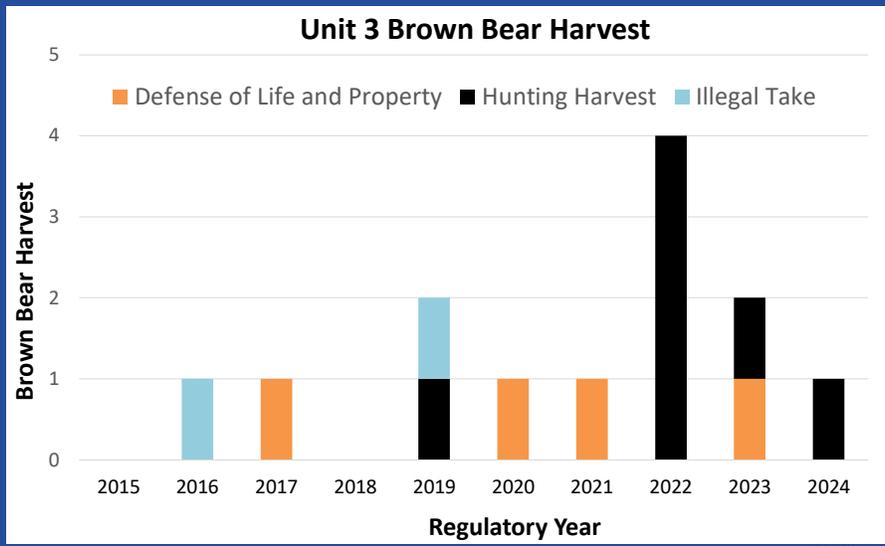
Units 1B and 3 combined: Positive C&T, ANS 1



99

Proposal 66

Unit 3 Brown Bear Harvest



100

Proposal 66

Discussion

- In fall 2004 the board authorized a resident-only spring season (RB075) for brown bear in Unit 3.
- Since the establishment of the Unit 3 RB075 spring brown bear registration hunt in 2004, a total of 11 brown bears have been harvested (7 males, 4 females).
- In 2019 the board authorized a resident-only fall season (RB065) for brown bears in Unit 3.
- Since 2019, only a single female brown bear has been harvested during the RB065 fall brown bear registration hunt.



101



101

Proposal 66

Discussion

- The Unit 3 brown bear season is open only to Alaska residents.
- The current Unit 3 harvest management objective is an annual harvest of no more than 3 bears.
- Adoption of this proposal could result in an increase in the brown bear harvest leading to a biological concern.



102



102

Proposal 66

Discussion

- The 2023 Board of Game Conservation, Harvest, and Management policy in part states: “In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for mature adult bears for hunting, and for viewing opportunities”.



103

103

Proposal 66

Effect of Proposal:

Change the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 3.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose



104

104

Proposal 67

Effect of Proposal:
Eliminate the Petersburg Road System Closed Area.

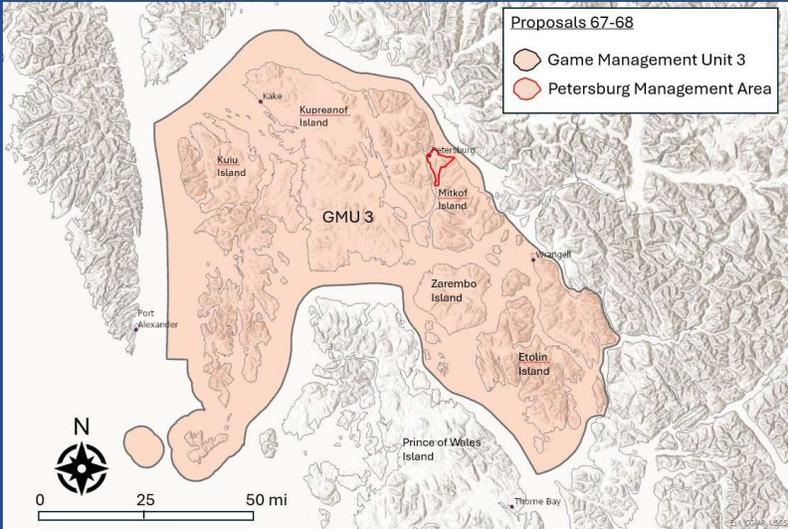
Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



