

RECORD RETENTION LOG

Log #	Date/Time	Submitted by	Topic or Title
1	1/28/10		
2	1/28	ADF-6	- Dept. Comments/Info
3	1/28	Tim Beuchard	Proposal 52
4	1/28	Warren Brown	Proposal 52
5	1/28	Steve Nelson	Clean List
6	1/28	David Loring	taking of game meat
7	1/28	Copper River AC	comments on Proposals ^{2,4} 5,10
8	1/28	Petersburg AC	comments on Proposals
9	1/28	GSM	comments on Proposals
10	1/28	David Baum	Proposal 3 and 72
11	1/28	Theresa Bauer	Hybrid Cats
12	1/28	Thomas C. Pothe	Proposal 52
13	1/28	Beth Preiss, Humane Society of US.	Proposal 16,17,18,19,20,21,22
14	1/28	Ryan James	Kachemak Bay Sea Duck
15	1/28	Kathy Simpson	Clean List
16	1/28 1-29	US FEWS	PROPOSAL COMMENT
17	1-29	Edith Wilson	Proposals 20-22 (Clean List)
18	1-29	ADFG SUBSISTENCE	AKWAT. FURBERMY CEREMONIES
19	1-29	KWETHLUK UELAGE	PROPOSALS
20	1-29	NORTHWEST ARCTIC BORONHT	PROP. 4

RECORD RETENTION LOG

21	01-29	DIV: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	- AHTNA HUNT
22	01-29	DIVISION WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	REPORT - COMM. HARVEST
23	1/29	Koch AC	AC minutes & letter
24	1/29	DENVER HUNT -	OWL RESEARCH LETTER
25	1-29	TIM KANADAY	PROP 52
26	1-29	CHRISTY PARQUETTE	PROP 16 & 17
27	1-29	JAMES NICOLE - KWETHLUK VILLAGE	PROPOSALS
28	1-29	JEFF JOHNSON	SEA DUCKS
29	1-29	SHANE SMITH	PROP 52
30	1-29	TYLER WELKER	PROP 52
31	1-29	ARTHUR THEODORE	
32	1-29	" "	AMENDED LANGUAGE SAAC 92.019
33	1-29	EKLUTNA	Hunt Reporting Form
34	1-29	EKLUTNA	Letter to Board
35	1-30	GREG BRIWEN	NAVY SOUND TESTING
36	1-30	AHTNA, INC.	PUBLIC PROPOSAL & FORM
37	1-30	AHTNA, INC.	HUNT APPLICATION
38	1-30	AHTNA, INC.	Community HARVEST PLAN
39	1-30	AHTNA, INC.	FAQS / COMM - SUBSID HUNT
40	1-30	BOB ERMOLD	PROP 34
41	1-30	MIKE McCRAEY	TESTIMONY.
42	1-30	PAT SCHWALLENBERG -	CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES Commission PROP 52

RECORD RETENTION LOG

Log #	Date/Time	Submitted by	Topic or Title
43	1-30	SANDRA NICOLE	PROP 44 Gma 18
44	1-30	AHTNA	AHTNA Community Hunt Application
45	1-30	Boards Support	Proposals Abstracts
46	1-30	VAL GLOUSCHENKO	non-res hunting; predator control
47	1-30	YOLANDA DELACRUZ	PROP PREDATOR CONTROL
48	1-30	Knch. AC	Letter from ADP-6
49	1-30	Diana McBride	Sea Ducks Kaduwan
50	1-30	AK OUTDOOR COUNCIL	PROPOSALS
51	1-30	PATRICIA KENNUNEN	Prop 59, 60, 5
52	1-30	DAEL DAVENPORT	Prop 59, 60, 5
53	1-30	LINDA BASSETT	Prop 59, 60, 5
54	1-30	STEVEN BELGT	Prop 5, 59, 60
55	1-30	REBECCA GORRECH	Prop 5, 59, 60
56	1-30	Christine Riffredi	personal Testimony
57	1-30	JEANETTE HANNEMAN.	PROPOSALS - TESTIMONY
58	1-30	SUZANNE MOORE	PROPOSALS
59	1-30	TARA Whitesell	Prop 5, 59, 60
60	1-30	Kate Swift	Proposals
61	1-31	PAME CROWLEY SEW-ALASKA	PROPOSALS
62	1-31	WADE WELLS - SCIENCE NOW	AWAC elections
63	1-31	" "	COST OF Predator Control

