




Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Denali Citizens Council
Feb 15, 2024





Alaska Wildlife Alliance

- Founded by Alaskans in 1978
- *We protect Alaska's wildlife through citizen mobilization, advocacy, and education. Alaska is home to a unique and spectacular array of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA) advocates for healthy ecosystems, scientifically and ethically managed to protect our wildlife for present and future generations.*

Text "beluga" to 833-541-0408 to get our text alert when critically endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales are spotted in the Kenai or Kasilof Rivers!



HOME

ABOUT

WHAT WE DO

NEWS

EVENTS

FOUND INJURED WILDLIFE?

SAFE TRAILS

SHOP

SUPPORT US

LETTING NATURE RUN WILD

LEARN MORE

<https://www.akwildlife.org/>





What is the Board of Game?

- 7 members, no designated seats
- Main role is to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, and regulating methods and means. The board is also involved with setting policy and direction for the management of the state's wildlife resources. The board is charged with making allocative decisions, and the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for management based on those decisions.
- Three year terms
- Nominated by Governor, Confirmed by Legislature
- 2 members close to DCC region: Dave Lorrying, Al Barrette in Fairbanks

Learn more about BoG members here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.bogmembers>

Board of Game is a political process.

Establishment of open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, regulating methods and means, setting policy and direction for the management of the state's wildlife resources, and allocative decisions are made under this political process.

Proposal Process

- Whiteboard Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeLLtVCKhE4>
- Proposals are submitted one year in advance (May 1)
- Each region is considered every three years

