

Wright, Sherry (DFG)

Attn: BOF - March mtg
BOG - Anchorage mtg

From: algoozmer [algoozmer@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:47 AM
To: Bob Shavelson; Donald Mike; Kenbdra Zamzow Ph. D.; Larry & Judy Heilman; Lindsey Bismark; Randy Standifer; Robert E. Moran Ph. D.; Wright, Sherry (DFG)
Subject: resolution 2008-01.doc

**Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Resolution 08-01**

**RECEIVED
FEB 19 2009
BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

WHEREAS, The Tyonek Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to provide a local forum on fish and game management issues;

WHEREAS, the TAC members are year round residence of Tyonek-Beluga and have years of experience in the 12 areas of interest, and over the years have witnessed the decline of resources, habitat, destruction, and pollution:

WHEREAS, the introduction of pike into Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) decade's ago all which pose an immanent threat to extinction of all salmon species in the fresh waters of West Cook Inlet (WCI) and the UCI area:

WHEREAS, and now the threat of extinction of a sensitive eco-system by strip mining:

WHEREAS, We the people are also threatened by the extinction of a way of life:

NOW THERE FOR IT BE RESOLVED, We stand firm that , decisive and immediate action must be taken now with the well known problem of the pike and ramifications:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WE OPPOSE any permitting process to be awarded to PacRim coal or any corporation with WCI coal development:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WE OPPOSE reports indicated in coal mining areas fish and wildlife will not be adversely affected:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WE OPPOSE any information to indicate the area eco-system, long term health and sustainability of the Fish and wildlife in the WVI and greater UCI will not be affected.

ADOPTED THIS 5TH DAY OF November 2008.

(sign) Lindsay J. Bismark, Secretary

RC 3

Tyonek fish and game Advisory Committee

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From: algoozmer [algoozmer@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 9:47 AM
To: grammybeluga@aol.com; Bob Shavelson; Donald Mike; Kenbdra Zamzow Ph. D.; Lindsey Bismark; Randy Standifer; Robert E. Moran Ph. D.; Wright, Sherry (DFG)
Subject: TAC letter for support.doc

Att: BOF - Anchorage mtg
 BOF - Anchorage mtg

your comment and input is needed

Tyonek fish and game Advisory Committee
 Al Goozmer, Chair. John Standifer, V-Chair. Lindsey Bismark, Secretary.
 Members
 "Chad" Chickalusion, Randy Standifer..
 Aaron Jones. Larry Heilamn. Donald Standifer Jr Peter Merryman

RECEIVED
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ANCHORAGE

Re: endorsement of our resolution

Dear Chair and AC members, Native Councils, Native corporations and other native organization, any Cook Inlet salmon user group.

As the complete report on the *Management Plan for Invasive Northern Pike in Alaska* Prepared by: South central Alaska Northern Pike Control Committee. And other reports indicate, all salmon will soon be just food for this *Cancer*. The Cook Inlet will be extinct of all natural species in the aqua culture. Reports indicate they will eventually eat themselves. From now until then, many of us may never see any results. We do not want the settlement process as we seen in the Exxon oil spill,

The technology is there. The trained personal is there. The delivery apparatus is there.

For the past twenty years the Department has been sending out a single recon squad to identify the problem. The time is now to turn loose the commanders of the armored division, and kill the problem. We believe the time is now. All lab tests were in a long time ago; put the surgeon to work to remove this cancer.

We believe that we can advance the proposal for the total eradication of the pike. As we do the call for public announcements on the problem. We are calling for public comments, we are calling for action, and we believe you are also.

The Chuit River, *the Kenai River of west Cook Inlet*. For many years the river was and continues be a favorite to many. This pristine wilderness and abundance of salmon, rainbow, Dolly Varden has been visited and enjoyed the thrill of the river by many races from many nations, Many of you have fond memories of the salmon at the end of your line. Or witnessing first hand the eagle on a limb only a short distance from you. We believe that you were even startled by the bear or marveled at the sight of the moose.

Support us. Let's not see this system destroyed. Say NO to PacRim coal or any corporate interest in WCI. Coal development. Remember in the 80's a fish only the size of your finger stopped the army corp. of engineers from building a dam? What happened to our values?

2/19/2009

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 19. 10:53AM

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Tyonek fish and game Advisory Committee

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RECEIVED

FEB 19 2009

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**Tyonek fish and game Advisory Committee**

News letter

The Tyonek Advisory Committee (TAC) was first formed here in the village during the early 80's. The purpose of TAC was, as it is today. To create a public forum on the management of fish and game issues, and propose change that will benefit all user groups.

Most of the obstacles we faced during the early days remain with us today, but at a much more direct threat. The past few years we have seen the threat become more evident.

The Northern Pike; was first detected in streams on the West Cook Inlet (WCI) during the mid-1980's. For the past twenty years the State of Alaska Dept. of fish and game has been sending out a single recon squad to identify the problem. We feel that time has long time pasted to eliminate the problem,

Attachment is the list of streams and affects on WCI.

Chuit River, the Kenai River of west Cook Inlet. During the 80's proposals were introduced to manage, protect, maintain and improve the fisheries.

The Chuit River has long been a favorite to many, was visited by people from many nation and continue to be a favorite for many.

Proposals never funded:

- A fish hatchery or nursery for a better return of the king salmon, red and silver
- Access ways to the upper and lower part of the river.
- Vehicles, trash receptacles maintain the fishery
- Camping and resting areas
- Expansion and improvement of parking areas northern part of airstrip

People from both Tyonek and Beluga of depend on this fishery for seasonal income.

Many people make seasonal employment part of their income by guiding on the river; or transporting people and gear.

The proposed PACrim coal company, if permitted to develop will destroy the stream; if allowed will *kill* the river and the entire eco-system, the moose, the bear, the beaver, and every single animal and bird that inhabit the area. 60 sq miles will be a dead zone. *See attachment.*

Your TAC presented a resolution to the KPBA (Kenai Borough Assembly) for endorsement. We were treated as if we were asking for some used chairs & desks for the school, as if we were asking for some equipment for the fire dept we will never receive or as if we were asking for a free plane ticked to use Tyonek's swimming pool located in Nikiski. We were asking for endorsement to save the fish in Cook Inlet, save a whole eco-system,

Commercial fishing: the industry is now in decline, as well as the return of salmon. This area was also proposed for improvement of the equal distribution of the resources. This was never address by the board of fisheries and today, we still see the evidence of special interest that control the industry of Cook Inlet.

The commercial fisheries management report; 1980-2007

1986 there were 135 commercial limited entry permits held by individuals fishing the waters of Cook Inlet, 2007 there are only 62 remaining.

The average total number of fish caught within the Cook Inlet: 1980-2007

2/19/2009

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 19. 10:53AM

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Tyonek fish and game Advisory Committee

Central district driftnet fleet	2,829,280
Northern district Tyonek district	41,481

We propose to open the west side of Cook Inlet, a corridor that would mirror the escapement corridor for the Kenai and Kasilof River on the east side of the central district, with the boundaries being the southern tip of Keligan Island to the eastern most point of Kuskatan.

We reject the proposal by the board of fisheries, because of its ambiguity. Other proposal will be submitted for a better return and the equal distribution of resources from Cook Inlet. (Update) All proposals for Cook Inlet will not be considered until a later date. Our proposals will have to be in the form of a petition.

Subsistence fishing; Also the TAC proposed legal gear allowed changed.

1983. The gear at that time was 60' x 4.5" mesh, x 45 meshes deep.

The fish and game *ground personal* noticed that the fishing gear was killing the big king salmon, after many complaints from the users, mainly us

Many viewed this required regulations past by the board of fisheries as the influence of special interest groups.

Our proposal for the coming season is to double the required gear to the size that will not be the demise of the much larger king salmon and to receive our allotted quota to sustain our needs for that season.

Tyonek sub district; allotted 4,500- never reached this total.

Individual allotted - 70 kings 25 other species - never reached this total

Many other discrepancies remain today

Subsistence clams- a two-mile stretch of beach, from the terminus of Polly Creek north. Was designated as Tyonek subsistence clam area prior to the 1980's. For the past few years our people have been down there and the return trip was always far from what was needed. The area was and is being ignored as a designated area by all who take these resources for personal gain, the use of dredges was prohibited, but the damage was done.

As to when the area will again be productive for calms is unknown. The last reports, was that they were still very small and not harvestable.

Hooligans; this resource is also slated for commercial use proposed by the board of fisheries. They proposed to allow for commercial sale of this fish, 100,000 lbs. during the next few years. Some comments from you were to take another look at this as supplemental to commercial fishery in our district.

Moose, bear, wolf. The TAC is also working to better the management of land animals. The present regulations for the moose season need to be revised, and the present season opening and closing need to be amended. At present we have no proposal, the state biologist working on the whole game management in unit 16b (moose, bear, wolf etc.) report is not available

As reported to the TAC meeting.

The estimated population in our unit. 1983-84, 1220 animals. The following years, there was a decline in numbers. The highest count was taken 1995-96, 1080 animals. The estimates remain at 750-850 from 2000. The last survey was, 2004 estimated to be at 960

2007 report: 82 cows observed 70 gave birth (Pregnancy rate 85%)

of those 70, 38 were twins (twinning rate 54%)

Leaving 108 calves on the ground by July 1

The median calving date was May 20

Nov. 1st 25 were still alive including one set of twins (survival rate 23%, compared to 15-17 last year, and 10-11% for 2005)

Adult mortality remains stable and low, and only observed mortality were due to bears not wolves.

The moose population is increasing, when the herd will reach a healthy number is unknown.

And please note that the coal mine can displace the herd, as to where they will be displaced to, is unknown.

The TAC can and should be an affective instrument for the management of fish and game in our area.

RC 3

Tyonek fish and game Advisory Committee

The TAC need your support, your comments, suggestions and engagement to the decision making process that will affect us and our people for years to come.

More young people should be involved with management issuers of fish and game in our area.

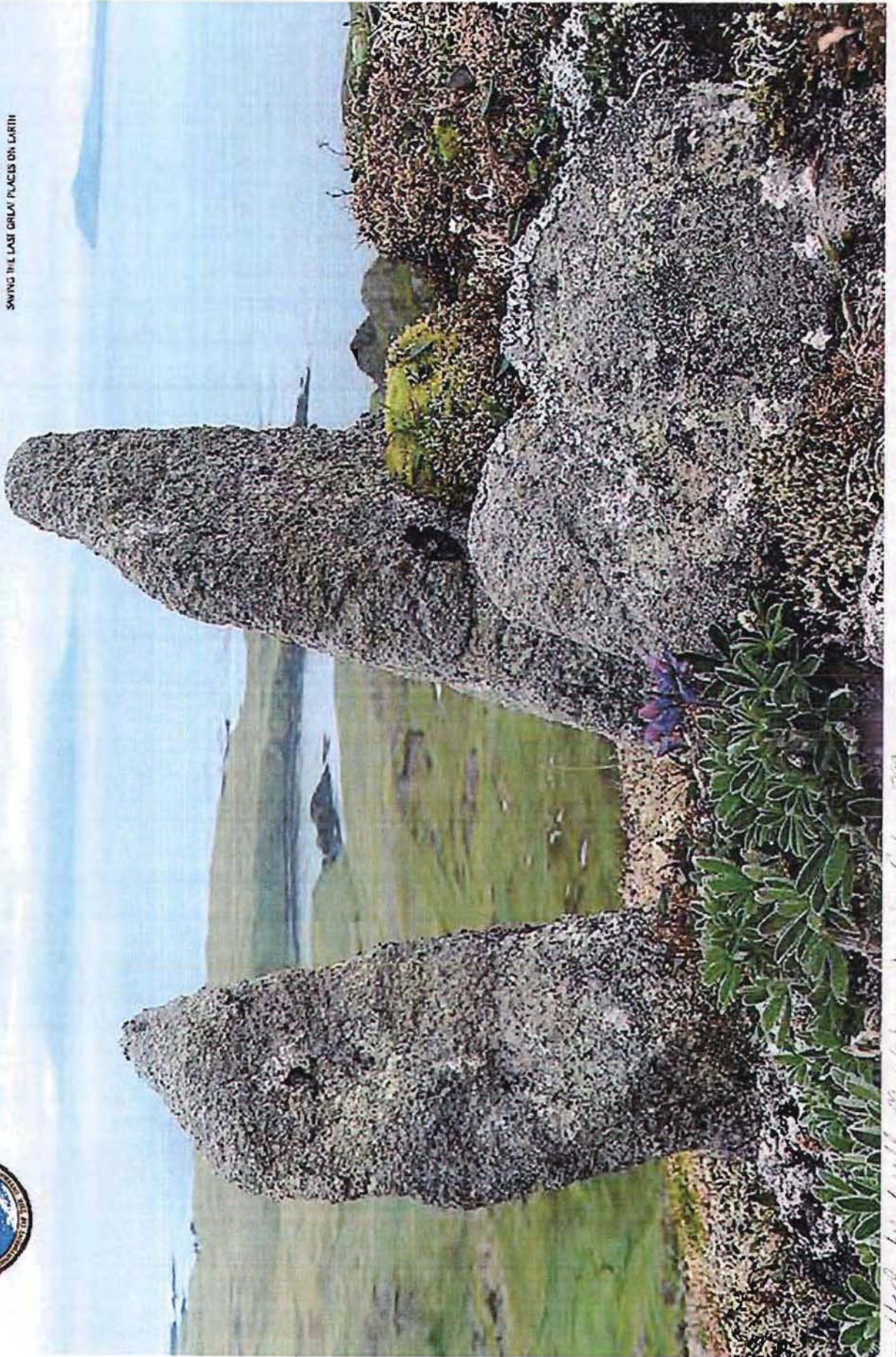
Contact: Lindsey Bismark, Secretary.