105

Proposal 67



106



107



108

Proposal 67

Current Regulations

Hunt Area	Deer Season	Bag Limit
Petersburg Road System Closed Area	Closed to the taking of big game, except wolves	None
Petersburg Management Area	Aug 1-Dec15	2 bucks



109



109

Proposal 67

Background

- The Petersburg Road System Closed area is a strip one-fourth mile wide on each side of the Mitkof Highway from mile marker 8.75 of the Mitkof Highway to mile marker 17.22.
- The closed area was created in 1962 and encompasses commercial businesses, private homes, and recreation areas.



110



110

Proposal 67

Background

- The Petersburg Management Area (PMA) on Mitkof Island was established as an archery-only hunt area in 2002.
- A city prohibition on the discharge of firearms prohibited deer hunting within the Petersburg city limits.



111

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Proposal 67

Background

- High deer density in residential areas gave rise to frequent complaints about nuisance deer and vehicle-deer collisions.
- While the PMA was created to reduce deer numbers in residential Petersburg, it is also open to the archery hunting of all big game in season.
- The average PMA reported deer harvest over the last five seasons was 6 (ranging from 3-11).



112

112

Proposal 67

Discussion

- Because of their proximity to Petersburg and ease of access, the Blind River Rapids and Blind Slough Picnic areas are very popular with sport fisherman, hikers, and wildlife viewers.
- Other major communities in Southeast Alaska have similar closed areas.



113

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Proposal 67

Discussion

- Adoption of this proposal would open archery hunting for all big game in an area that has been closed to big game hunting (except wolves) since 1962.
- Archery hunting in the area when sport fishing and wildlife viewing activities are high could result in user conflicts and public safety concerns.



114

114

Proposal 67

Discussion

- In 2004 the Board of Game reviewed all closed and controlled use areas to assess the continued need for each area.
- On completion of this review the status of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area did not change.



115

115

Proposal 67

Effect of Proposal:

Eliminate the Petersburg Road System Closed Area.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



116

116

Proposal 68

Effect of Proposal:
Eliminate the Blind Slough Closed Area.

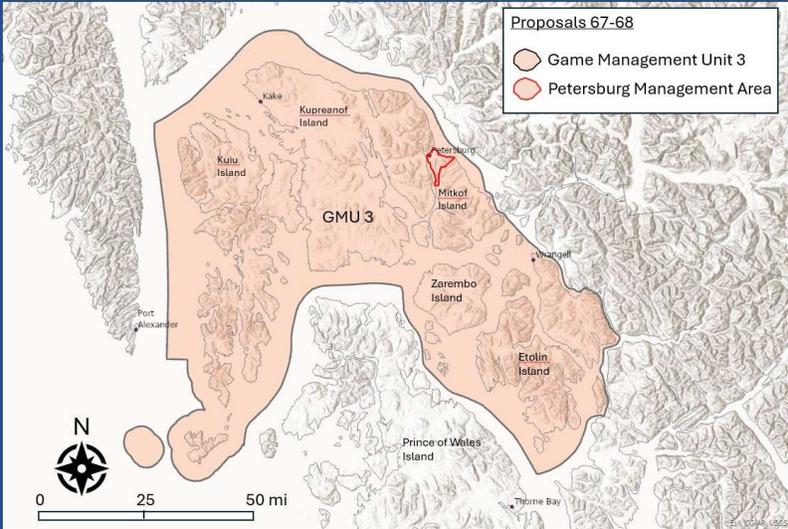
Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