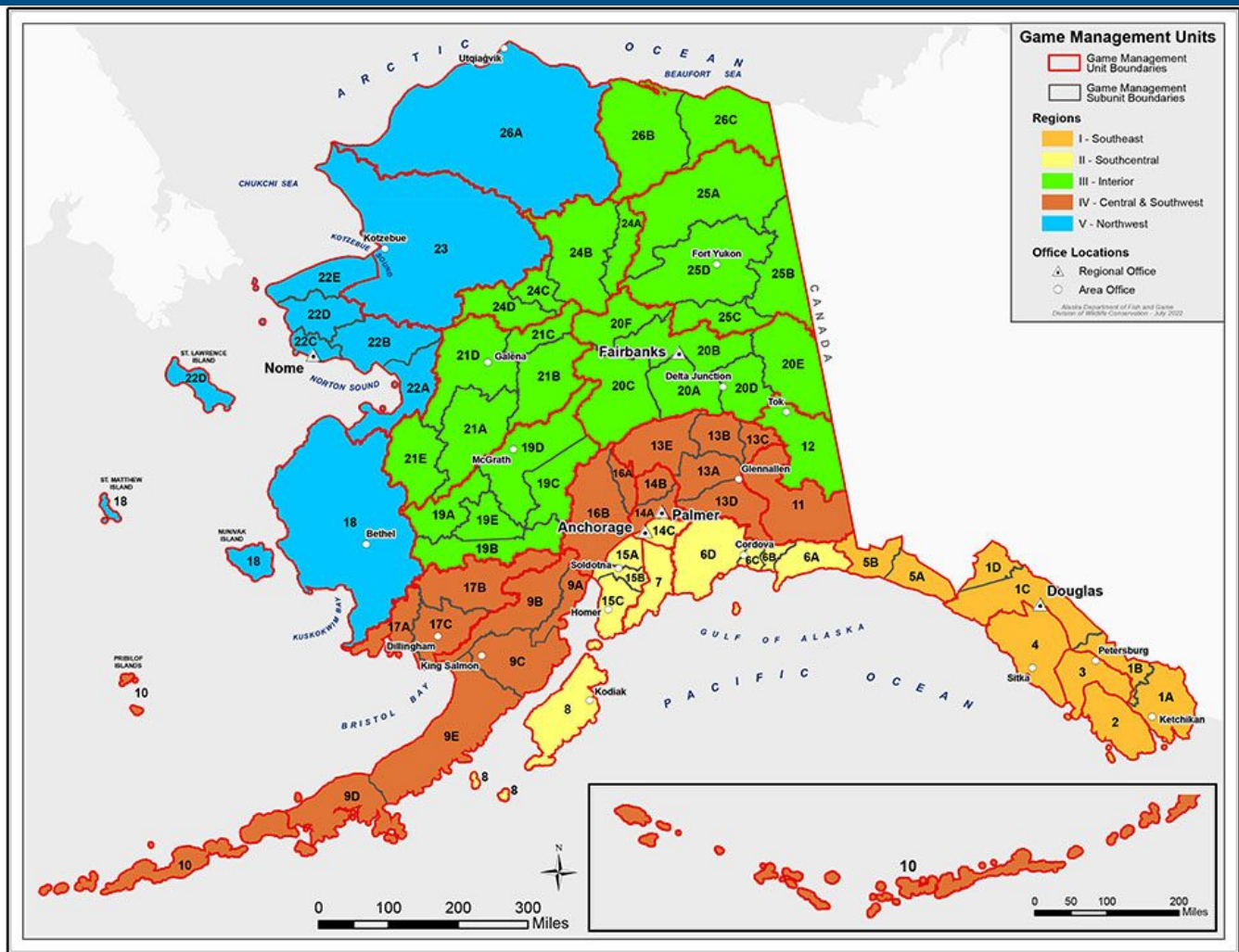
Three-Year Meeting Cycle

Proposed regulations for the five regions of Alaska are considered every three years, along with all statewide regulations. See the [Long-Term Meeting Cycle Schedule](#) (PDF 291 kB) for more information.

Board of Game 3-Year Meeting Cycle	
2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interior Region (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 26B, 26C)• Arctic/Western Region (GMUs 18, 22, 23, 26A)
2024/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central/Southwest Region (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, 17)• Statewide Regulations (Cycles A & B)
2025/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southcentral Region (Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15)• Southeast Region (GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)



Interior and Eastern Arctic
Region Meeting
Fairbanks
March 15 - 22, 2024



Game Management Units

- Game Management Unit Boundaries
- Game Management Subunit Boundaries

Regions

- I - Southeast
- II - Southcentral
- III - Interior
- IV - Central & Southwest
- V - Northwest