RC4



The Nature Conservancy.

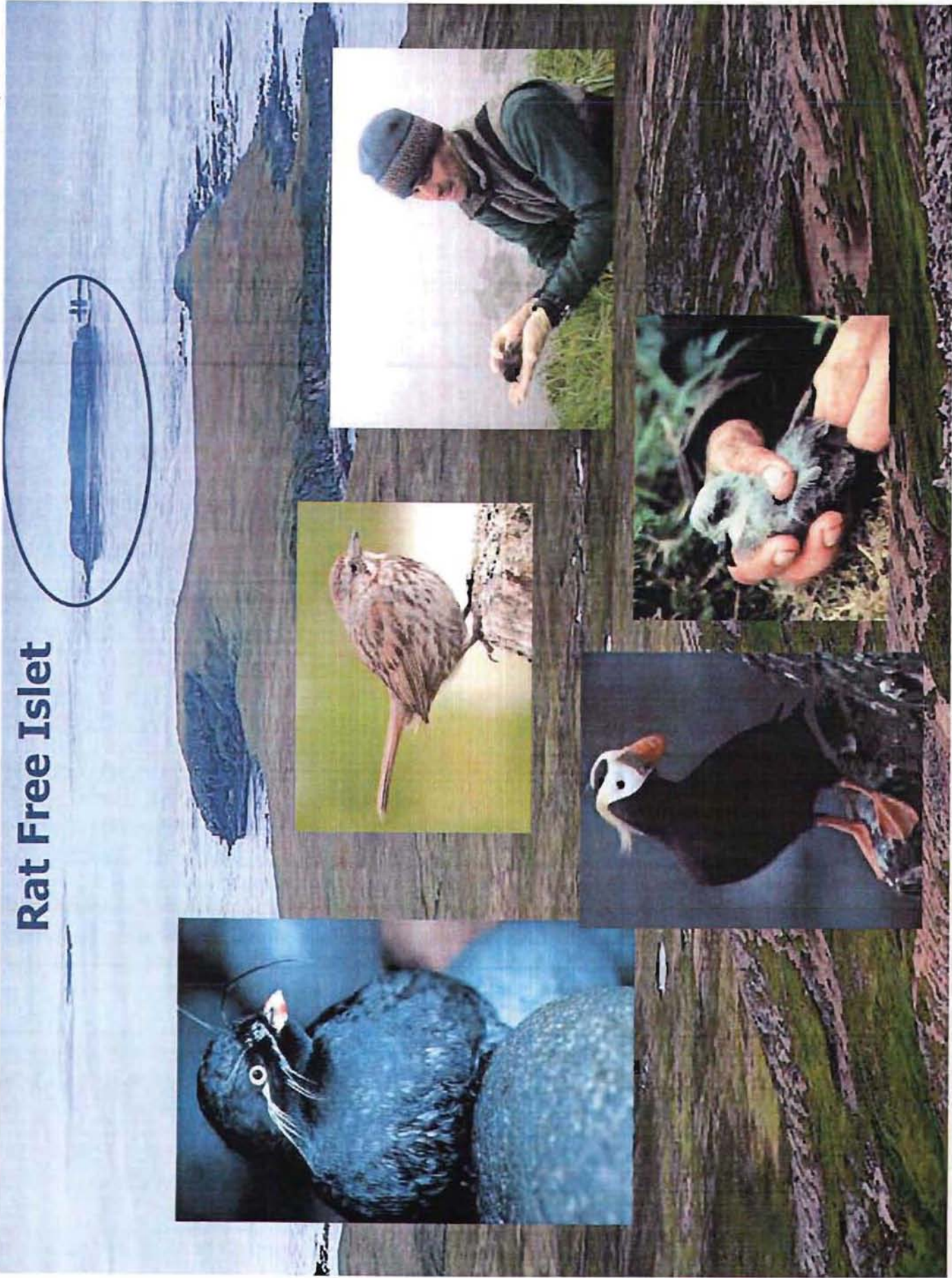
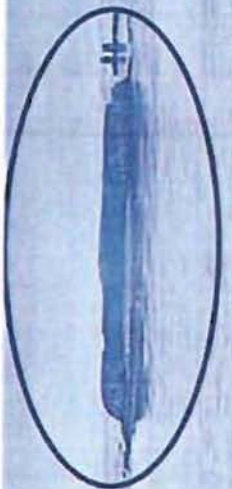
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH



Submitted by Carl Mueck - No. 10004 before Muecker
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

RC4

Rat Free Islet



Rat Island Restoration Project

1. Planning
2. Pre-operations preparation
3. Field operations
 - Operations staging
 - Implementation
 - Demobilization
4. Biological monitoring



RC 4



RC4

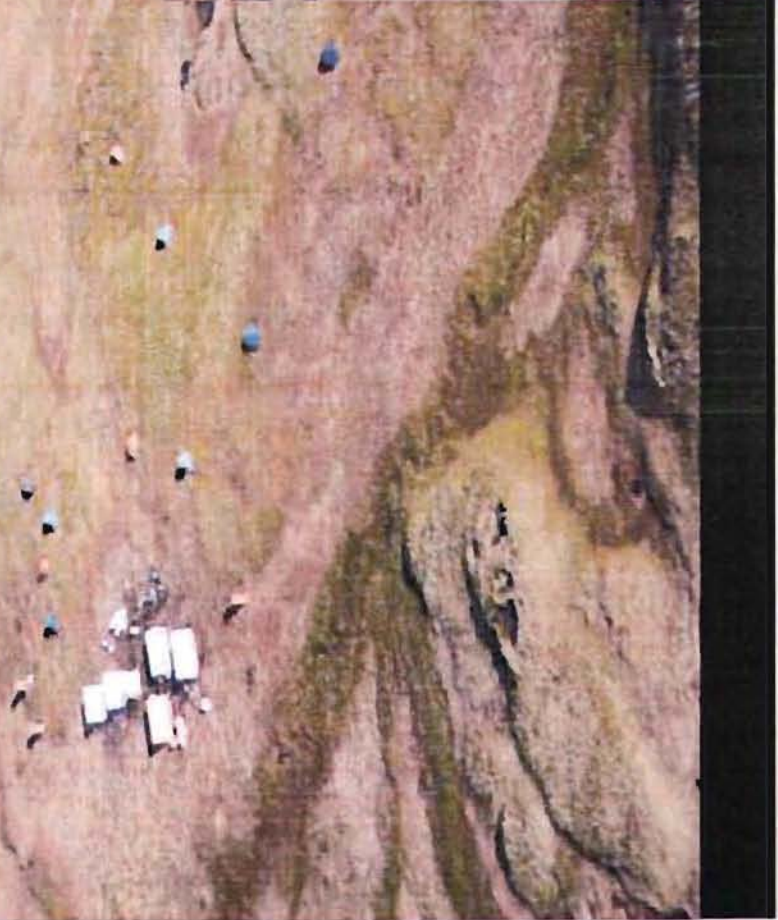
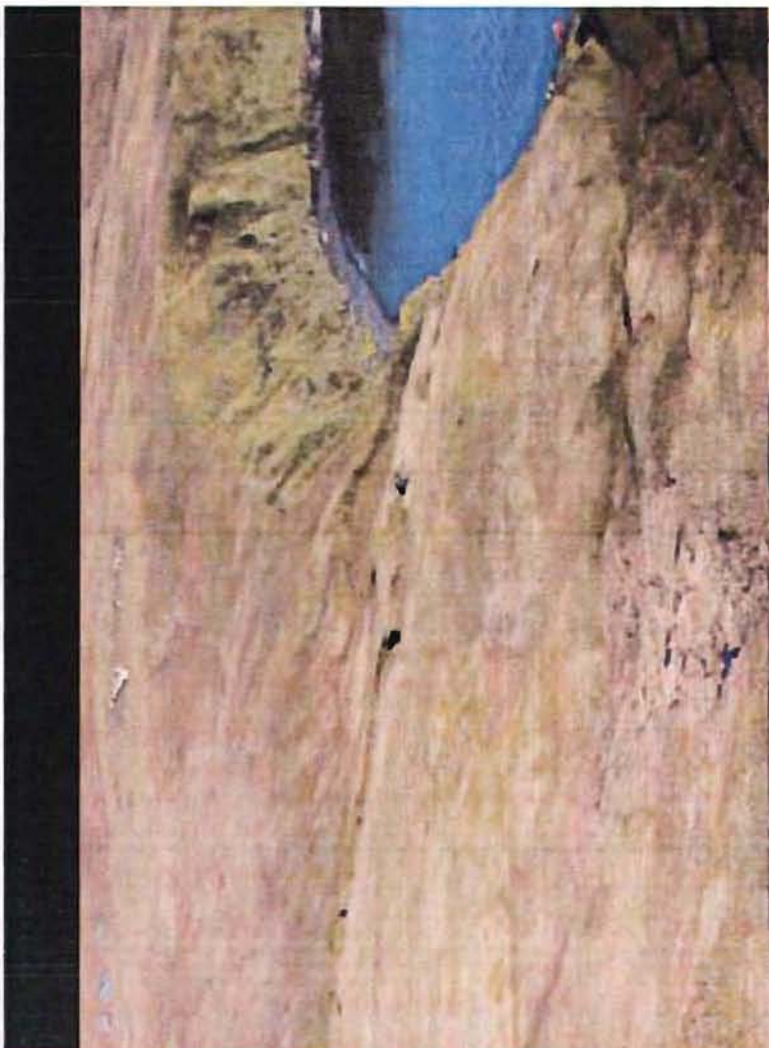