117

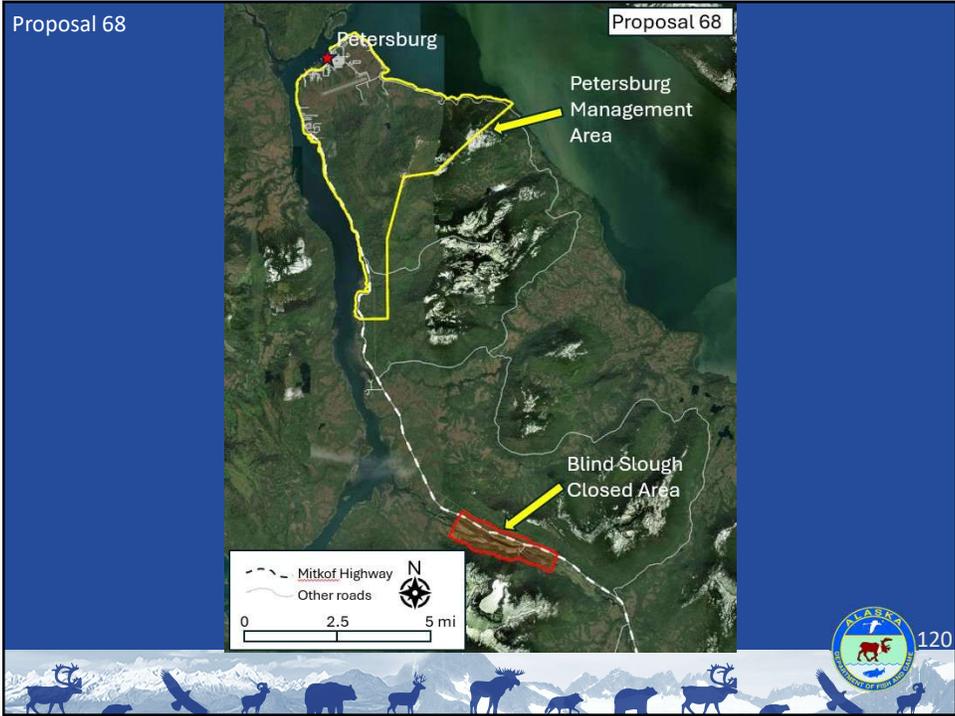
Proposal 68



118



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120

Proposal 68

Current Regulations

Hunt Area	Deer Season	Bag Limit
Blind Slough Closed Area	Closed to hunting	None
Petersburg Management Area	Aug 1-Dec15	2 bucks



121

121

Proposal 68

Background

- The Blind Slough Closed area is a strip one-fourth mile wide on each side of Blind Slough from mile 15.1 to mile 18.4 of the Mitkof Highway.

- This area was created in 1976 and encompasses multiple recreation areas.



122

122

Proposal 68

Background

- The Petersburg Management Area (PMA) on Mitkof Island was established as an archery-only hunt area in 2002.
- A city prohibition on the discharge of firearms prohibited deer hunting within the Petersburg city limits.



123

123

Proposal 68

Background

- High deer density in residential areas gave rise to frequent complaints about nuisance deer and vehicle-deer collisions.
- While the PMA was created to reduce deer numbers in residential Petersburg, it is also open to the archery hunting of all big game in season.
- The average PMA reported deer harvest over the last five seasons was 6 (ranging from 3-11).



124

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Proposal 68

Discussion

- Because of their proximity to Petersburg and ease of access, the Trumpeter Swan Observatory and Blind Slough Picnic Area are very popular for family outings, sportfishing, and wildlife viewing.



125



125

Proposal 68

Discussion

- Adoption of this proposal would open archery hunting for big game in an area that has been closed to hunting since 1976.
- Archery hunting in the area when outdoor recreation activities are high could result in user conflicts and public safety concerns.



126



126

Proposal 68

Discussion

- In 2004 the Board of Game reviewed all closed and controlled use areas to assess the continued need for each area.
- On completion of this review the status of the Blind Slough Closed Area did not change.



127

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Proposal 68

Effect of Proposal:

Eliminate the Blind Slough Closed Area.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



128

128

Proposal 69 **Unit 3 Grouse**

Change the grouse hunting season in Unit 3 to
August 1 - June 15

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Opposed**

129

129

Proposal 69 **Unit 3 Grouse**

Game Management Unit 3

Legend:

- Communities (Yellow dot)
- Unit 3 (Red outline)
- Other Units (Black outline)
- Grouse Species:
 - Sooty Grouse (Light brown shading)
 - Spruce Grouse (C.c. isleibi) (Purple hatched shading)

Scale: 0, 25, 50 Miles

130

130

 Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Current Regulations for Unit 3:

- Season Dates: August 1 - May 15
- Bag/Possession Limit: 5 per day & 10 in possession
- No current C&T finding
- No ANS

131

131

 Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Proposed Regulations for Grouse in Unit 3:

- Season dates: August 1 - **June 15**
- Bag/Possession Limit: 5 per day & 10 in possession



Photo credit:
Tom Lawler

132

132

Proposal 69 **Unit 3 Grouse**

Regulations: Background

- Grouse season in Unit 3 same since 1987-1988
- Bag & Possession limits same since 1965-1966
- Most grouse seasons end Mar 31 or Apr 30

133

133

Proposal 69 **Unit 3 Grouse**

Sooty Grouse Survey Data

Year	Avg Males per Post (95% CI)
2015	~2.0 (1.5-2.5)
2016	~2.0 (1.5-2.5)
2017	~1.2 (0.8-1.6)
2018	~1.2 (0.8-1.6)
2019	~1.3 (0.9-1.7)
2020	~1.4 (1.0-1.8)
2021	~1.1 (0.7-1.5)
2022	~1.0 (0.6-1.4)
2023	~1.1 (0.7-1.5)
2024	~1.8 (1.3-2.3)
2025	~1.2 (0.8-1.6)

Year	Avg Males per Post (95% CI)
2015	~1.8 (1.3-2.3)
2016	~2.3 (1.8-2.8)
2017	~2.3 (1.8-2.8)
2018	~2.0 (1.5-2.5)
2019	~1.6 (1.1-2.1)
2020	~0.4 (0.2-0.6)
2021	~2.3 (1.8-2.8)
2022	~1.8 (1.3-2.3)
2023	~1.5 (1.0-2.0)
2024	~1.8 (1.3-2.3)
2025	~1.8 (1.3-2.3)

Year	Avg Males per Post (95% CI)
2019	~0.7 (0.4-1.0)
2021	~2.0 (1.8-2.2)
2023	~2.7 (2.4-3.0)
2024	~2.2 (1.7-2.7)

Year	Avg Males per Post (95% CI)
2020	~0.6 (0.3-0.9)
2021	~0.4 (0.3-0.5)
2022	~0.7 (0.4-1.0)
2023	~0.4 (0.2-0.6)
2024	~1.1 (0.8-1.4)
2025	~1.7 (1.3-2.1)