RECORD RETENTION LOG

Log #	Date/Time	Submitted by	Topic or Title
64	1-31	DORFEN Peter McNeil	ADF&G PRESENTATION
65	1-31	LARRY SEYDOW	PULTRACH TESTIMONY
66	1-31	VALERIE CONNOR	PROPOSAL 28, 29, 30
67	1-31	Ted Spraker	Clean list Proposals - 66
68	1-31	ADF&G	PROPS 20-22
69	1-31	Barbara Reilly	Public Testimony
70	1-31	ADF&G Tony Karatek	PC in Unit 16 Overview
71	1-31	" "	Proposals Reports on IM
72	1-31	" "	Proposals 37-48
73	1-31	Len Burtch, ADF&G	Unit 9 proposals 32-33
74	1-31	ADF+G	4 criteria for prop 15
75	1-31	ADF+G - Boards support	Letter re: Ft. Board Petition
76	2-1	ADF+G	proposal 31 amended
77	2-1	ADF+G	proposal 45 amended
78	2-1	ADF&G	PROPOSAL 44
79	2-1	ADF+G	prop 5.2
80	2-1	ADF+G - Boards	
81	2-1	ADF+G	prop 11 ^{1/2} amended again
82	2-1	ADF+G	prop 10 amended again
83	2-1	ADF+G - Boards	BOG Findings on Religious Ceremonies
84	2-1		PROP 11 amended again

RECORD RETENTION LOG

Log #	Date/Time	Submitted by	Topic or Title
85	02-01	AK. Proff Hunter's Assoc.	MEETING Cycle-
86	2-1	Boards Support	NB 267
87	2-1	" "	Misc. Business Agenda
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2010 ALASKA STATE BOARD OF GAME



**PRELIMINARY
RECOMMENDATIONS
BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS**

January 2010

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

The Department's recommendations are based on analysis of the proposals with available information. These recommendations may change after further analysis based on public comment or additional information.

PROPOSAL 1

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Require hunter education for anyone wanting to hunt big game with a crossbow.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The basic hunter education course curriculum would not address the issue of inadequate cross bow equipment for the taking of big game. Alaska has separate certification courses for basic hunter education, bowhunter, and muzzleloader hunters. Currently, if a younger hunter was to hunt in a mandatory hunter education GMU, they are already required to have the hunter education certificate, whether they hunt with a rifle, crossbow, bow, or shotgun.

To require special educational requirements of crossbow hunters to hunt anywhere in the State, would be inconsistent since any archer or muzzleloader hunter can hunt in any general harvest season without any special training or proof of proficiency, again, unless they are a young hunter in a mandatory hunter education GMU. Currently, the only special requirement for bowhunters is in "bowhunter only" areas. In these areas, the State requires the National Bowhunter Education Foundation card.

The issue of "inadequate crossbow equipment" is a concern. Minimum standard equipment regulations have been adopted for using bow and arrow to take big game, but this type of regulation has not been adopted for crossbows. The Department has developed draft standards, but 5 AAC 92.085, unlawful methods of taking big game, was not open for this meeting, and the proposal was being held until 2012.

PROPOSAL 2

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Eliminate black bear harvest tickets.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The proposer feels that requiring harvest tickets will reduce incidental take of black bears. The Department agrees that this requirement potentially could reduce some incidental take because hunters are now required to pick up a harvest ticket before hunting. However, most other big game species have the same requirement, harvest tickets are readily available at no cost, and the information obtained has improved management of black bear populations. The proposer also feels the harvest ticket requirement is counterproductive in areas where maximum black bear harvests are desired. In these areas, black bear baiting, sale of hides, and predation control programs can be considered in addition to general season hunts to increase take.

The Board began requiring harvest tickets in 2009 because of continued, long-term increases in black bear harvest with no concurrent knowledge of hunter effort, resident versus nonresident effort and little knowledge of hunting patterns. If this proposal is passed, registration permits may be proposed by the Department to replace harvest tickets in several units in order to obtain these data. Harvest tickets are easier to obtain and reporting requirements are more flexible than for registration permits.

Also, if this proposal is passed, the opportunity would be lost to simplify regulations and place fewer demands on hunters by not requiring sealing. The Department is proposing to uncouple the sealing requirement from the harvest ticket requirement (see proposal 3). This would allow the Board to determine, on a case-by-case basis, which units should have harvest tickets only, or both harvest tickets and sealing. The Department has submitted a proposal for the Region III Board meeting to eliminate black bear sealing in most Interior units where black bear harvest tickets are required.