RCY

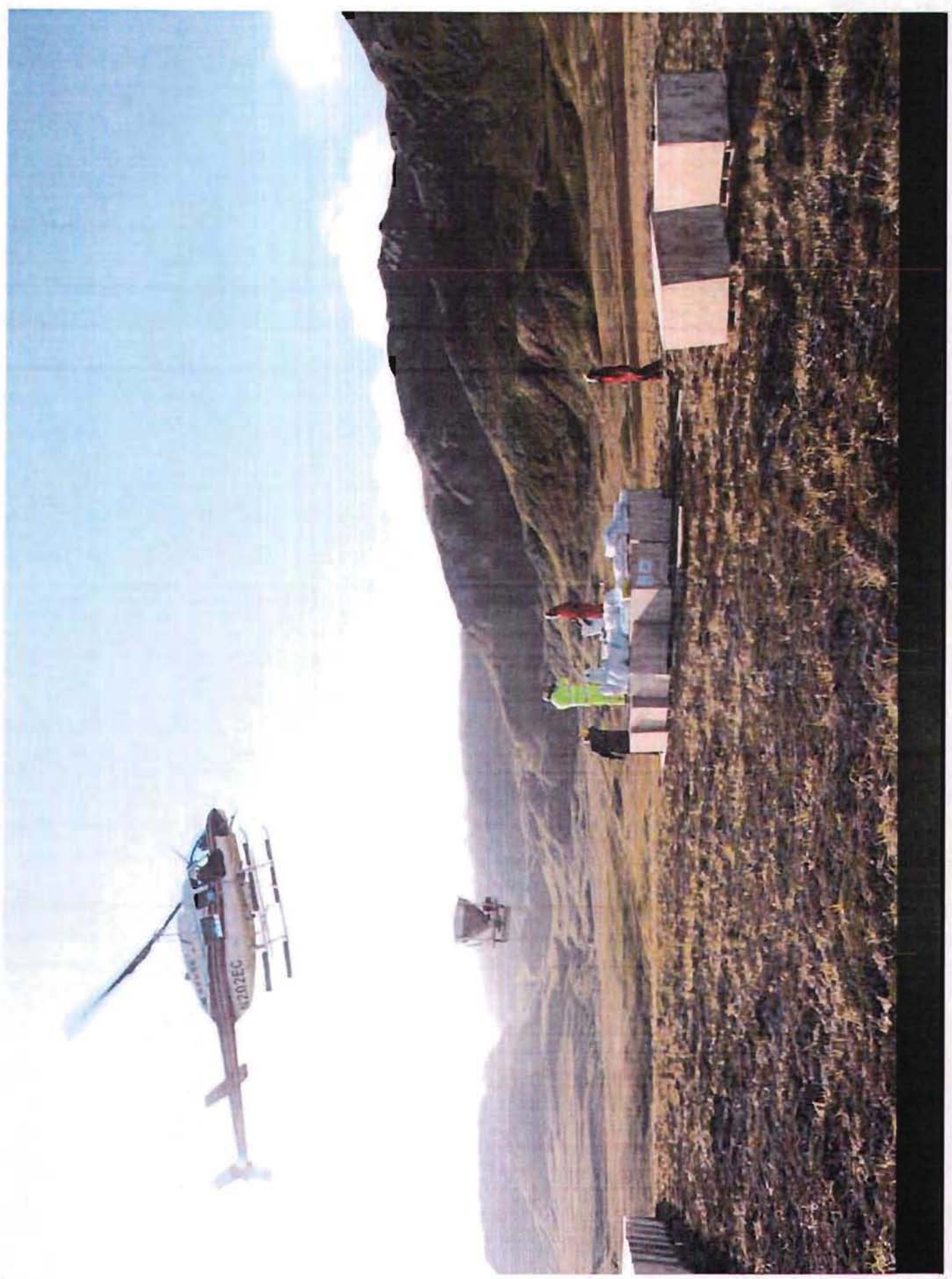
2 helicopters
2 support vessels
32 personnel



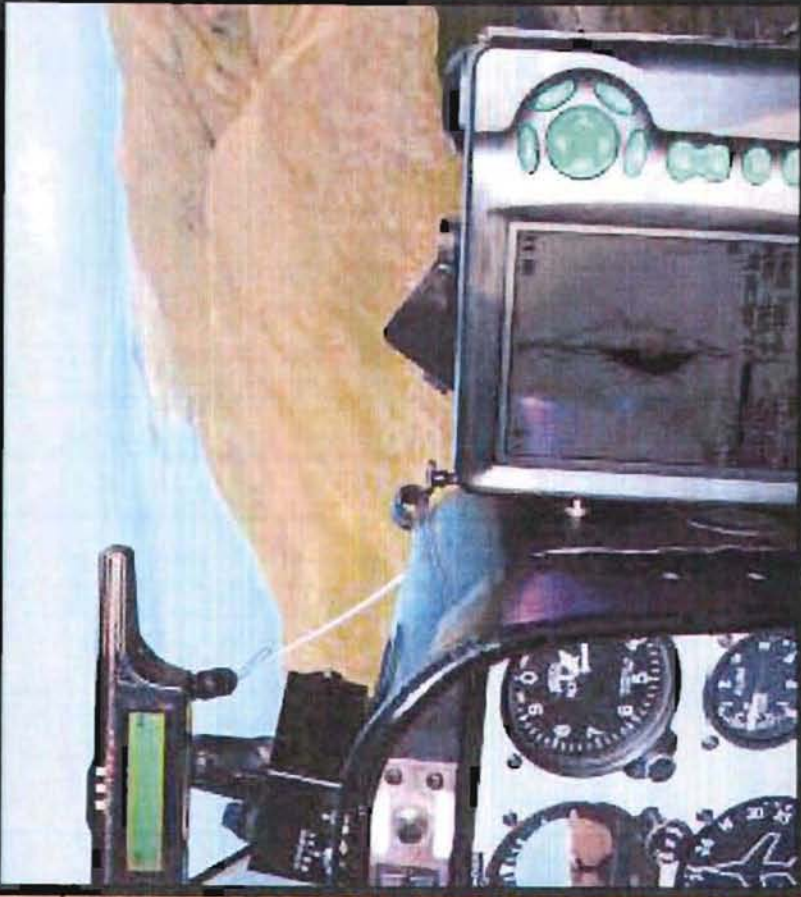
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RC 4



RC4



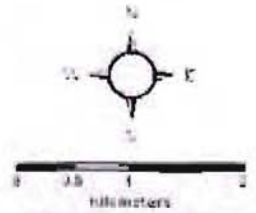
KC 4



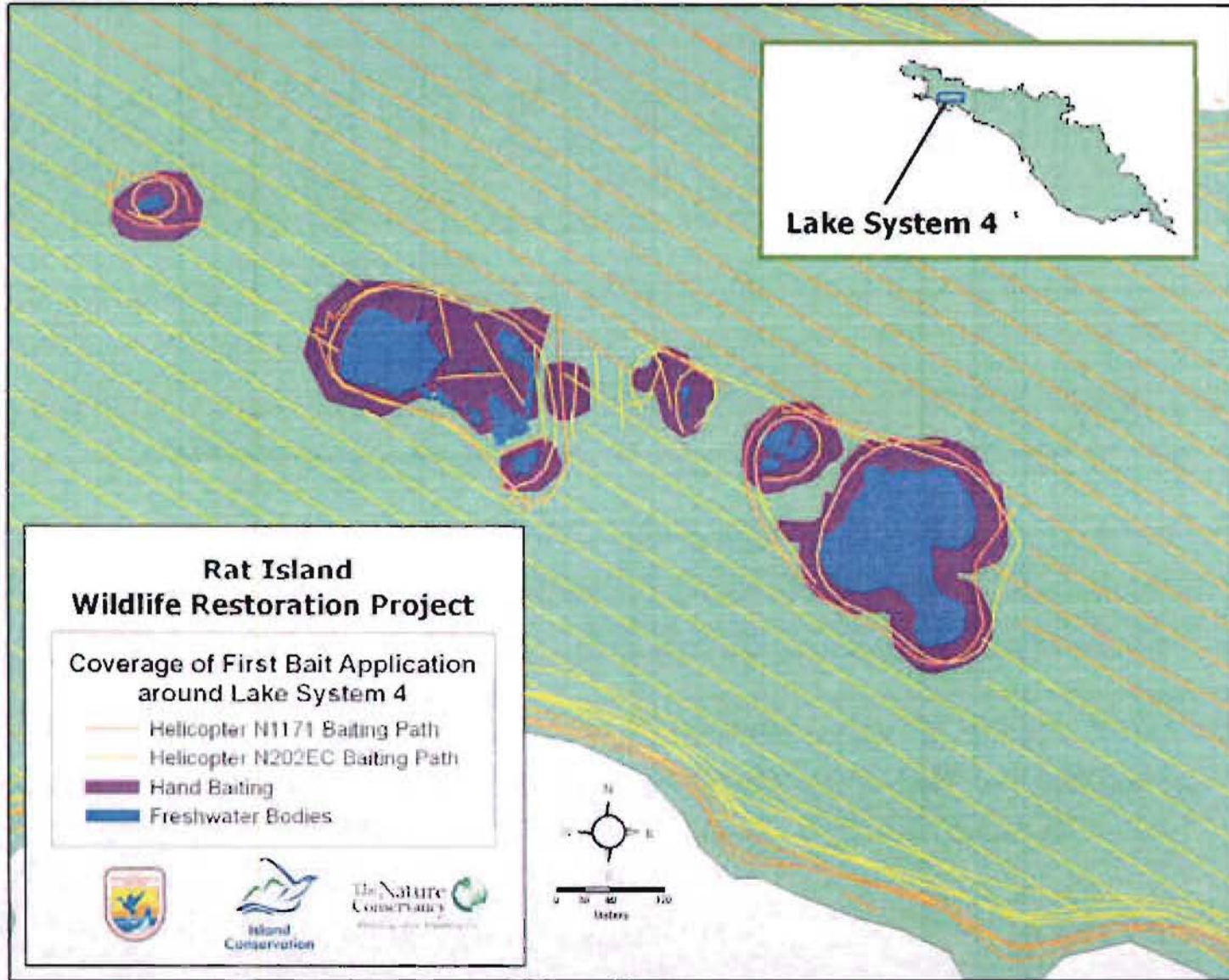
Rat Island Wildlife Restoration Project

Coverage of First Bait Application

- Helicopter N1171 Baiting Path
- Helicopter N202EC Baiting Path
- Freshwater Bodies
- Hand Baited Areas



RC4



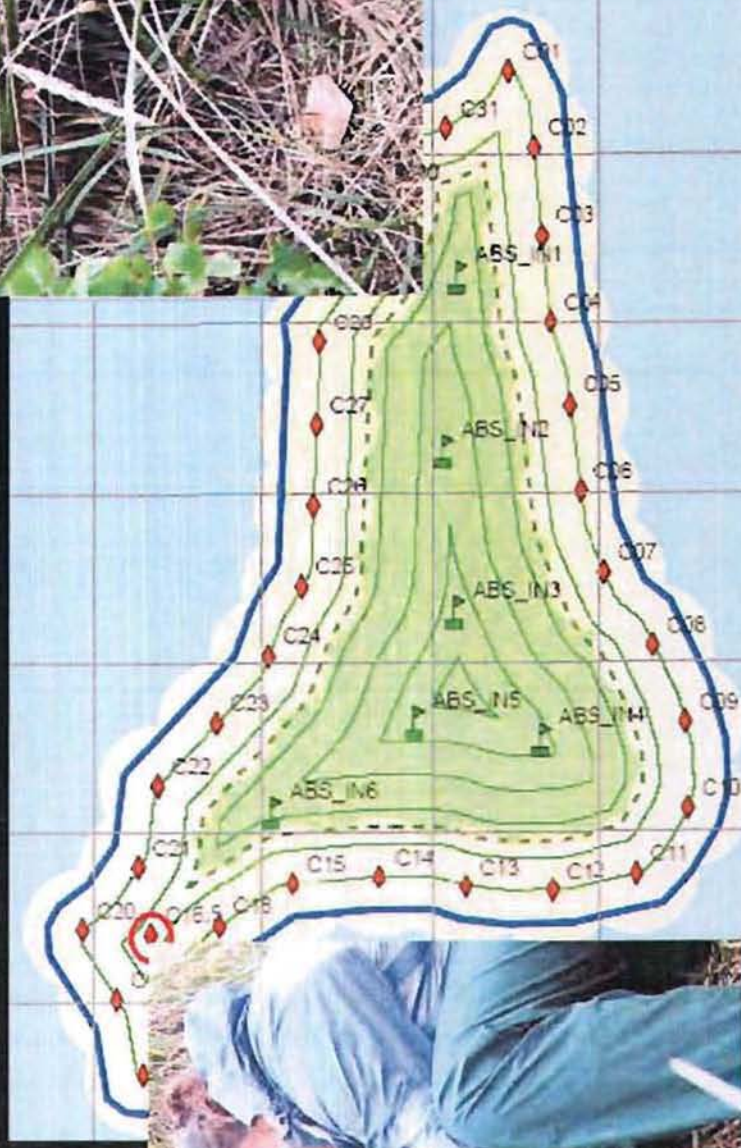
RC 4



7,000 ac treated (twice)
145 bucket loads
2,000 bags of bait
10 ton of gear
11 days on the island

What's up next? Measuring success?

- Rat detection (2009 & 2010)
- Ecological monitoring (avian abundance, non-target, vegetation – next 5 yrs)



Meeting of Representatives of the 4 AC's on 20A Antlerless Reauthorization
Alpine Lodge, Fairbanks AK
January 10, 2009
1:15 pm

Introductions by Randy Rogers.

AC Representatives were Dave Dickey (Middle Nenana), Victor Lord (Minto-Nenana), Mike Tinker (Fairbanks), Don Quarberg (Delta). Alternates present were Tim McManus (Minto-Nenana), Larry Dalrymple (Fairbanks), Dean Cummings (Delta).