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134

Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

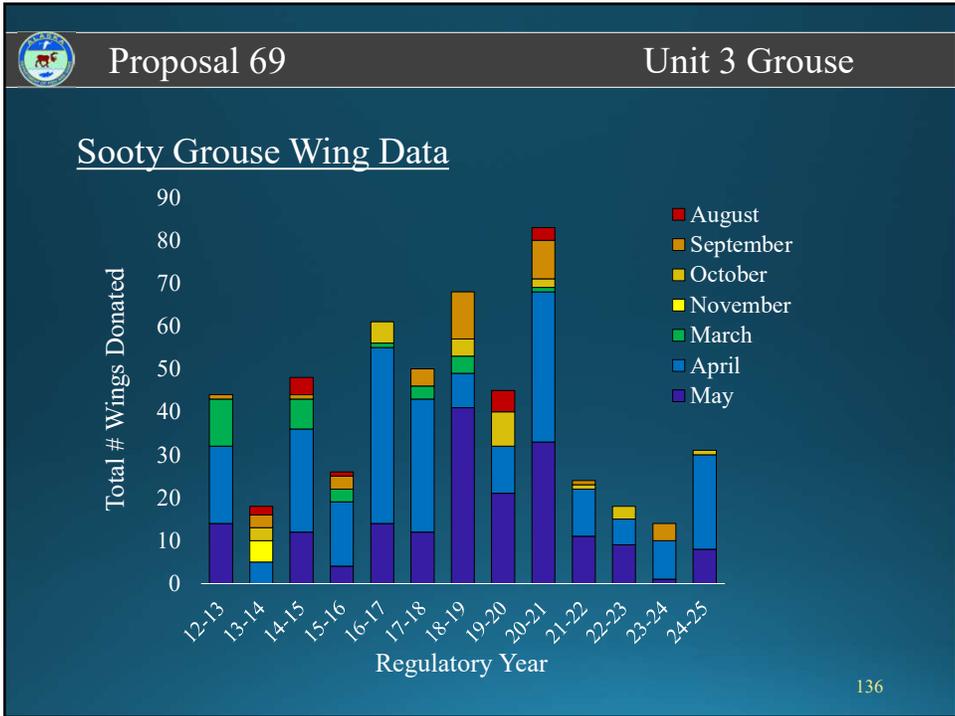
Harvest Data: Wing & Tail Feathers

Male Sooty Grouse Tail Fan Female Sooty Grouse Tail Fan

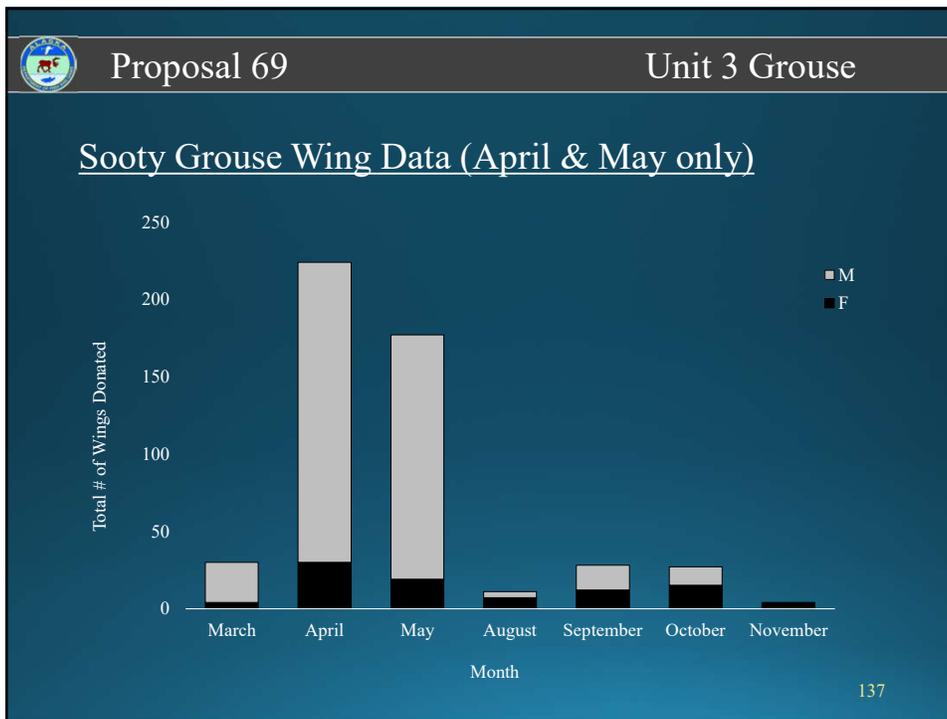


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137

Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Sooty Grouse Nest Data (B.C.)

- Hatch dates: June 8 - June 28
- Avg clutch size: 6
- Incubation period: 26 days
- Nest initiation dates: May 8 - May 28*

* Rough estimate based on back calculating

138

138



Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Spruce Grouse Nest Data

- Nesting activity: May 14 - July 1 (P.O.W.)
- Hatch dates: June 15 - June 30 (Kenai Pen.)*
- Avg clutch size: 8
- Incubation period: 23 days

➤ Nest initiation dates: May 16 - May 31**

*Approximate date range
**Rough estimate based on back calculating

139

139



Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Ruffed Grouse Nest Data

- Mean hatch dates: June 6 - June 17 (B.C.)
- Avg clutch size: 11
- Incubation period: 23 days

➤ Mean nest initiation dates: May 1 - May 12*

* Rough estimate based on back calculating

140

140

 Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Considerations

1. Sooty grouse numbers appear to be relatively stable
 - Some harvest of both sexes taking place in spring
2. Extending season to June 15 will overlap nesting and very likely early brood-rearing period
 - Harvest of nesting/incubating females and females with young chicks is a concern

141

141

 Proposal 69 Unit 3 Grouse

Change the grouse hunting season in Unit 3 to
August 1 - June 15

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Opposed**

142

142