PROPOSAL 3

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Housekeeping proposal to: 1) update reporting requirements, 2) clarify possession of moose, sheep, and black bear harvest reports while hunting and 3) uncouple the black bear harvest report/ticket requirement from black bear sealing.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 4

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Require hunters to submit harvest reports for deer.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Deer harvest activity is currently monitored by a questionnaire sent to a random sample of individuals who obtained deer harvest tickets. Each year approximately 30-50% of all harvest ticket holders are sent surveys at the end of the season along with reminder letters to non-respondents. Mail surveys allow the Department to collect more detailed information about hunting effort and harvest of each deer. The survey results are statistically expanded on a community-level basis to give an estimate of deer kill, hunting effort, and success rates for all hunters. In addition to statistically valid harvest and effort estimates, this methodology allows detailed analysis of harvest distribution down to smaller management units like communities. Although effort and harvest estimates are obtainable via harvest tickets, questionnaire data allows us to calculate statistically valid measures of survey accuracy. The mail-out questionnaire survey was developed to address problems with harvest ticket reporting and have seen used for 20 years.

PROPOSAL 5

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Lower the minimum age for a youth hunter to have an individual bag limit from 10 years to 8 years old.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **NO RECOMMENDATION**

RATIONALE: The proposal is an allocation among age groups for big game hunting. The current standard age limit of 10 years for big game hunting has been in regulation for 8 years, and is generally accepted and understood by the public. This proposal as written would lower that minimum age to 8.

Existing regulations that relate to youth hunting:

- Allow hunters younger than 10 to hunt other game, such as small game and fur animals.
- Allow hunters younger than 10 to hunt big game, under the direct, immediate supervision of a licensed adult, with the animal counting as the adult's bag limit.
- Allow all young hunters 10 years old and older to have their own bag limit in all big game hunts, after obtaining the necessary harvest tickets or permits.
- Allow young hunters 10-17 who have successfully completed hunter education, to hunt on behalf of permit holders in all permit hunts.

The Department repeatedly hears concerns about the complexity of the hunting regulations in Alaska, and is strongly committed to encouraging the development of young hunters. The Department's Hunter and Information Training Program certifies over 3,000 new students each year. The program does not require a minimum age to take the Basic Hunter Education course, however, students under the age of 10 have some difficulty in the course, particularly with shooting proficiency because of physical development.

PROPOSAL 6

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Housekeeping to clarify what must be presented for inspection upon request by a Department employee or peace officer of the State, and update the regulation reference for tag fee exemptions

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 7

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Modify the proxy authorization process for beneficiaries that are permanently disabled.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **TAKE NO ACTION**

RATIONALE: The proposal asks for a modification of the Department’s administration of the proxy regulation. Proxy regulations are governed by AS 16.05.405. The statute allows the use of a proxy for a person with physical disabilities as defined in AS 16.05.940(26)-“A person with physical disabilities means a person who presents to the Department either written proof that the person receives at least 70 percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability or an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State stating that the person is at least 70 percent physically disabled.”

The statute does not require the disability to be a permanent disability and the division’s of sport fish and wildlife conservation have developed a physician’s affidavit for use by both division’s to streamline the process. Wildlife issues over a 1000 proxy permits a year, many to people who are not permanently disabled. If a hunter has written documentation that the disability is permanent, we advise them they will need to show the paperwork annually and to make copies for future use. We are unable to provide the security for such paperwork required by other agencies regulations, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”) act. This federal privacy rule is to assure that individuals’ health information is properly protected.

The division does not require disabled people to visit an office for obtaining a proxy. The proxy hunter can obtain everything necessary and deliver it to the beneficiary for signing, then return to the office with all the required documentation.

PROPOSAL 8

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Expand proxy hunting to include immediate family members.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **TAKE NO ACTION**

RATIONALE: Proxy regulations are governed by AS 16.05.405. The statute only allows the use of a proxy for a person who is blind, a person with physical disabilities, or a person who is 65 years of age or older, regardless of relationship.

PROPOSAL 9

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Allow unspecified methods and means hunting exemptions for combat disabled veterans.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The Board has provided additional opportunity for military personnel in recent years by allowing reissue of drawing permits, transfer of Tier II permits, and establishment of new drawing hunts for disabled military in more accessible areas of the State. Expanding season dates and bags limits or designating special hunting areas for combat disabled veterans would be more appropriately addressed in individual areas under Chapter 85.

Some of the requests made in this can be accommodated under the existing methods and means exemption regulation 5 AAC 92.104. For example, where the Department has restricted hunter access (i.e. Controlled Use Areas) the Department may also issue exemptions from those restrictions. However, access to private land is controlled by the landowner/manager, and if the landowner/manager does not allow motorized access, the Department cannot issue an exemption.

Under 5 AAC 92.080(4) and (10) shooting game from a motorized vehicle is illegal unless the engine is turned off, progress from the engine’s power has ceased, land vehicles are parked in compliance with Department of Public Safety (DPS) regulations, and the hunter is off or out of the vehicle. Specific exemptions are spelled out for some species in specific areas. If the proposal’s intent is to allow hunters to shoot from vehicles parked on roads, the Department can only provide such an exemption under very specific circumstances. DPS regulations also prohibit

shooting from, along, or across roads, and ADF&G may not exempt hunters from the regulations of another agency. The Department may only issue methods and means exemptions allowing hunters to shoot from a vehicle parked on a road only when the vehicle is parked on a privately maintained road on private land.