Department staff were Don Young, Randy Rogers, Rita St. Louis, David James, Roy Nowlin, Caroline Brown, Steve Dubois, Nate Pamperin.

Jeannie Proulx, and Stu Pechek came from DNR.

Scott Quist came from Enforcement.

Several other members of the Fairbanks AC were present including Debra Waugaman Curnow, Emma Lee Grennan, Bill Larry, Ron Bless, Al Barrette.

Others who signed in were: Gary Lee, Jenifer Yuhas, Jim Hill, Mike Grant, Jim Sampson, Bonni Burnell, Bruce Burnell, Larry Gierke, Valerie Baxter, Katharine Richardson, Rory O'Neal, Dan Greiner, John Giuchici, Shorty Hite, Richard Henderson, John Morak, Will Bovin, Garry Hutchison. Several other folks were present who did not sign in.

Randy Rogers outlined a few "ground rules", then Mike Tinker invited people to tell how things have changed, both for the better and for the worse.

Perspective of 4 Advisory Committees:

Delta:

Don Quarberg mentioned that Delta was skeptical of antlerless hunts, in fact they were opposed to them. Then they learned about the indices that showed over population and degradation of the habitat – such as calving, twinning rates, browse removal, and then we were convinced. We even look for those signs when we are out there. We use primarily zones 5 and 6. Twinning rates dropped in zones 5 and 6. Remember, 50% of the calves born are females and they multiply. If we get too many, there is going to be a crash.

A lot of us did not believe Fish and Game numbers. But remember: We have to make our decisions with the best data available. The Department has the best data available, so we go with that. The antlerless hunt is not a simple "yes/no" issue. The answer is "yes," but the difficulty now is the social issues that come with too many hunters. Now you wear out your ATV before you wear out your boots.

Minto- Nenana:

Victor Lord said that Minto-Nenana people have been having antlerless hunts for generations. We have potlatches. We try to get dry cows. The problem is training the general public on how to identify a dry cow. We need an education process. We believe we can listen to Fish and Game and that we can learn from one another.

Zone 1 is working. We took the hunt away from the highway. If you really want a moose, you

have to get away from the highway. Our answer is “yes” to the antlerless hunt, but he is here to discuss the social issues with so many hunters.

Fairbanks:

Mike Tinker stated that we supported the Intensive Management (IM) actions of the Department and realized it would not be easy to get the numbers reduced with the numbers set by the board of game. The IM statute is designed more to build populations that to reduce them. Our AC is concerned about whether the zones are working (do the boundaries need to be changed) , about access issues – both where there are too many hunters and the accompanying crowding and trespass problems, and where it is hard to get enough hunters. Enforcement issues are really important, and trappers are impacted by really long seasons. We need to hear about all of the seasons and which are or are not working.

Mike's notes also stated that the Fairbanks AC is concerned about the effects of natural predation on the overall moose mortality (percentage taken by wolves, and bears). The IM harvest objective might need to be changed, and buffer zones along major water and trail corridors might need to be implemented. They also wonder whether the number of permits and participants are going up or down.

Middle Nenana:

Dave Dickey said in his area the social issues on the Rex Trail are a real problem. In fact the biggest problems are social issues. The quality of a hunt has been greatly reduced; there are too many hunters in our front yards. There is also a huge problem with the number of people who are doing illegal stuff, and doing it blatantly. There is a severe lack of enforcement and follow-up. We also believe that the habitat should be brought up to the population instead of the population down to the habitat. They very much want other agencies such as DNR involved more.

Some of our people are having a hard time believing what Don Young is telling us. What is seen on the ground is way different that what is seen from the air.

Debra Waugaman Curnow gave a talk about her experience as a new observer on the 2008 moose survey in 20A. She provided an informative handout. She had met with Don last fall, and after a 45 minute briefing, accompanied an experienced pilot, Pat Valkenberg, to count moose in two of the randomly generated grid areas. She showed the flight patterns going east to west then west to east. Whenever they saw a moose, or what they thought was a moose, they circled it to determine, age, and sex, as well as to make sure they were not counting stumps. Habitat types, search conditions, and gps coordinates were also noted. They flew 200 to 300 feet above the ground at 70 miles per hour. Each grid was flown for 45 minutes. She said her experience gave her a greater confidence in the validity of the counting process.

Don Young gave a Power Point presentation to explain why they are taking the approach they are now taking as managers. He gave a historical perspective of the rises and crashes of the moose populations since the 1960's.

He outlined his 4 main goals as follows:

1. Protect population health and habitat

2. Fulfill Intensive Management mandate for elevated yield
3. Maximize hunting opportunity
4. Reduce moose-human conflicts by reducing moose density along roads and Fairbanks vicinity. (reduce road kill)

He estimates the moose densities in various areas of 20A to be less than 1 / square mile in some areas to greater than 8 / square mile in other areas.

The 1994 Intensive Management (IM) population objectives set by the Board of Game is between 10,000 and 12,000 moose in 20A.

Research on nutritional status of this population was started in 1996. It was determined in the late 1990's that the rate of growth of the population together with the declining nutritional status of these moose that the population should be reduced.

Several items have been identified indicators of poor nutritional status in moose.

- The best measure is twinning rates. A 30% twinning rate should be expected in a healthy population. The twinning rate in 20A dropped to less than 10%.
- Browse removal and browse availability
- Low weight of 10 month old calves
- Cows and birthing
 - The percent of cows birthing. For example in a healthy population, one should expect nearly 100% of the 5-year-olds to have a calf. Radio collared cows show 85% productivity rate. (100 cows aged 5-year-old or older will produce 85 calves.)
 - The number of two year old cows that have their first calf . (In 20A it is zero percent.)
 - The number of three year old cows that have their first calf (In 20A that number is approximately 30%)
 - The age of the cows when they have their first set of twins. (In 20A those cows are at least 5 years old.)

Don emphasized that he and the researchers consider not one, but **all of the above items in combination** to determine the health of the population.

Because of the condition of the population, the current population estimates, the current size of the population, and other factors, the Department recommends a harvest of 175 females in the next regulatory year. That is 1.5% of the pre-hunt moose population. This should stabilize the moose population.

People in the audience asked some questions.

Steve Vincent: He noticed a much steeper slope (rate) of decline in the population since 2000. That slope is steeper than the slope of the earlier growing population. How do you prevent such steep slopes?

Other questions/comments:

- If you kill a cow does the calf die?
- If the bull:cow ratio is 37:100, why not kill more bulls?
- How long will it take for browse species to recover?
- Concern was raised about heavily pregnant cows being stressed with such an extended antlerless hunt.
- Is the number of 12,000 to 15,000 moose a stable number? Should it be changed?

Even though 20B was not the subject of this meeting, Don mentioned that the estimates are showing a rising trend, and a need for more harvest.

Scott Quist of the State Troopers gave a short talk on the difficulty of enforcement when calves are off-limits.

He noted the social concerns that surround not wanting to shoot calves. However, based on data he obtained from Rod Boertje, F&G Research biologist, the weights and physical features of a large calf and a small yearling do overlap. (Calf weights range from 400 to 500 pounds, while yearling weights range from 500 to 650 pounds. Furthermore body length is only 13 to 16 inches different.) Therefore hunters, often the moderately inexperienced ones, are taking illegal animals unknowingly.

From an enforcement perspective, the differences between calves and yearlings are not clearly defined, especially when you also factor in field conditions. If an animal is by itself in the field it is more difficult to judge its relative size. You need things to be clear. It is not good to set young hunters up for failure. In 20D lower jaws are turned in to Fish & Game. In 20A Mr. Quist said they have no clue how many were illegally taken because turning in jaws is not required. He used goat hunting as an example. He noted that you cannot tell nanny from billy goats, so the regulations state "a goat."

Other comments he made were that his department prefers clear boundaries such as river banks or gps lines when it comes to enforcing boundaries.

The regulations have to be enforceable and reasonable.

Scott fielded several questions and comments including

- When in doubt, don't shoot.
- Hate to sacrifice just because someone was not willing to wait for a larger animal
- How can we get more enforcement on the Rex Trail?
- Is enforcement different between permit and drawing conditions?
- The penalty has to be big enough to be a disincentive
- The prosecutors have to be willing to prosecute.

Members of the Public Testified.

Valery Baxter stated that the boundaries in all of the zones in 20A are hard to find and too complex. She said she agrees with Sgt. Quist about calf harvest. Calves should be legal. People should be encouraged to hunt without having so many barriers. Solutions she mentioned were registration or drawing hunts. Party hunts so that one could take a cow and the other party member could take the calf.

Rory O'Neal has hunted the Wood River from top to bottom over the last 7-8 years. It is too crowded now. The quality of the hunt is not fun. More restrictions are needed to prevent over crowding. I am willing to work hard and pay to get in. Hunting is a privilege, not an entitlement.

Dan Greiner has hunted since 1965 in flats. He has seen ups and downs. Now there is a severe reduction of cow population especially in accessible area. What is available to hunters is skewed. It used to be when the cow hunt first opened, he could go into a clearing and see 3-4 gut piles. Now he is lucky to see a track in the mud bars. He believes the data misrepresents the number available to hunters.

He would like to see the AC's push for more burns and habitat enhancement. Winter hunters should be encouraged to hunt away from the general season access corridors. One of the solutions to not having enough enforcement and in having prosecutors who refuse to prosecute is to contact your legislators. They are the ones to get funds for the troopers. The troopers can only do what their budget allows them to do.

John Giuchici stated the bull:cow ratio of 37:100 is too high and some of the harvest should be those extra 7 bulls (to attain the recommended 30:100 ratio). Taking those bulls would take away animals that are eating the browse and still leave the females in case there is a bad winter and we need more calves.

There are no bulls in some of the units because there are no cows to attract them.

He is opposed to killing cows that have calves. The calves come to stand by the dead cow, or near where she was shot. If cow has had calf, she is not carrying fat, to disregard that it is insane. Taking barren cows has worked for many years. You get three-times the meat if you wait for a calf to grow up. He is opposed to killing calves.

Bonni Burnell has lived in the Wood River area for many years. There are no more moose left. Sub units are good. The regulations are complicated but they work. She is against cow hunts. If you are killing cows, you are killing calves. It's been a slaughter at our house. It is easy to decrease moose populations, but very hard to increase them. She is seeing this first hand. The population objectives have been met.

Larry Dalrymple stated he has hunted in 20A for 35 years. He has property on the Wood River. He has talked to other property owners; he spends a lot of time out there, practically the entire month of September; he has trail cameras. He has seen a drastic reduction in the populations of both resident and migratory moose since 2004. Now he is lucky if he sees one moose every 4 or 5 days. Antlerless hunts should be targeted to the higher population areas; winter hunts would be a good tool for this. He advocates no hunting in zone 2 in the flats. Zone 5 is where the harvest should be. The muzzle loader hunt is a good thing in that it provides other opportunity. However, zone 4 gets slammed. It is crazy in November. You see 10-12 snow machines a day. Trap lines are being run over. We need to be creative. Perhaps the muzzleloader hunt should be moved into 20B. Also, he recommends looking at a drawing permit hunt instead of a registration hunt.

Dean Cummings said antler restrictions are not necessary in zones 5 and 6.

Allen Barrette suggested starting slow with any bull permit. For example Sept 1-15, no antler restrictions, then antler restrictions from Sept 15-25. As a trapper, he hates to have efforts to

maintain a nice trap line go to waste. Trappers want to catch wolves, but they cannot do that efficiently with so many moose hunters running around. Any late season held before April conflicts with trappers.

Emma Lee Grennan said that with the high bull:cow ratio that we need to utilize the any bull option. In the last ten years it has gone from 23 to 37 per hundred cows.

Steve Vincent suggested buffers of 2 to 3 miles along the rivers and roads. The cows are scarce along those areas. Also there is a real safety problem with so many boats and other vehicles.

Unknown member of the public wanted to know what the 20a harvest was since he was out there for 3 weeks and saw no one—and saw only one cow moose.

Bill Larry is opposed to calf hunts. He would like antlerless hunts to take place before the bulls lose their antlers, because too many trophy bulls are killed. If the season is extended to December, he would like a cow-only season. He likes the buffer around Koole Lake in Zone 5.

Debby Curnow said as a property owner, she feels the need to tell the public to be more aware of boundaries, and trespass. Now because of so many people running around, she and her family lock their cabins for the first time ever.