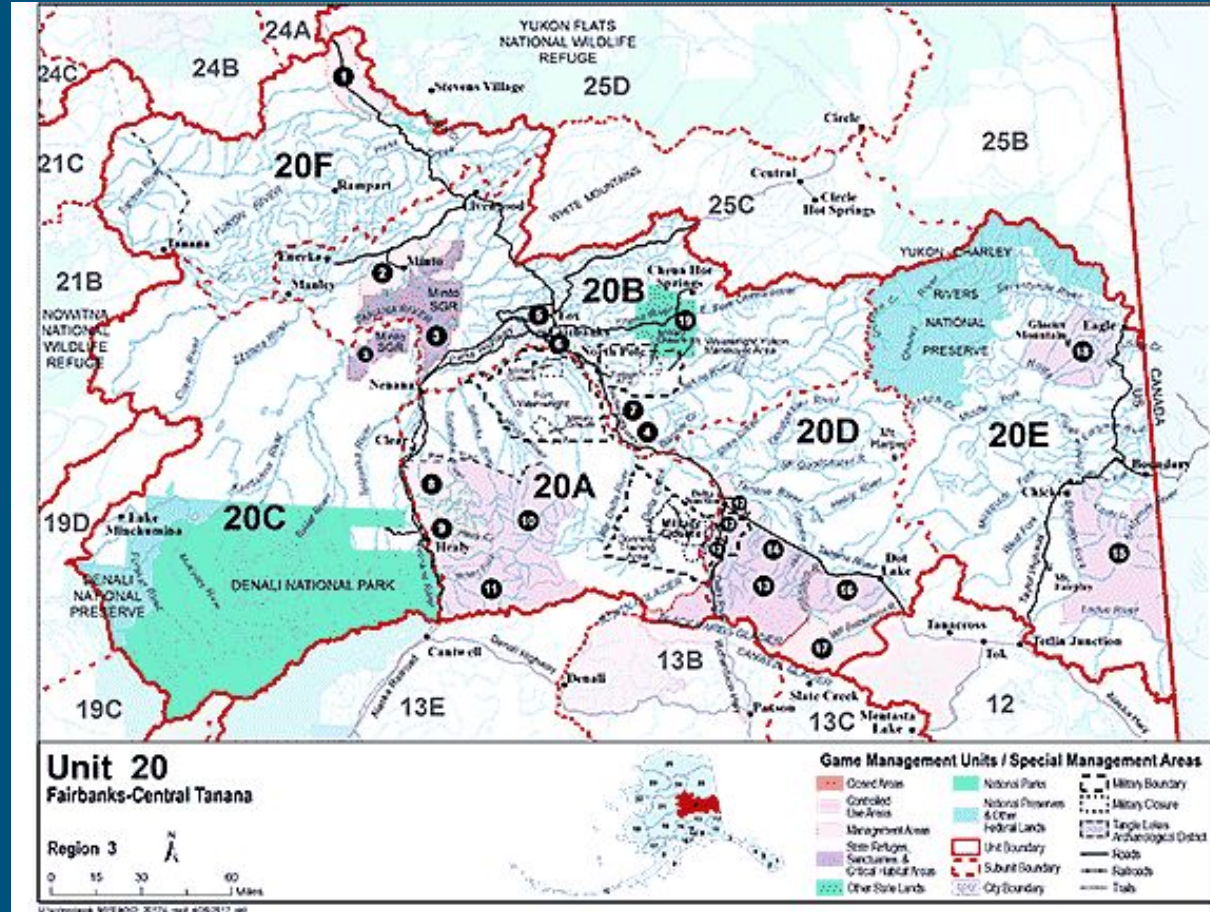
Office Locations

- Regional Office
- Area Office

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation - July 2022

2024 Proposals

- 200 proposals total
- 17 proposals in the “Fairbanks Area” (Units 20A, B, C, F and 25 D)
- 54 proposals on the “McGrath Area” (West side of the Park Unit 19, 21A, 21 E)