PROPOSAL 10

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Provide a methods and means exemption to disabled individuals allowing them to take brown bears with the use of bait.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: The Department does not support baiting of brown bears outside of predator control areas. Brown bear baiting is a controversial method of take that should be applied only in predator control areas where implementation plans have been adopted by the Board. These plans require thorough analysis of predator and prey populations and harvest, and assure that predators will be maintained as part of the ecosystem.

In addition, authorization for methods and means exemptions for persons with disabilities should be considered after the appropriate regulation is passed authorizing the hunting of brown bears over bait. The Board is being asked to do two things in this proposal: 1) establish the process for hunting brown bear over bait and 2) then allow it only by disabled individuals. The Department has not supported the taking of brown bear over bait except as part of a control program and does not support this proposal. However if the Board considers this proposal we recommend they amend 5AAC 92.044 or create a new regulation similar to 92.044 prior to a change in 92.104.

PROPOSAL 11

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This is a Department proposal. It would remove the words “customarily taken or used for subsistence as identified in 5 AAC 99.025” to make it clear that it is the Board’s intent to allow the taking of big game for customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies in nonsubsistence areas. The proposal would also require those taking big game outside normal seasons and bag limits in nonsubsistence areas to obtain a “ceremonial harvest report form” from a Department area office. Any small game or big game could be taken, unless the area or population has been identified by the Area Biologist as an area or population where harvest is inconsistent with sustained yield principles.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: AMEND AND ADOPT

RATIONALE: Currently, 5 AAC 92.019 does not permit the taking of big game for Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies from a population unless a positive Customary and Traditional finding has been made by the Board for that population (5 AAC 99.025). The Board does not make findings of Customary and Traditional use for populations in nonsubsistence areas. However, after consultation with the Department of Law, ADF&G believes that excluding taking of big game for Alaska Native religious ceremonies from nonsubsistence areas may not provide Alaska Natives with a reasonable accommodation as directed by the Alaska Supreme Court (*Frank vs State of Alaska, 1979*). If after hearing evidence at this Board meeting, the Board finds that a reasonable accommodation cannot be made if Alaska Native ceremonial harvests are excluded from non subsistence areas, ADF&G recommends adopting proposal 11 as amended by proposal 11A.

In 1980 the Board found that taking of moose for use in funeral potlatch ceremonies of Athabascan people is protected by both the State and federal constitutions (BOG finding 80-27). The Board also found that constitutional protections for the use of moose in Athabascan funeral potlatch ceremonies may also apply to the taking of other game animals by non-Athabascans for use in traditional ceremonies. The Board reaffirmed these findings in 1996 and found that similar protections should apply to other big game animals (BOG finding 96-98).

It is the State’s view that customary and traditional taking of game for Alaska Native religious ceremonies is not a subsistence activity. Even if this taking is considered by some to be a subsistence activity, the Alaska Supreme Court (*Rosier vs Kenaitze Indian Tribe, 1995*), has determined that subsistence hunting can take place in nonsubsistence areas, but it cannot receive a preference and the State cannot issue subsistence permits.

For education, conservation, and enforcement reasons, the Department recommends a requirement that hunters taking game out of normal seasons in nonsubsistence areas contact an ADF&G office and obtain a “ceremonial harvest report form”. This requirement would provide an opportunity for staff to familiarize hunters with the

requirements of 92.017 and 92.019, and other similar regulations or statutes, and direct hunters to areas where additional harvest can be taken with the fewest user conflicts and the least effect on game populations. The "ceremonial harvest report form" would also protect the hunters from undue harassment from people who observe these out-of-season takings and it would simplify enforcement and save time for enforcement officers.

Proposal 11A. 5 AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies.

(a) The hunting and taking of game [BIG GAME, CUSTOMARILY AND TRADITIONALLY TAKEN OR USED FOR SUBSISTENCE AS IDENTIFIED IN 5 AAC 99.025,] outside the seasons or bag limits established in 5 AAC 85 for use as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies within 12 months preceding the ceremony is authorized if consistent with sustained yield principles.

(b) The department shall publicize a list of game [BIG GAME] populations and areas, if any, for which the taking of game [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] would be inconsistent with sustained yield principles. It is the hunter's responsibility to contact ADF&T to find out which game populations and areas are excluded from taking under this regulation.

(c) A written permit from the department is not required for taking game [BIG GAME] under this section except a ceremonial harvest report form must be obtained from a department area office for taking of game in a non-subsistence area.