Victor Lord said there is a lot of corporation land along the Wood River. It is nearly impossible to enforce no trespassing. It is fairly well known that it is all Native land, they publish maps and notices in the newspapers, post signs and have maps available. People need to ask about land ownership before they go out hunting.

Deliberation:

Don was asked about harvest this year: 400 bulls in general hunt, 140 in the any bull permit hunt, and 27 in the late muzzleloader season for a total of 568 bulls. The harvest rate is approximately 4% of the pre hunt population.

Don said the Department would recommend “up to” 1000 any bull permits, to increase the harvest to approximately 200 animals.

Mike T. commented that less than one half of the minimum harvest objective was met. Partly this is because IM law was designed to build a population and not to reduce it.

Don was asked what his recommendations would be regarding number of antlerless moose to be taken. At this point he thought around 175 with at least some from every zone. This would stabilize the population and not compromise the bull:cow ratio.

Other comments/suggestions were as follows:

- Perhaps we should strive to adjust for **compressing the seasons**.
- Victor commented that **taking cows in January is good. If you wait too long then the females are getting poorer.**
- Another option put forth was to have a **drawing permit**. If harvest objectives are not met, **then a registration hunt** could be opened. The drawing hunt could be concurrent

with the general season. This option was discussed extensively. The main concern was reaching the quota in certain zones.

- A block of time to **avoid the trapping season** is important.
- Perhaps **increasing any bull permit** could get the population where you want it.
- Concern was expressed that the drawing permits should not be spread evenly over the zones because some zones are already short of cows
- **Establish corridors along rivers and trails, especially Rex trail.** Numbers from one mile to five miles were mentioned. Also have corridors during the busy times, but not during others. Don Young commented that if corridors were along the Tanana, that the whole river should be included. Having blocks here and there is too confusing and is an enforcement nightmare.
- A question arose, if you meet your quota, can you close the hunt. The answer was yes, the Department has that authority.
- Allen Barrette asked if the quotas are not met, could the season be in April or May instead of during trapping season? Mike Tinker responded that there is too much stress on the pregnant cows. He was not concerned about the pregnant cow that would be shot, but the pregnant cows in the field being chased around.
- One **problem with having a drawing hunt**, especially in several zones, is that the regulations state **a person can apply for only three drawing hunts.**

Changing zone boundaries was discussed. The **main agreement was to keep the zones as they are** at least for now. People are getting used to them. Some people wanted buffers, some wanted things left as they are now.

Mike Tinker commented that perhaps the harvest objective of 1400 to 1600 should be lowered. The maximum ever harvested since that objective was set was 1100.

Dean Cummings said a percent should be used instead of a specific number.

Don Quarberg said the harvest objective should be driven by the indices that tell of the health of the population. He also said that harvest should be a percent of the population.

Mike Tinker said that people's harvest accounts for only 15% of the mortality. Predators and other natural causes make up the other 85% of mortality. 4500 to 5000 animals die each year by some cause.

When asked about the participation in the antlerless hunt, Don Y. commented that the antlerless hunting has declined.

The committee talked about the definition of "antlerless" as it pertains to hunting. There was a lively discussion; it included some of the following points.

- The Board of Game rescinded the statewide moratorium on calves. From a biological and enforcement point of view, taking any antlerless moose (including bull calves) makes sense.
- Several people encouraged taking barren cows.
- Distinguishing calves from yearlings is difficult to impossible in some cases.

- If calves are allowed, several people said it is hard to get people to agree to the hunt.
- Other folks were opposed to taking cows accompanied by calves because the orphaned calves will surely be taken by predators.

FLIP CHART NOTES

Management issues:

- Social Issues, quality of the hunt
- People skeptical of data
- Crowding near Nenana
- Difficulty in coming down to IM population objectives
- Boundaries of zones
- Trail issues
- General season / special season
- Trespass
- Enforcement – lack of staff
- Social issues on Rex Trail
- Bring habitat capacity up to support a larger moose population
- People's disbelief that habitat is being impacted
- Need to teach people how you tell a barren cow from other cows
- Difficulty distinguishing calves from yearlings – pertaining to antlerless moose enforcement
- Hunt zones / bag limits very complex
- Severe reduction of moose in accessible areas
- Bull:cow ratios and antler restrictions
- Orphaned calves
- Muzzleloader hunt near Gold King – large take in the area
- Impacts to trappers from winter hunts
- Establish corridors of no cow hunts on navigable waters
- Better information on location of private property

Points that the Members spoke about and agreed to take back to the AC's:

- Drawing for antlerless permits during the general season. Issue registration permits in January
- Balance fall/winter harvest in each zone based on access
- Keep present zone boundaries, including sub zones, and see how it goes with lower numbers
- No new buffers. Eliminate current buffer in zone 2B
- The target number of harvest of antlerless moose. 175 is proposed number
- Discuss the definition of "antlerless"
 - keep as is now
 - change to any antlerless moose
 - encourage not taking cows with calves

Other points that members spoke of, but not necessarily have to resolve right now with their AC's:

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- Should there be buffer zones, if so where?
- Should the IM harvest objective be changed?
- Should nutritional indices be used as objectives rather than single population and harvest numbers?
- Should there be some type of predator control plan?
- "Any bull" permits. Issue up to 1000 permits with the goal of harvesting 200.

RC6



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/OSM/9022/CA

FEB 17 2009

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chair
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The Alaska Board of Game is scheduled to meet February 27 – March 9, 2009, to deliberate proposals concerning changes to regulations governing hunting and trapping of wildlife for the Southcentral and Southwest Regions. We have reviewed the 247 proposals the Board will be considering at this meeting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, working with other Federal agencies, has developed preliminary recommendations on those proposals that have potential impacts on both Federal Subsistence users and wildlife resources. Our comments are enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with your Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on these issues. Please contact Chuck Ardizzone, Wildlife Liaison, 907-786-3871, with any questions you may have concerning this material.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Probasco,
Assistant Regional Director

cc: Denby Lloyd, ADF&G
Mike Fleagle, Chair, FSB
Kristy Tibbles, Board Support Section
Tina Cuning, ADF&G
Nancy V. Hendrickson, ADF&G
Interagency Staff Committee
Chuck Ardizzone, OSM

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RECOMMENDATIONS

On

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS

Southcentral and Southwest Regions

February 27 – March 9, 2009

Anchorage, Alaska

Submitted by

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management

Proposal 53—5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Close the season for the Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd in Unit 9D.

Current Federal Regulation:

Caribou

<i>Unit 9D</i>	<i>Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou.</i>	<i>No Federal open season</i>
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Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, was addressed in May 2008.

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: Federal regulations already have a closed season for caribou in Unit 9D (effective in July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010 Subsistence Management Regulations).

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **support** the proposal.

Rationale: Closing the hunting season is required for the conservation and recovery of the herd. Federally qualified subsistence users will benefit in the long term if/when the population recovers.

Proposal 54—5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Close resident and nonresident hunting for caribou on Unimak Island.

Current Federal Regulation:

Caribou

<i>Unit 10 –Unimak Island only</i>	<i>2 caribou by Federal registration permit only</i>	<i>Aug. 1–Sept. 30</i>
------------------------------------	--	------------------------

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: Adoption of this proposal would eliminate resident and nonresident hunting for caribou on Unimak Island. If resident and nonresident seasons are closed as proposed, Federally qualified subsistence users would have additional opportunity to harvest caribou with less competition from nonresident hunters. Adoption of the proposed regulatory change would be beneficial for the resource by reducing harvest of a declining population.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **support** the proposal.

Rationale: Closing the State seasons will be beneficial for the resource by reducing harvest of a declining population.

Proposal 57—5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Close the nonresident hunting season for Mulchatna Caribou for nonresidents in Units 9, 17, 18, and 19.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No, but the Federal Subsistence Board made significant regulatory changes regarding this herd at its May 2007 meeting. At that time, the Federal Subsistence Board reduced the harvest limit for the Mulchatna herd on Federal public lands from five caribou to three caribou, changed the fall harvest limit to either bulls or cows to reduce the bull harvest, and allowed no more than one caribou to be harvested prior to Nov. 30. Public comments and testimony from Federal Subsistence Regional

Advisory Councils and representatives of resource users supported these harvest reductions and a closure of the nonresident season.

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: If the nonresident seasons are closed as proposed, Federally qualified subsistence users would have additional opportunity to harvest caribou with less competition from nonresident hunters. Adoption of the proposed regulatory change would be beneficial for the resource by reducing harvest of a declining population.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **support** the proposal.

Rationale: Because it is generally recognized that nonresident hunters primarily target large bulls from the herd which currently has a low bull:cow ratio, elimination of the nonresident caribou seasons within the Mulchatna Caribou Herd's range is important for the conservation and continued benefit of this resource. A delay in the requested regulatory action could be detrimental to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the availability of Mulchatna caribou for subsistence users. Retention of the large bull caribou, which are generally targeted by nonresident hunters, should help to facilitate herd growth.

Rural residents who use Mulchatna caribou and resource managers are concerned about the declining caribou population. The ADF&G has documented a 62% decline in caribou harvest that occurred between 1999 and 2004. The reported harvest during the 2005-06 season for resident and nonresident hunters totaled 1,991 caribou. Current harvest data for the 2006-07 regulatory year indicate that harvest remains at about this level. Rural Alaskan residents must compete with other user groups during this period of substantive decline in Mulchatna caribou.

Proposal 58—5 AAC 85.045. **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the moose bag limit during the winter season in Unit 9 to one antlered bull.

Current Federal Regulation:

Moose

<i>Unit 9A</i>	<i>1 bull</i>	<i>Sept. 1-Sept. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9B</i>	<i>1 bull</i>	<i>Aug. 20-Sept. 15 Dec. 1-Jan. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9C, that portion draining into the Naknek River from the north</i>	<i>1 bull</i>	<i>Sept. 1-Sept. 15 Dec. 1-Dec. 31</i>
<i>Unit 9C, that portion draining into the Naknek River from the south</i>	<i>1 bull by Federal registration permit only. Federal public lands are closed during Dec. for the hunting of moose, except by rural Alaska residents of Units 9A, 9B, 9C, and 9E, hunting under these regulations.</i>	<i>Aug. 20-Sept. 15 Dec. 1-Dec. 31</i>
<i>Unit 9C remainder</i>	<i>1 bull</i>	<i>Sept. 1-Sept. 15 Dec. 15-Jan. 15</i>
<i>Unit 9D</i>	<i>1 bull by Federal registration permit.</i>	<i>Dec. 15-Jan. 20</i>

Federal public lands will be closed to the

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with a State harvest ticket.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: This proposal would provide Federal subsistence users harvesting under a State registration permit during the Dec. 1- Dec. 31 hunt with a greater geographic area within which to hunt. The larger area would include Federal public lands that are the eastern extent of Togiak National Wildlife Refuge lands (west of Dillingham). There may be increased harvest during the winter hunt since a new area would be opened up. The extent of harvest will largely depend on access. Moose have expanded into the western areas of Unit 17C, and the population is now at a level that can support additional hunting opportunity through a winter registration hunt. If this proposal is adopted, the State registration permit would be for 1 antlered bull, while Federal subsistence regulations currently designate a harvest limit of 1 bull.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **Support** the proposal.

Rationale: If the Board supports this proposal, the geographic descriptions for hunt areas in Units 17B and 17C would differ between the State and Federal regulations and could cause some uncertainty as Federally qualified subsistence users are required to harvest with a State registration permit during the winter hunt. Note: if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions of winter hunt areas to correspond. In this case, concurrence in descriptions of hunt areas is particularly relevant since Federally qualified subsistence users harvest in certain areas under Federal regulation, but use a State registration permit.

Proposal 96—5 AAC 99.010. Board of Fisheries and Game subsistence procedures: By regulation, the Board of Game identifies game populations, or portions of game populations, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence. The Unit 13 moose population has been thus identified. Once a positive finding has been made, as it has in Unit 13, the Board determines the “amount necessary for subsistence” (ANS). That is, “the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence users.” In Unit 13, the ANS for moose was set at 600 in 1992.

Current Federal Regulation: *Federal regulations do not include ANS findings.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: Federal regulations do not include ANS findings. However, obtaining and using accurate harvest numbers contributes to sound conservation and management of resources, which benefits all users.

Proposal 132—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open spring and fall seasons for brown bear in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

For Units 7 and 15, have a brown bear spring and fall hunting season.

Spring season: March 15 to June 15.

Fall season: August 15 to November 15.

One brown bear by drawing permit only; a minimum of 50 permits to a maximum of 100 permits will be issued.