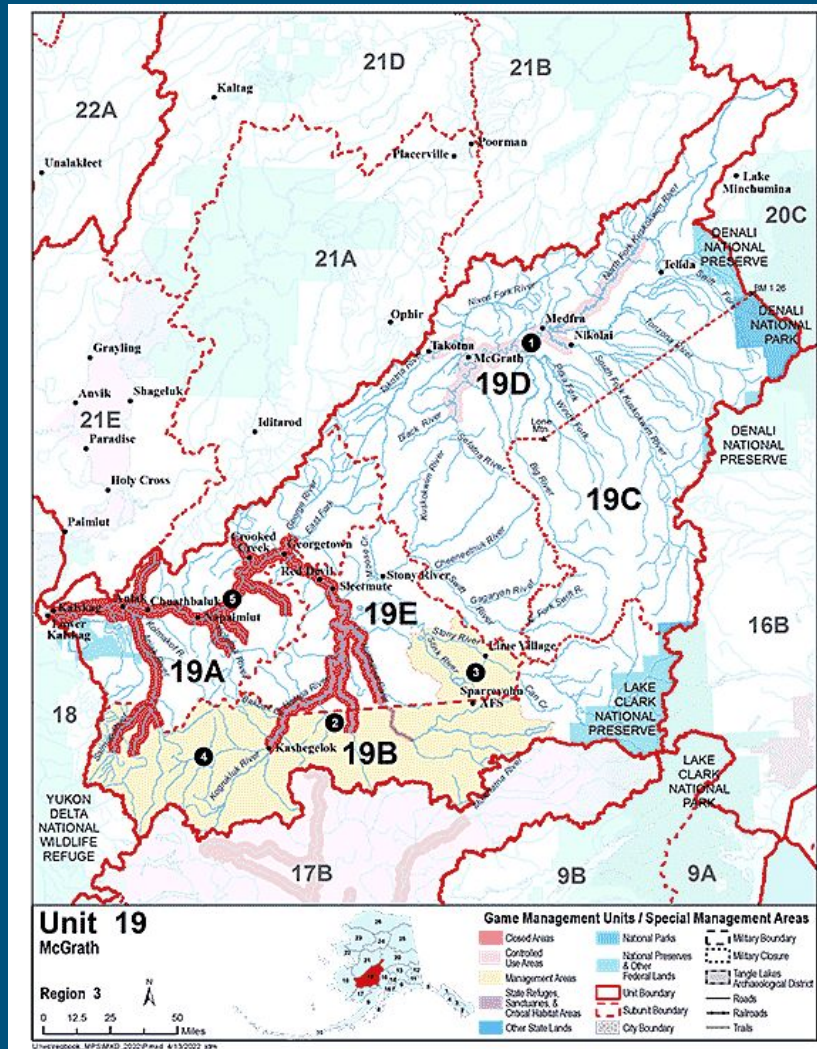


West Side

60- 62: Request Predator Control in 19C (including aerial wolf control on western border of DNP)

76-92: Sheep limit, allocation, season requests in 19C

98 - 107 : Request liberalizations of brown and black bears (lengthening seasons, allow baiting, increase bag limit)



North and East Side

171-173: Moose seasons (general harvest ticket or muzzleloader only hunt) 20A

174-175: Boundary changes to Wood River Controlled Use Area

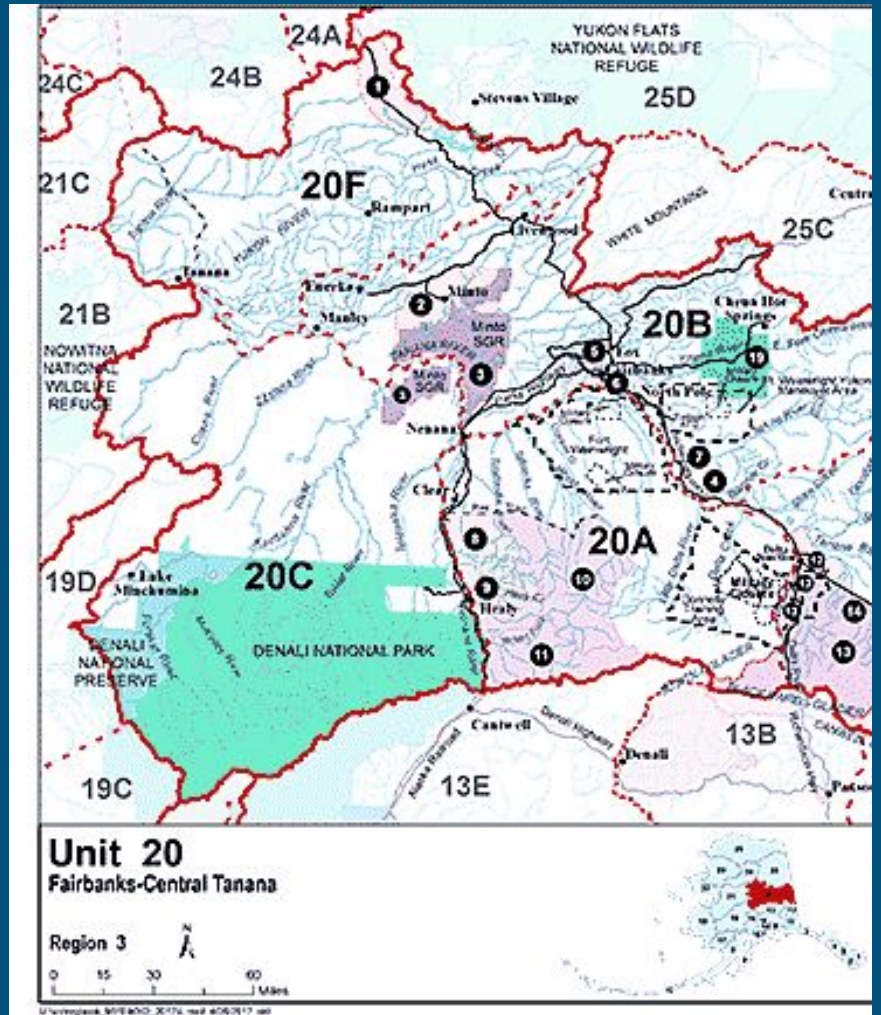
180: Change allocation of caribou permits in 20A