(d) Before game [BIG GAME] is taken under this section;

(1) a tribal chief, village council president, or the chief's or president's designee, for the village in which the religious ceremony will be held, notify the nearest office of the department that a hunt for game [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] will take place; the notification must include the number of animals expected to be taken, and the location where the taking will occur; the tribal chief, village council president or designee must maintain records of the successful hunters and the decedents for the village or tribal ceremony, and make that information available to an authorized representative of the department upon request; the tribal chief, village council president, or designee must notify the department of the location of the kill, and the species, sex, and number of animals taken under this section as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the taking of game [BIG GAME].

(2) a hunter outside of a village or tribal organized ceremony, must notify the nearest office of the department that game [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] will be harvested, the time frame when, and location where the harvest will occur, and the name of the decedent; the notification must include the hunter's name, address, and the species of [BIG GAME ANIMAL] game to be hunted; a successful hunter must notify the department of the location of the kill, and the species, sex, and number of animals taken under this section as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the taking.

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for hunting or taking of [BIG GAME] game outside the season or bag limit restrictions established in 5 AAC 85 that:

(1) the person is an Alaska resident;

(2) the hunting or taking was authorized under this section and the meat was used in a customary and traditional Alaska Native religious ceremony; and

(3) if the person took [BIG GAME] game, the requirements of (d) of this section have been met.

PROPOSAL 12

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Although the proposal cites 5AAC 92.034 (permit to take game for cultural purposes), it appears that the proposal intends to clarify existing language in 5 AAC 92.019 that restricts taking of moose for funerary religious purposes to populations of big game animals for which the Board has established a positive C & T finding in 5 AAC 99.025.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **NO RECOMMENDATION**

RATIONALE: The Board does not make findings of Customary and Traditional use for game populations in nonsubsistence areas. This is a legal issue and an allocation issue. If the Board finds that allowing the taking of moose for customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies only in populations with a positive C & T finding still provides the reasonable accommodation directed by the Alaska Supreme Court in *Frank vs State of Alaska* (AK Supreme Court 1979), this becomes primarily an allocation issue.

Although there is significant competition for harvestable surpluses of big game in nonsubsistence areas, from a conservation and sustainable use perspective, the nonsubsistence areas frequently have moose populations with a larger harvestable surplus, where limited additional take, especially of cows, can be accommodated.

PROPOSAL 13:

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Proposal would remove “customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence” language from 5 AAC 92.019, thus allowing harvest of big game for Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious purposes in nonsubsistence areas and other areas for which there is a negative or no C & T finding under 5 AAC 99.025.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: See proposals 11 and 12.

PROPOSAL 14:

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: The proposal would create a new regulation that establishes guidelines for taking of big game animals for Ahtna traditional potlatch ceremonies in Game Management Units 11, 12, 13, and 20A.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE: The taking of moose for funerary religious ceremonies must be accommodated (*Frank vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court 1979) and is already provided for under 5 AAC 92.019. This proposal suggests specific guidelines for Ahtna potlatches to improve compliance and reporting, and appears to expand eligible ceremonies beyond funerary and mortuary ceremonies now accommodated by the regulation. The Department suggests working toward a general regulation to accommodate all Alaska Native ceremonial funerary and mortuary taking to address reporting and compliance issues. ADF&G’s proposal 11 with amendment (11A) will accomplish this purpose.

PROPOSAL 15

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Add finches of the family, *Estrildidae* to the list of animals that may be legally possessed without a permit from the Department.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: As written the proposal is very broad and would add 24 genera and more than 100 species to the Clean List. The family Estrildidae is an Old World family with a natural distribution around and south of the equator in the Ethiopian, Oriental, and Australasian biogeographic regions. Most species within this family can be found in Africa. Among the best known as a cage bird are Zebra finches.

We have not investigated the conservation status of all species and whether the pet trade negatively affects wild populations. However, according to the IUCN, the family Estrildidae contains six species which are considered Near Threatened, eight which are Vulnerable, and two that have reached the status of Endangered. The reason for the decline in most of these species’ numbers is complex. Several species, including the green avadavat (*Amandava formosa*), the green-faced parrotfinch (*Erythrura viridifacies*), and the Timor sparrow (*Padda fuscata*), which are all listed as Vulnerable, have suffered from habitat loss and modification in addition to trapping for the pet trade. At least four of these species are escaped or introduced to the Island of Hawaii, where there are now resident breeding populations.

Below is a general evaluation of the family against the five criteria used to assess whether a species should be added to the Clean List.

- 1) Is the species capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska? Possibly, some members of this family may survive year round in southern portions of the State.
- 2) Is the species capable of causing genetic alteration of a species indigenous to Alaska? Unknown for all species within this family.
- 3) Is the species capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species indigenous to Alaska? Unknown for the entire family; probably not a significant concern due to tropical and temperate distribution of proposed species.
- 4) Is the species capable of transmitting a disease to a species indigenous to Alaska? Unknown for the entire family; the risk of disease is probably similar to other domestic fowl. In some locations, eye infections affecting wild finches are reported in the literature.