Current Federal Regulation:

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Brown bear

Unit 7 *No Federal subsistence priority.*

Unit 15C *1 bear every four years by Federal registration permit. The season may be opened or closed by announcement of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge manager in consultation with ADF&G and the chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.* Oct. 1–Nov. 30
Season to be announced
Apr. 1–June 15
Season to be announced

Unit 15 *No Federal subsistence priority.*
remainder

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: A Federal subsistence priority for hunting brown bear is in place in Unit 15C, but nowhere else in Units 7 or 15. This proposal would create State spring and fall seasons that are a month longer than the Federal season in 15C. Longer seasons and an increase in the number of permits issued could create fewer opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest brown bear.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: Without an accurate estimate of the brown bear population in Units 7 and 15, it is difficult to support any additional harvest of brown bears as this could cause a conservation concern for the population. Additionally any increase in brown bear harvest could adversely affect Federally qualified subsistence users by limiting their subsistence opportunity.

Proposal 133—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Amend this regulation to provide the following: The hunting of brown bear will be by a drawing permit with a harvest of up to 20 reproductive females in Units 7 and 15. Immature females are not to be counted as part of the 20.

Current Federal Regulation:

Brown bear

Unit 7 *No Federal subsistence priority.*

Unit 15C *1 bear every four years by Federal registration permit. The season may be opened or closed by announcement of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge manager in consultation with ADF&G and the chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.* Oct. 1–Nov. 30
Season to be announced
Apr. 1–June 15
Season to be announced

Unit 15 *No Federal subsistence priority.*
remainder

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: A Federal subsistence priority for hunting brown bear is in place in Unit 15C, but nowhere else in Units 7 or 15. This proposal would increase the number of reproductive brown bear females harvested and could adversely affect Federal subsistence harvest opportunity to hunt brown bears in Unit 15C.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: Without an accurate estimate of the brown bear population in Units 7 and 15, it is difficult to support any additional harvest of reproductive females as this could cause a conservation concern for the brown bear population. Harvesting of females could also adversely affect Federally qualified subsistence users by limiting their subsistence opportunity.

Proposal 134—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the brown bear season dates for Units 7 and 15 as follows: Units 7 and 15: The brown bear hunting season is August 20 to September 20. This is a drawing permit hunt.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.
Rationale: Refer to OSM comments for **Proposal 132**.

Proposal 136—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the brown bear season dates for Units 7 and 15 as follows: Increase the threshold for non-hunting human caused brown bear mortality on the Kenai Peninsula. Allow the fall Kenai Peninsula brown bear hunts to proceed one month earlier. Request the Department of Fish and Game to eliminate the “species of special concern” designation for Kenai Brown bears.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.
Rationale: Refer to OSM comments for **Proposal 132**.

Proposal 137—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Alter the brown bear hunt in Units 7 and 15 as follows: Kenai Peninsula: Open season, August 20 – June 15; one bear per year; over bait April 15 – June 15

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.
Rationale: Refer to OSM comments for **Proposal 132**.

Proposal 138—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the dated for taking brown bear in Unit 15 as follows: Brown bear season in Unit 15: March 1 – April 15 and/or November 1 – December 15.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.
Rationale: Refer to OSM comments for **Proposal 132**.

Proposal 140—5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a general hunt for brown bear in Unit 15 as follows: Open season for brown bears in Unit 15 to harvest bag limit of one brown bear every four years with the season beginning October 1 through November 30.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.
Rationale: Refer to OSM comments for **Proposal 132**.

Proposal 162—5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Create an archery only hunt for elk in Unit 8, for all of Afognak Island from September 1-25.

Current Federal Regulation:

*Elk**Unit 8*

Kodiak, Ban, Uganik, and Afognak Islands – 1 elk per household by Federal registration permit only. The season will be closed by announcement of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager, when the combined Federal-State harvest reaches 15% of the herd.

Sept. 15–Nov. 30

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: Federally qualified subsistence users presently have a season that begins 10 days earlier than the current State season. The State elk season is Sept. 25 – Oct. 22. The proposed archery season would begin two weeks earlier than the Federal subsistence season. This earlier season could lead to reduced opportunities for Federal subsistence users.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **oppose** the proposal.

Rationale: If adopted, this proposal would allow a State archery hunt for two weeks prior to the start of the Federal season. Any harvest prior to the start of the Federal season would count toward the 15% quota and could lead to reduced harvest opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users. Additionally this season could cause increased competition between September 15-25 when the Federal and proposed State season would overlap.

Proposal 230—5 AAC 92.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations: Revise the Amount Necessary for subsistence in Unit 18.

Current Federal Regulation: *Federal regulations do not include ANS findings.*

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: If the Unit 18 ANS finding for moose is not revised to reflect the moose harvest needed for Unit 18 communities, it will be difficult to determine if “local and non-local” harvest for moose in Unit 18 are sustainable – especially during periods of declining and low moose populations and during periods of decline of other subsistence resources. Unit 18 hunters also hunt in the neighboring Units of 17, 19 and 21E. Even with some effort distributed to other units, hunting in some areas within Unit 18 is fairly competitive. Thus the existing ANS finding cannot be used for sound conservation management when the harvestable supply and demand of Unit 18 moose must be evaluated.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: Federal regulations do not include ANS findings. However, obtaining and using accurate harvest numbers contributes to sound conservation and management of resources, which benefits all users.

Proposal 246—5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require black bear harvest tickets in any unit where black bear sealing is required.

Current Federal Regulation: Subsistence hunters are required to possess and comply with the provisions of any permits, tags or harvest tickets required by the State, unless superseded by Federal Regulations.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: Federally qualified users would have to obtain a black bear harvest ticket.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is to **Support** the proposal.

Rationale: OSM supports the intent of the proposal, which is to gather data on hunter effort, resident versus nonresident effort and knowledge of hunting patterns by black bear hunters.

Proposal 247—5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a fall moose season in the area currently known as the Kuskokwim Closed area.

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 18, that portion east of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake, then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and north of (and including) the Eek River drainage. Federal public lands are closed to the hunting of moose by all users.

No Federal open season

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? No

Impact to Federal subsistence users/wildlife: Federally qualified users would have an opportunity to harvest moose on State lands.

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM recommendation is **neutral** on the proposal.

Rationale: The Federal Subsistence Board mirrored the Alaska Board of Game Kuskokwim Closed Area in Federal Regulation beginning in 2004. The closure was implemented to allow the moose population to grow so hunting opportunity would be better in the future. The area was originally closed for a 5 year period (which ends this year). During this time, the moose population has increased to approximately 1000 animals. While neutral on this proposal, OSM supports working with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and users of the resource to establish a moose management plan for the area. OSM also supports working cooperatively with Alaska Department of Fish and Game to open both State and Federal seasons incrementally as to not cause any conservation concerns.

RC7

P.O. Box 2994
Homer, AK 99603

February 20, 2009

^{Fisheries}
Board of ~~Game~~ Comments
Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Board of Game Members:

We very strongly support **Proposal 366**, THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PORTIONS OF PETERSON AND CHINA POOT BAYS TO SHELLFISH HARVEST TO SUSTAIN EDUCATIONAL USE.

The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies proposal to the Board of Fisheries makes very good sense for many reasons.

First, CACS contributes greatly to marine education. They have been one of the best organizations that hosts school children from all over the state at their field station in Peterson Bay. The proposed beach closure area is their classroom. This section of beach already sustains a lot of impact just from educational uses. It should not have to sustain additional pressure from the public harvesting the animals living there as well. Traditionally, because of access difficulty, this beach did not previously see much harvest by the general public. Changes from erosion have made it more accessible and it is now suffering from too much human use.

Clearly, there is a precedent for closing this beach. Seward closed some of theirs because of over harvest. Some of that use has no doubt migrated to Homer. Many beaches in the Homer area are being over harvested but nothing has been done to address this problem. Because of the importance of this area to educational programs and the increased use, this beach needs to be closed now before all the octopus, chitons, clams, and other marine invertebrates are gone.

While some may say that all of Kachemak Bay is open to educational use and harvest, it is important to think about a trend around the country that is significantly improving marine life abundance, and that is the establishment of marine sanctuaries. This area could be considered a mini intertidal sanctuary that will be carefully managed by CACS. The education that CACS does with students and tourists is very important in teaching people proper behavior when tidepooling. A great deal of damage can be done by large groups visiting intertidal areas if they are not following the carefully designed tidepool etiquette taught by CACS. Because of potential damage to intertidal life, it is much better to encourage school groups to come and work with an

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educational non-profit like CACS than to have them just off on their own impacting who knows what intertidal area.

Establishing this educational closure makes good stewardship sense. It will ensure that generations of students will have one of the most incredibly diverse intertidal areas readily accessible through programs presented by a well-established, credible non-profit that has demonstrated remarkable stewardship and leadership in the Kachemak Bay area. Truly it is time to set aside an area where the increasingly difficult to find animals like octopus are protected and will thereby be available to delight and educate the hundreds of students and visitors who come each summer to learn about our rich intertidal life. Please support this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

Nina Faust

Edgar Bailey

Edgar Bailey

RCS

Upper Tanana/40 mile advisory meeting 2/12/09

Present: Mike Cronk, Terry Brigner, Leif Wilson, Aaron Atchley, Danny Grangaard, Patricia Young, Lyle Cronk

Others present: Pat Valkenburg, Roy Nowlin, Jeff Gross

Pat Valkenburg giving a report and how the state wants improvement in the intensive management programs across the state.

Set of recommendations that they took to Gov. office.

He presented us with the departments recommendations on intensive management programs across the state.

If BOG denies same day airborne of the bear program, withdraw bear proposal.

UT40 AC recommends modifying #.2 in prop 237, to allow use of foot snares. AC recommends adopting prop 237 with this modification. IF BOG does not adopt 237 as modified the AC recommends suspending the bear control program and adopting ADF&G preferred option for predator control in the UYTPCA (Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Area.)

RC9

**Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
Kawerak Board Room, Nome, February 12, 2009**

AC Members Present

At Meeting Site: Roy Ashenfelter (Nome), Adem Boeckman (Nome), Charlie Lean (Nome), Chuck Okbaak (Teller), Nate Perkins (Nome), Mike Quinn (Nome), Raymond Seetot (Wales) Dan Stang (Nome)

Via Teleconference: Jack Faegerstrom (Golovin), Tom Grey (White Mountain), Charles Saccheus (Elim)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Susan Bucknell, Tony Gorn, Lettie Hughes, Jim Magdanz

National Park Service

Ken Adkisson, Marci Johnson

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Mike Wade

Public

Austin Ahmasuk (Nome Eskimo Community), Kevin Keith (NSEDG) Jack Omelak (Kawerak), Tim Smith (Nome)

Proposal 227 Passed 12/0

Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption

NNSAC had few comments, mainly that there's an abundance or overabundance of bears, and if there's a tag fee, people would be less likely to take them.

Proposal 231 Passed 12/0

Reauthorize Antlerless Moose Seasons, 22C and 22D Remainder

People saw this as one tool in the management toolbox. It gives the department the option to open an antlerless moose season. The AC can request an emergency closure if they see the need. Because of the high cow to bull ratio, in 22C in particular, it's foolish to take the quota only from the bull population.

Proposal 244 Failed 0/12

Full Metal Jacket

There was discussion of different bullet types and exactly what's included under full metal jacket. Barnes-X has a tiny hole in the front, so maybe that's not full metal jacket.

Comments included:

-There's a lot of full metal jacket in the villages; it's cheap.

-Shoot a caribou in the head with .223 full metal jacket and it falls down.

One local hunter said he's totally opposed because .223 full metal jacket is fully effective. He has shot moose with .223 full metal jacket, and they drop in their tracks.

RC10

Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Teleconference Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 11:00 am

Committee co-chair Milton Cheemuk called meeting to order about 11:25.

Online, AC members Frank Kavairlook (Koyuk), Leonard Kobuk, Milton Cheemuk (St. Michael), Dwayne Johnson, Clarence Towarak and Paul Johnson (Unalakleet). No one from Shaktoolik. Peter Martin Sr. joined later as alternate from Stebbins.

DFG staff: Brendan Scanlon, Scott Kent, Letty Hughes, Tony Gorn, Susan Bucknell

NPS: Ken Adkisson NSEDC: Wes Jones

Wildlife: Letty Hughes is the new Assistant Area biologist for DFG, Wildlife Conservation. She moved to Nome from Bethel, in June.