181: Nonresident sheep hunting 20A

182 -185: Lengthen brown bear hunting season in 20C

186: Denali wolf proposal

187: Lengthen wolverine trapping season in 20A



AWA Comment Process

- What do we know about the impacted species?
 - Agency research and publications
 - Previous board meetings
 - Call area offices
 - Rely on local knowledge
- We advocate for
 - Precautionary Principle: If data are lacking, err on the side of conservation
 - Ethical management: Not anti-hunting, support regulations that reduce suffering
- What concerns us
 - Board of Game is a political process → need science to be the basis of decisions that impact ecosystems
 - Single-species management vs ecosystem management

Proposal 186- Denali Wolf Closure

- History: [Rick Steiner Timeline 1992-2019](#)
 - 1980: ANILCA Senate Committee cites the need to bring wolf townships into the Park in future land exchange.
 - 1985: State proposed bringing townships in the Park in exchange for the Kantishna/Dunkle Mine being excluded from the Park. No action taken.
 - 1992: First and largest “wolf buffer” covering 800 square miles along eastern boundary.
 - 1993: Three months later, BoG eliminated the buffer in retaliation of Gov. Hickel’s suspension of wolf control programs in other parts of the state.
 - 2000: BoG passes smaller (29 square miles) buffer in western Stampede Trail.
 - 2001: Gov Knowles proposes transfer of Stampede Trail/townships to UAA, to then sell to NPS. Legislature declines proposal.
 - 2001: ADFG requests to enlarge buffer to 72 square miles. BoG approves.
 - 2008: Independent biologists petition ADFG Commissioner to enlarge buffer to 300 square miles. Commissioner declines.
 - 2010: BoG hears many proposals to expand buffer. BoG declines all expansion proposals, eliminates buffer entirely, imposes 6-year moratorium on any proposals.
 - 2012-2016: Requests for Emergency Closures, submitted proposals. All declined.
 - 2013-2016: Traction for a land trade between USDOT and State for conservation easement. Election in 2016, proposal was dropped.
 - 2016: NPS requests move trapping closure 6 weeks earlier to prevent overlap with bear baiting, BoG approves.
 - 2016: Fairbanks Borough adopts resolution calling on Governor to establish buffer, Governor declines.
 - 2017: HB105 requests 500 mile buffer. Bill dies in Senate Resources Committee.
 - 2017: BoG denied proposals to re-establish wolf buffers. Was talk of Governor executed Special Use Area, never materialized.
 - 2018-2020: Petitions for Emergency Closure, mostly denied.
 - 2020: NPS proposal to shorten season. AWA supported. All wolf conservation proposals in corridor denied.

Suggestions for Comments

- Reference NPS 2020 Proposal (#152 [View proposal here](#)) for more language and information on why wolves are important to the Park
- Explain your personal interest in the issue, make clear where you live and how this proposal impacts your life
- Wildlife viewing argument has had varied success
- Describe why wolves are important to the ecosystem and to the community

How to Get Involved

Go to this webpage

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-15-2024&meeting=fairbanks>

- Submit comments
- View proposals
- View agency reports and comments
- View Board Agenda and timeline roadmap
- Listen to the meeting audio
- See Board decisions after the meeting

Consider joining an Advisory Committee

Consider getting involved in the BoG nomination and confirmation process

Denali Wolf Documentary

View trailer at www.akwildlife.org/film-fund or on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/386305607>

Will be released in 2024 with screenings in Alaska and Lower 48



Thank you!

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www.akwildlife.org