- 5) Does the species otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species indigenous to Alaska?
Unknown for the entire family; probably not a threat to wild species found in Alaska.

If the Board chooses to amend and adopt this proposal, we suggest evaluating individual species against the five criteria above and if found appropriate, adding individual species rather than entire families or genera to the Clean List.

PROPOSALS 16 - 18

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL Proposal 16 proposes to add capuchin monkeys and Proposal 17 proposes to add primates (at a minimum black-capped capuchin monkeys) to the Clean List. Proposal 18 is a Department proposal to remove chimpanzees from the list.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSALS 16 AND 17: DO NOT ADOPT

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR PROPOSAL 18: ADOPT

RATIONALE: These proposals all involve non-human primates. Capuchin monkeys are proposed as both pets and service animals. The Clean List does not distinguish between the two purposes and only allows private ownership of a species without a permit from the Department.

Capuchin monkeys are small (6-10 lbs.) neotropical monkeys. They are highly social living in groups of 6-40 animals, primarily vegetarian, and have a captive life span of 25-40 years. Capuchin monkeys in the U.S. are primarily bred from stock that originated in the U.S. at research facilities. They may be owned without permits in 17 states and with a license or permit and sometimes a financial bonding requirement in an additional 10 states. Nineteen states prohibit owning primates including capuchin monkeys as pets, and several states have proposed bans on ownership.

Proposals 16 and 17 may represent an effort to add monkeys to the Clean List so that breeding stock may be legally imported into Alaska before federal legislation prohibits interstate trade in primates. Federal legislation (HR 80/S. 462 Captive Primate Safety Act) is currently under consideration that would modify the Lacey Act to prohibit interstate and international trade in primates as pets. That bill passed out of the House of Representatives in February 2009 and is under consideration in the Senate.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has a policy against private ownership of primates as pets or service animals. Concerns listed in AVMA policy center on primates' potential to spread diseases and to injure humans and other animals and on inhumane treatment of primates in private ownership. Even small primates may be stronger than their owners, and there are hundreds of cases of captive primates seriously injuring humans. Because monkeys and other primates are closely related to humans, they can carry and transmit diseases to humans including: viruses (Herpes B Virus, HIV, Ebola, measles, influenza, rabies), parasites (giardia, malaria), and bacteria (Shigella, Salmonella, E. coli, Vibrio). There is no effective rabies vaccine for primates.

The long lifespan and social bonds formed by most primates are particular concerns because they may outlive their owners or their owner's interest or ability to have them as pets. Monkeys and other primates are also highly intelligent and have complex social needs that are unrealistic for owners to meet. Failures to meet these needs and to correctly interpret subtle behavioral cues are most often cited as reasons why pet primates attack people.

At least one charitable organization trains and donates capuchin monkeys as service animals for the disabled. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service animals must be allowed to accompany their owners in nearly all public settings including workplaces, stores, restaurants and other places of business and on public transportation such as busses and aircraft. The ADA does not currently list individual species that may be employed as service animals or specify training necessary to qualify as a service animal. However, in response to complaints about exotic and potentially dangerous animals being used as service animals, the U.S. Justice Department recently completed a rule making process that would eliminate many species including non-human primates as service animals. Reasons for this change center on concerns about inhumane treatment of pet monkeys and human health and safety. That rule-making process initiated under the Bush Administration is currently on hold while the Obama Administration reviews the proposed final rule.

Adding any primate to the Clean List would reverse a decades-long national and international trend in restricting private ownership of primates. Once an animal is added to the Clean List ownership, breeding, and trade in that

species is unregulated. Without permitting authority, the departments of Fish and Game and Environmental Conservation would be unable to ensure primates are appropriately cared for or responsibly handled in public and private settings. Removing chimpanzees and denying inclusion of other primates to the Clean List will help ensure the health and safety of the public and the welfare of captive primates.

PROPOSAL 19

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal proposes adding a variety of exotic species including sloths, kinkajous, wallaroos, savannah cats, and surgically de-venomized (venomoid) reptiles to the Clean List. The request to add savannah cats within this proposal will be addressed with other cat proposals (20-22) below.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE:

Sloths

There are six species of sloths all native to the neotropics. They have relatively complex dietary requirements, require some specialized care, may live for 20-30 years, and are likely not suitable as pets for most people. According to the IUCN Red List two species are critically endangered, and the others are classified among species of least concern, but declining. The pet trade is among the reasons listed for decline of all sloth species. Adding sloths to the Clean List could create an additional market for the pet trade and contribute toward depletion of wild populations. Sloths are mammals that may carry and transmit rabies. There is no approved or licensed rabies vaccine for sloths.