Proposal 227: Passed 7/0

Reauthorize The Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption. Letty introduces the proposal. The committee quickly voted unanimously in favor.

Proposal 244: Failed 0/7 and further, that if the Board of Game does ban full metal jacket bullets, Southern Norton Sound should be excluded from that ban.

Leonard said he's always used full metal jacket (fmj) for caribou or moose. He tries to shoot in the head or neck, but if you accidentally hit elsewhere, it goes right through and doesn't wreck a lot of meat. Why ban this ammo?

Letty responded that it's about the wounding of game.

Paul asked if the Department has numbers; how big a problem is it here? Is it a problem with caribou? He understands the potential for wounding.

Letty said the department may have numbers for Southeast, but not for here.

Paul said it's a matter of knowing how to use the ammunition. He said if people are comfortable with their ammo, know how to use it and what it can do, he doesn't want to interfere.

Leonard said soft bullets make a mess. He tries to do neck or head shots. If you shoot something and think you hit it, it's common sense to go after it. He knows some people abuse hunting, but he doesn't want to vote to limit ammo.

Paul said that predators are more of a problem than fmj.

244 Dwayne moves and Leonard seconds to not support 244. A friendly amendment added, that if the Board of Game does ban full metal jacket bullets, Southern Norton Sound should be excluded from that ban. Unanimous support for the motion and rejection of the proposal.

RC 11

**Minutes of Middle Nenana AC meeting
January 19, 2009 6:00 p.m.
Healy School, Healy Alaska**

Here's what we came up with to take back to the next joint AC Meeting. All these votes were unanimous.

* Keep Antlerless Definition as is.

I brought this back up to make sure that everybody was still OK with this. I think people didn't care about the enforcement issue, we would rather try and protect the calves as this is a very emotional issue and we would rather not have another issue to try and deal with or sell to the public.

*We Voted in support of 175 antlerless permits.

This was one of the areas we had questions. How will the permits be allocated the way we recommended the hunt.

*Any Bull Permits. We voted to keep the number of anybull permits @ 750. There were comments from the public and the committee that was against raising the number to 1000. It was brought up that last year the weather was pretty wet and generally bad. If we get a good dry year and good hunting conditions we feel that we can get the 200 harvest objective with the 750 permits. We don't like the trend of going with permits to hunt bulls in 20A. We need to watch this for a few more years and track the success ratio during some years with good hunting weather, watch it and connect the dots to see if the trend, or ratio, changes.

*Antlerless Hunt Zones. Keep them the same as last year. Do not open Zones 3 or 4A. Deleting the buffer Zone along zone 2 wasn't a problem we will support Fairbanks on whatever they want to do there. We did have some discussion on opening up Zone 2A. We did not take an official stand on that. We felt if that is something Fairbanks wants to do we had no problem with it. We would support whatever they wanted to do there. This is an area we had questions as to allocation of permits for the zones we recommended for the hunt. Bonnie and Bruce Burnell and Brent Keith suggested that we ask for 10 permits for Zone 4B since we voted to close 4A and it's about 1/3 of the total size of Zone 4.

*Antlerless Hunt and Season. We voted to support a Drawing Permit Hunt, to limit it to the General Season and then reopen it for the Month of January. The same drawing permits would be valid for the second season if the permit winner was not successful during the General Season. There would be no registration permits available for the second season. Drawing permit winners would be limited to taking an antlerless moose only, they would not be eligible to hunt Bulls if they received an antlerless drawing permit. We did not discuss what would happen if they put in for an antlerless hunt and an any bull permit and won both. We can bring that up at the next meeting and amend this recommendation. I suspect they would have to forfeit one or the other. We feel this will deal with the social issues and is very conservative, yet still allows for the harvest of antlerless moose.

Rs/ Bruce Carter

RC 12

Fax Cover Sheet

Northway Medical Laboratory, Inc.

991 North Hermon Road

Suite 400

Inside Hunter Plaza

Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone Number-907-357-2993

Fax Number-907-357-2953

Send to: AK Depart of Fish & Game	From: Billy & Pauline Bullard
Attention: BOAID Support Section	Date: 2-23-2009
Office location: Anchorage	Location: Wasilla, AK
Fax Number: 907-465-6094	Phone Number: 907-357-2993

Total Pages including cover: 3

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Comments: TO ADEG:
Hunting seasons and BAG limits FOR MOOSE.

Final Results: _____ Partial Results: _____

Confidentially Statement:

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23 Feb 09

RC 12

To ADFG:

PROPOSAL 99-5AAC85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

We believe that the ADFG should retain current resident rule of 50 inch or 4 brow tines in Unit 13. We hunt the area consistently every year and have seen the bull population grow since this rule was implemented. However, we also believe that there are not enough moose to support Nonresident hunters and that a-lot of this is due to predator control. Lack of new born calves has led us to believe that predators are the most likely the cause. Please keep in mind that this is over a 35 year period of hunting Units 13e and 13b and observing the moose population in those areas. We have been taking grizzly as frequently as possible to help with predator control. When the 50 inch or 4 brow tine rule was implemented we did not originally agree with it. But after watching how well the rule has helped with bull population we now understand that it was needed. We don't believe the rule should ever be removed and that more focus should be placed on predator control. There are still not enough moose in the area to support nonresident hunters and we believe the bull population will decline again due to predators killing calves. Our means of transportation has been primarily airboats but have also flown the are with super cubs. It is our guess that there is roughly 1/3 the moose population in the spring time than there used to be. We used to see more cows than bulls but at this point we are seeing about an equal amount of cows and bulls but still no calves.

PROPOSAL 79-5ACC85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears.

We support this proposal and completely agree that there is a huge reduction in calves every year. In all honesty, in average, we cover a ten mile radius and travel from middle fork to west fork on the upper Susitna River. There has not been a spot that we haven't stopped and not seen grizzly tracks. There is a huge growth of grizzlies in the area and apparently wolves too, although we seldom see the wolves with our eyes but hear them at night when they have made kills.

PROPOSAL 112-5ACC85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

We don't believe that there should be a bag limit on how many wolves a hunter can take. A hunter will not have time to shoot all of the wolves out of one pack and we don't believe that wolves are in any danger of under population in Unit 13. We doubt that there has been very many wolves taken by rifle and probably have been more likely to been taken by trappers and or aerial wolf hunters when allowed. This is based on the fact that we very seldom run into wolves while on foot hunting moose and even grizzly.

Our biggest fear is that Unit 13 will be opened up to nonresident hunters and wipe out our area we enjoy hunting so much each season. Resident hunters should always come first and guides have hit other areas too hard over the years. We have been here for the long haul and a-lot of guides have not. Keep in mind that this is coming from a registered guides perspective. Alaska resident hunters should have certain areas that they don't have to compete with the commercial guides. These guides will be able to set camps well before we can get out to our favorite hunting area to enjoy the privilege of living and hunting in Alaska.

*Billy F Bullard
Paulino & Bullard*

RC 13

2-16-09

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section

PO Box 115526
Juneau AK 99811

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2009
BOARDS

DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING TO SAY
THAT I AM IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSAL #28.

THESE PRECIOUS AND RARE
RESOURCES NEED TO BE PROTECTED.

IT IS UNDISPUTABLE THAT THEY

HAVEN'T BEEN PROTECTED THE WOLVERINES
FROM TRAPPING.

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,

WALTER S. LAZAR
2781 SEAFARER LOOP
ANCHORAGE, AK. 99516

Rc 14

ATMAUTLUAK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 6568
ATMAUTLUAK, ALASKA 99559
PHONE # (907) 553-5610
FAX # (907) 553-5612
E-MAIL: atmautluaktc@hughes.net

February 17, 2009

Ms. Kristy Tibbles
Executive Director, Boards Game
Boards Support Section
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Juneau, AK 99811-4110
VIA FAX: 907-465-6094

Re: Opening Unit 18 for Moose Hunting

Ms. Tibbles,

We, the Atmautluak Traditional Council, hereby humbly request opening Unit 18 for moose hunters and those that utilize the moose as their food source. This may have become redundant, but prices of fuel, oil and food has risen and most of the people in the delta have limited source of income to purchase necessities needed to survive the winter. Many hunters are traveling further than usual for their winter food source and some come back home with no meat for their freezers and are unable to go out again because of the high prices. As one hunter said, he spent \$1,500 to \$2,000 on fuel and supplies to go moose hunting and was disappointed he did not catch anything. He was unable to go hunting again because he could not afford a second hunt.


Moose meat provides food for a year for most families and helps families with limited income. If a hunter does not catch food for the winter, he ends up spending more on groceries, gas, fuel, and oil that are purchased through the store.

Since the moose moratorium became in effect, hunters are traveling further and further so that they would have food supplies for their families.

With these in mind, we request Fish & Game to open Unit 18 and help out families that have limited income. Families are making decision whether to buy fuel for their house or food for their families.

Thank-you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Moses A. Pavilla, Sr,
ATC President

RC 14

P.O. Box 8568
Atmautluak, AK 99559
(907) 553-5610
(907) 553-5612
atmautluakc@hughes.net

**Atmautluak
Traditional Council**

Fax

To: Ms. Kristy Tibbles From: Daniel A. Wasen

Fax: 907-465-6094 Pages: 2

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Re: Unit 18 opening cci

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

• Comments:

Even this request is late, we the ATC Council and Community members urgently request to be considered because it is hurting us with the population of 300.

Thank you
ATC

This may contain information which is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for the use of the individual or facility to which it is addressed. If this has been transmitted to you in error, please notify us as soon as possible by telephone and destroy the document(s) properly. Any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. Thank you.

PO-BOX 8568 - ATMAUTLUAK AK 99559
PHONE: (907) 553-5610 - FAX: (907) 553-5612

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 18. 2:04PM

John Schultz
P.O. Box 110069
Anchorage, AK 99511-0069
Feb. 13, 2009

RC 15

ATTN: BOS COMMENTS
Alaska Dept. Fish & Game
Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support Proposal 24 - Close wolverine trapping in Unit 14C, Proposal 26 - Prohibit (wolverine) trapping in Unit 14C, Proposal 27 - Close wolverine trapping in Chugach State Park Management Area in Unit 14C and Proposal 28 - Close trapping for wolverine in Chugach State Park, Unit 14C. My explanation is the information included under the headings what will happen if nothing is done?, will the quality of the resource harvested or the products produced be improved?, and who is likely to benefit? for each Proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Schultz

RC 16

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Submitted by: Rod Schuh

Proposal 48: OPPOSE

Statistics from the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (attached) dating back to 1993 show that applicant numbers and the success ratios between nonresidents and residents have been relatively stable since commercial operations started on Unimak Island. The only notable variations (although minor) between resident and nonresident applicants has been since 2006. This difference has not been due to an increase in nonresident applicants, but in fact a reduction in resident applicants. Consideration needs to be made that some percentage of nonresident applicants are first or second degree kindred to resident applicants and are not associated with commercial operations. Therefore the actual impact of commercial operations is less than the comparison between resident and nonresident applicants as shown in the ADF&G statistics.

Limiting the amount of nonresidents that can apply for a limited draw type hunt is ridiculous, and in my opinion unconstitutional. How can you tell one applicant that he can apply for a particular limited draw hunt and not another? This holds true for residents as well as nonresidents.

Considering the ADF&G statistics, it is not apparent that big box application services, etc., have flooded the application pool in recent years as the proposal submitter claims.

Having a required guide-client agreement and being registered in Unit 10 prior to application submittal is not unreasonable, and may prevent any future influx of applicants as the submitter is concerned about.

It appears that this proposal is structured to even the playing field between operators with good business practices and with ones with poor business practices. I do not believe the board should, or would want, to take a position on business practices and the relative success of one to the other.