Kinkajous

Kinkajous are nocturnal members of the *Procyonidae* (Raccoons) native to rainforests of Central and South America. In the wild they are arboreal and live on a diet of fruit and nectar. In captivity they should be fed a variety of tropical fruits and commercial monkey biscuits, require a large cage (4' x 6' x 8' recommended), and live 20-25 years. Their long lifespan and specialized dietary and care requirements would make them a poor choice as a pet for most people. Kinkajous are not endangered, but they are declining in the wild. One reason cited for the decline is the pet trade. At least one country (Honduras) has requested trade restrictions under CITES. Adding kinkajous to the Clean List could create an additional market for the pet trade and contribute toward depletion of wild populations. Kinkajous are mammals that can carry and transmit rabies, distemper, influenza and other pathogens and parasites. There are no approved or licensed vaccines (rabies vaccine being the most notable) or anthelmintics for Kinkajous.

Wallaroos

Wallaroos are marsupial macropod grazers native to tropical and subtropical Australia. They are intermediate in size between kangaroos and wallabies. Adults weigh 50-100 lbs and may live 15-20 years. Wallaroos are large, active animals that require a spacious and sturdy outdoor enclosure. In Alaska they cannot be kept outdoors year-round and would need to be confined to a heated space during colder months. They are not appropriate as pets in Alaska and should not be added to the Clean List. Wallaroos are mammals with the potential to carry and transmit rabies as well as other viruses, bacterial pathogens, and parasites that may affect domestic animals and wildlife. In addition, over 60% of all human diseases are zoonotic diseases and over 75% of emerging infectious human diseases originated from animals. There are no approved or licensed vaccines (rabies vaccine being most important) or anthelmintics for wallaroos.

Surgically De-venomized (venomoid) Reptiles

Under AS 16.05.921 venomous reptiles or their eggs may only be imported for a valid educational purpose including display in zoos or other institutions with a permit from the Department. The intent of this proposal appears to be allowing private ownership of venomoid reptiles as pets and possibly for educational purposes. Venomoid reptiles are venomous reptiles (primarily snakes) that have had their venom glands surgically removed or venom ducts severed. Conditions under which this surgery is performed vary from veterinary facilities to untrained individuals in their homes. Such unnecessary and painful surgery is considered inhumane by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Results of the surgery are inconsistent because venom glands may not be entirely removed and may regenerate. Venomoid reptiles require constant testing to ensure they are not producing venom, can still inflict deep puncture wounds, and can be bred to produce venomous offspring.

PROPOSAL 20 - 22

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: These proposals would add either all hybrids or specific hybrids of wild and domestic cats to the Clean List.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE All Hybrids of Domestic and Wild Cats

Adding all domestic cat hybrids to the Clean List (Proposal 20) would include hybrids with such wild species such as the Margay (IUCN Near Threatened), the Fishing Cat (IUCN Endangered), and Rusty-spotted Cat (IUCN Vulnerable). Creating a legal market for hybrids of rare and endangered wild cats would be irresponsible. Numerous other concerns about adding hybrid cats to the Clean List area detailed below.

Bengal, Savannah, and Chausie Cats

The Department is aware that some Bengal cats (hybrid of Asian leopard cat, *Prionailurus bengalensis*), Savannah cats (hybrid of African serval cat, *Leptailurus serval*) and possibly Chausie cats (hybrid of Asian jungle cat, *Felis chaus*) have been imported and are currently possessed as pets in Alaska. Under 5 AAC 92.029 hybrids of domestic animals with game animals may not be owned as pets or imported without a permit from the Department. The Department does not condone violation of regulations nor do we believe those who have knowingly done so should be rewarded by the Board.

These proposals request the addition of hybrids of domestic and wild cat species to the Clean List because the proponents contend the hybrids are recognized breeds of domestic cat rather than hybrids of wild cats. The Department vigorously disagrees with this assertion. Similar to wolf hybrids, simply because a hybrid animal shares some characteristics of appearance and behavior with a domestic animal, does not make it a domestic animal. A variety of wild cat species, including threatened and endangered species, look like and share behavioral traits with domestic cats, but they are not domestic cats.