Unimak Island Brown Bear Hunt Permits - DB375 & DB376

Applicants

Year	Unk Applicant	%	NonRes App	%	Res App	%	Total Applicants
1993	9	3.7	11	4.5	226	91.9	246
1994	5	1.8	16	5.8	256	92.4	277
1995	13	3.4	72	18.6	303	78.1	388
1996	13	2.5	191	37.3	308	60.2	512
1997	0	0.0	128	38.8	202	61.2	330
1998	0	0.0	163	38.7	258	61.3	421
1999	0	0.0	210	40.8	305	59.2	515
2000	0	0.0	246	40.5	362	59.5	608
2001	0	0.0	267	43.6	345	56.4	612
2002	0	0.0	276	42.0	381	58.0	657
2003	0	0.0	260	42.8	348	57.2	608
2004	0	0.0	230	42.0	318	58.0	548
2005	0	0.0	286	46.5	329	53.5	615
2006	0	0.0	288	51.2	275	48.8	563
2007	0	0.0	289	56.0	227	44.0	516
2008	0	0.0	216	52.0	199	48.0	415
Average Since 2000			262.0	46.3	309.3	53.7	571.3
3 year average			264.3	53.1	233.7	46.9	498.0

Permit Holders

Year	Unk Permits	%	NonRes Permits	%	Res Permits	%	Total Permits Is
1993	0	0.0	3	18.8	13	81.3	16
1994	1	6.7	1	6.7	13	86.7	15
1995	1	6.7	5	33.3	9	60.0	15
1996	0	0.0	6	40.0	9	60.0	15
1997	0	0.0	5	33.3	10	66.7	15
1998	0	0.0	8	53.3	7	46.7	15
1999	0	0.0	7	46.7	8	53.3	15
2000	0	0.0	5	31.3	11	68.8	16
2001	0	0.0	8	53.3	7	46.7	15
2002	0	0.0	6	40.0	9	60.0	15
2003	0	0.0	5	33.3	10	66.7	15
2004	0	0.0	7	46.7	8	53.3	15
2005	0	0.0	6	40.0	9	60.0	15
2006	0	0.0	5	33.3	10	66.7	15
2007	0	0.0	9	60.0	6	40.0	15
2008	0	0.0	5	33.3	10	66.7	15
Average Since 2000		0.0	6.2	41.3	8.9	58.8	15.1
3 year average			6.3	42.2	8.7	57.8	15.0

By Fax and U.S. Mail
907-465-6094

RC 17
Allison Cooke
P.O. Box 1561
Homer, AK
99603

February 11, 2009

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board's Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Board of Game Proposal No. 118

Dear Fish and Game,
Board of Game

I am an Alaska and a Homer resident writing to support Board of Game Proposal No 118 that would close the season on sand hill cranes in the Kachemak Bay area or Homer Area (unit 15c).

The crane population is low and the numbers may not be adequate to sustain the small population. The cranes are long-lived but have very low productivity and it would not be prudent to continue local crane hunting without population surveys and harvest data.

We watch the cranes in the hay field next door most of the summer and they have become habituated to human presence. Tourists and locals often stop to photograph "our" cranes. We really look forward to their arrival each spring. I do not want them shot. Please close the season on hunting sand hill cranes in the Homer area.

Sincerely,
Allison Cooke.

THE
KUSKOKWIM
CORPORATION



RC18

cutting a path to a better future

Alaska Board of Game
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

February 11, 2009

RE: Written Comment on GMU Unit 19 Predator Control Plan

The Kuskokwim Corporation would like to comment on the proposed changes to the GMU 19 Predator Control Program. The Kuskokwim Corporation is a Village Corporation that owns most of the land in GMU 19A and 19B. Our Board of Directors and management are very concerned about the dwindling moose population in our area, and the subsistence needs for our villages. Our Board of Directors has been discussing the issue of predator control repeatedly at Board meetings over last few years, and we are providing you with a letter of comment regarding the proposed regulations.

First we would like to address any misconception that TKC is not in favor of predator control. TKC policies do not allow aerial predator control activities on our surface lands. However, the TKC Board has passed resolution 04-19 demonstrating support of wolf predation control plan in GMU 19A and 19B. This resolution addresses the importance of moose as a subsistence resource for residents in the Middle Kuskokwim region, and concern over the scarcity of the subsistence resource.

Resolution 04-19 demonstrates support for a plan that regulates the levels of predation of moose in GMU 19A and 19B through the harvest of predators under liberal hunting and trapping seasons, bag limits, and other methods and means.

Notwithstanding TKC's general support for the plan, the "Taking of Wolves Using Aircraft" program run by the State of Alaska poses high risk and strong liability on TKC lands. The TKC Board has a fiduciary responsibility to its shareholders to protect the Corporation's assets. TKC has repeatedly sought legal advice on the State's request for land access for its "Taking of Wolves Using Aircraft" program. We have been advised that unless the State of Alaska provides adequate insurance coverage and agrees to indemnify and hold TKC harmless from any claims or injuries related to the Taking of Wolves Using Aircraft program, TKC would be exposed to an unacceptable level of risk of being held liable for claims or injuries that might result from the State's conduct of its aerial wolf control program on or over TKC's land. TKC has previously requested that the State of Alaska assume the liability and provide appropriate amounts of insurance

Anchorage Office:
4300 B St., Suite 207
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 243-2944
Fax: (907) 243-2984

Aniak Office
P.O. Box 227
Aniak, Alaska 99557
Phone: (907) 675-4275
Fax: (907) 675-4276

RC 18

THE
KUSKOKWIM
CORPORATION



cutting a path to a better future

coverage for this program and list TKC as an additional insured. The State responded that it is unwilling to do this.

We also would like to point out that TKC lands are highly populated with timber, which makes for difficult landing conditions. Finally, we realize that there is no wolf control program to be permitted on the Federal Wildlife Refuge.

Please do not confuse the issue of support for a Predator Control program with our concerns for our Corporation's liability and risk. Our Board of Directors has indicated that it would consider providing access if the State of Alaska were to agree to indemnify and hold TKC harmless from any damages and liability incurred related to injuries occurring on or over TKC's lands by virtue of the Taking of Wolves Using Aircraft Program and agrees to provide insurance against the risks of the aerial predator control program naming TKC as an additional insured.

Understand that TKC encourages successful game management to preserve our subsistence resource. I urge the State to consider providing insurance and indemnification for the Corporation to address our liability concerns.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Klein', is written over a horizontal line.

Rachel Klein
Land Manager
The Kuskokwim Corporation

Anchorage Office:
4300 B St., Suite 207
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 243-2944
Fax: (907) 243-2984

Aniak Office
P.O. Box 227
Aniak, Alaska 99557
Phone: (907) 675-4275
Fax: (907) 675-4276



Alaska Society of Outdoor & Nature Photographers
PO Box 231052, Anchorage, AK 99523
www.asonp.org info@asonp.org

February 10, 2009, 2009

To: Alaska Board of Game

In Support of Proposals # 42, 43, 44, and 45

In 1985, the Board of Game decided to close brown bear hunting in the McNeil River area. At that time the Board determined that bear protection and viewing in this area "is the highest and best use of bears on this small island of land."

On behalf of the more than 100 resident Alaskan members of the Alaska Society of Outdoor & Nature Photographers (ASONP), we respectfully request the Alaska Board of Game to **limit or close provisions for hunting brown bear in Unit 9C lands adjacent Katmai National Park**. ASONP provided similar testimony opposing brown bear sport hunting in areas adjacent to Katmai National Preserve and the McNeil River State Game Refuge at the 2005 and 2007 Board of Game meetings.

ASONP members range from the first-time photographer to professional photographers who travel throughout the world seeking unique photo opportunities. Our members represent the broad diversity of Alaskans who hunt, fish, recreate, and generally enjoy the outdoors. Some of our members also provide services to photographers and other visitors from around the world who come to see the brown bear in the Katmai National Park and adjoining McNeil River area.

Wildlife viewing is a major aspect of Alaska's tourism economy, and, of all Alaska's magnificent wildlife species, the brown bear is perhaps the most symbolic of our great State. Thousands of visitors travel to Alaska each year to see brown bears in their natural setting. According to Steve Colt, an economist with the Institute for Social and Economic Research, wildlife viewing by Alaska residents alone accounts for more than 3,600 direct Alaska jobs (low estimate) with \$37 million of net economic value. Mr. Colt continues, "...it is probably reasonable to attribute about 200 full time Alaska jobs to ecosystem-dependent photography and media activity that is not already accounted for in this analysis..."¹ The benefit of wildlife viewing to Alaskan jobs and net economic value increases exponentially when visitor trips are added to the equation. The bears in and around Unit 9C play a significant role in these figures.

¹ Colt, Steven. The Economic Importance of Healthy Alaska Ecosystems. Anchorage, Alaska: Institute for Social and Economic Research, 2001 (pages 9 and 39).


In 1967, the State of Alaska created the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge to protect the world's largest concentration of wild brown bears (ADF&G web site). Bears in this area travel widely in search of food, however, and move into areas where hunting is already allowed. Increasing harvest levels in Katmai National Preserve and Unit 9C are decreasing the bear population in the McNeil River McNeil and Katmai National Park protected areas. As a well-viewed population, the brown bears in this area are habituated to humans. Hunting a bear that is accustomed to being in very close proximity to photographers, fisherman, and others who pose no threat does not measure up to the fair chase concept prized by Alaskans—hunters and non-hunters alike.

Alaska's brown bears are a valuable resource that belongs to all Alaskans. We urge the Board of Game to consider its mandate to provide for the management of our common-property wildlife resources for all Alaskans.

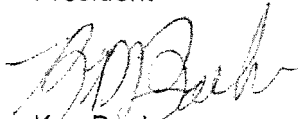
In closing, ASONP respectfully requests the Board of Game approve the primary concept of Proposals 42 through 45 that call to limit hunting of brown bears on State lands in Unit 9C.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Alaska Society of Outdoor & Nature Photographers



Julie Jessen
President



Ken Baehr
Vice President

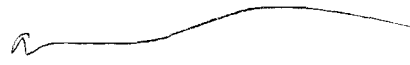


John DeLapp
Treasurer

Robin Brandt
Secretary



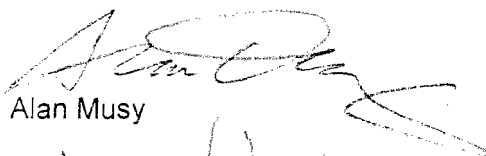
Glenn Aronwits



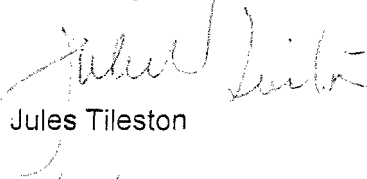
Amber Johnson



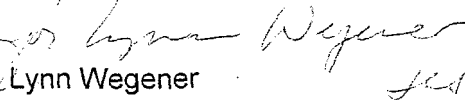
Georgia Bennett



Alan Musy



Jules Tileston



Lynn Wegener

Cathy Hart

RC 20

February 17, 2009

To: Members of ADF&G Board of Game (907) 465-6094 FAX

Re: Proposals 20-28 Unit 14C Chugach State Park

Please carefully consider banishing the trapping of lynx and/or wolverine anywhere within the boundaries of Chugach State Park, or within 5 miles of its boundaries.

We moved to Alaska the year the Park was established – 1970 – and have hiked the Eagle River Valley, Turnagain Arm and Indian trails, Prospect Heights and of course Flat-top and South and North forks of Campbell Creek many dozens of times over the years. During these 38 years we have shared the pleasure of this beautiful wilderness so close to town with our dogs – Gordo in the 70s, and Rusty for the past six years – and our three children, all born in Alaska. We have always enjoyed watching the dogs leap through the tundra or prance in the streams as much as we have enjoyed the ever-changing scenery. Can you imagine how it would break our hearts to find our beloved creatures caught in a trap?

We have never seen a lynx or a wolverine in the park, but would be thrilled if it ever happened. Owning a dog makes you feel closer to wild creatures and more protective of them as well.

I believe that the ratio of park users like ourselves to trappers/hunters is 90 to 1. Does it seem fair to give such a small minority the right to bring anxiety and possible grief to the majority of park users? Is this the image we wish to present to the rest of the country? Anchorage - a place where folks are allowed to torture and maim animals legally within city boundaries?

As Mr. DeGange of Chugiak put it so well: “the status quo favors a few consumptive users at the expense of many nonconsumptive users placing our pets at risk, never mind the opportunity to observe wildlife close to our homes.”

Thank you for making a thoughtful review of this barbaric practice – animal trapping in a metropolitan area. Harriet and Dave Shaftel 133 E. Cook Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 17. 3:29PM



RC 21

Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Feb 2, 2009

The Petersburg Advisory Committee met at 7:00 PM to consider Fin-fish proposals. We were asked by a member of the public to take up Proposal 241 in the Statewide Game Book. We were opposed 0-13. Opposing feels that there should be a resident preference. Bonus point system may have a nonresident advantage. It is noted that bonus point systems in other states have not been fair to their residents.

Arnold M. Egge: Vice-Chair for:



Mike Bangs Chairman