The proposals contend that the wild cat hybrids are now breeds of domestic cat presumably because they have been bred as hybrids and kept as pets for some number of generations. However, the number of generations bred in captivity or proportion of wild cat ancestry below which wild cat hybrids becomes behaviorally and physiologically indistinguishable from domestic cats is unknown. Further, the proposals as written would make possession of nearly pure wild cats legal because they do not stipulate any limits on the proportion of wild cat ancestry a hybrid may have. Indeed, such requirements would be difficult for the Department or other agencies to monitor or enforce. A brief survey of hybrid cat breeder websites indicated that in addition to exotic appearance, large size and greater athletic (predatory) ability are characteristics sought by buyers and targeted by breeders. This is relevant because wild servals and jungle cats are similar in size to a lynx and can weigh 35 lbs. Because of their larger size and less predictable behavior, hybrid wild cats represent a greater potential threat to safety of the public and indigenous wildlife than domestic cats.

Although the wild cat species used to produce Bengal and Savannah hybrids are not listed as threatened or endangered by the IUCN, the pet trade is commonly mentioned as a potential threat to most species of small wild cats. Allowing possession of hybrids could complicate enforcement of trade restrictions on other cat species. Many small wild cat species, including endangered species, look similar to and would be difficult for airline, Alaska Ferry System, or Border Patrol personnel to distinguish from hybrids.

The proposals do not evaluate wild cat hybrids against the criteria in 5 AAC 92.029 (h) used by the Board to assess whether a species should be added to the Clean List. The Department contributes the following information.

1) Is the species capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska? Yes. We anticipate that hybrid cats would be able to survive similar to or better than feral domestic cats. Feral domestic cats currently survive year round in warmer coastal areas of the State and one feral Savannah cat is known to have survived the winter in the Anchorage area. The wild species used in these hybrids are generally larger and more capable predators than domestic cats.

2) Is the species capable of causing genetic alteration of a species indigenous to Alaska? Unknown, but possible. There are unconfirmed reports of domestic cats hybridizing with bobcats, a close relative of the lynx and a species with which lynx can hybridize. If the species involved in the proposed hybrids can breed with domestic cats, hybrids may be able to breed with indigenous lynx.

3.) Is the species capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species indigenous to Alaska? Unknown. Feral hybrid cats have the potential to compete with native felids and other small to medium-sized

mammalian and avian predators and to kill considerable numbers of birds and smaller mammals. Because of their large size and wild ancestry, hybrids likely have greater interest and ability to hunt compared with domestic cats.

4) Is the species capable of transmitting a disease to a species indigenous to Alaska? **Yes.** Similar to domestic cats, wild hybrids can carry and transmit diseases and parasites to indigenous species and the public. Rabies, an incurable and fatal disease, is of particular concern. The Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2008, published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that **“No parenteral rabies vaccines are licensed for use in wild animals or hybrids (the offspring of wild animals crossbred to domestic animals). Wild animals or hybrids should not be kept as pets.”** In other words, the effectiveness of domestic cat rabies vaccine in hybrids is unknown, and vaccinating hybrids likely provides a false sense of security regarding this fatal disease. This is one of the major reasons why proposals to add wild cat hybrids to the Clean List should be rejected.

5) Does the species otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species indigenous to Alaska?
Unknown.

For many years Alaska has had more restrictive regulations on possession of non-indigenous and hybrid animals than most states and adjacent Canadian provinces. These restrictive regulations have been effective at minimizing transmission of non-indigenous diseases and genetic material to Alaskan wildlife as well as protecting the health and safety of Alaskans. The Department opposes allowing hybrids of wild cats to be considered domestic or adding the proposed hybrids to the Clean List because: 1) the hybrids clearly fail two of the five criteria above, 2) as written the proposals would allow nearly pure non-indigenous wild cats to be owned, bred, and sold as pets without regulation, 3) adding hybrids could contribute to depletion of wild cat populations by creating a new market for exotic cats, and 4) because hybrid cats represent a potential threat to the health and safety of Alaskans and Alaska’s wildlife.

When evaluating proposals related to the Clean List, please consider the potential actions of the least responsible pet owners who may seek these animals. The increased interest in the possession of exotic and hybrid animals as pets is associated with an increased risk to domestic animals and wildlife. These animals may be vectors for many pathogens and parasites and the commercial vaccines and veterinary therapeutics are not generally licensed or approved for use in these species. In addition, over 60% of all human diseases are zoonotic diseases and over 75% of emerging infectious human diseases originated from animals.

PROPOSAL 23

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Prevent resident guides and assistant guides from obtaining permits for taking wolves using aircraft in predation control areas.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The proposer believes that guides have a strong incentive for underreporting take of wolves and/or over-reporting the number of wolves they observe while participating in wolf reduction programs. On the contrary, all permittees have a strong incentive to accurately report wolf information, because there are checks and balances built in to these predation control programs. The Department closely tracks permittee activity and take, investigates kill sites as needed, and requires permittees to submit accurate data. Additionally, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers collaborate with Department biologists regarding permittee activity. The Department also does not rely solely on permitted pilots, regardless of their profession, to guide wolf control programs. We rely primarily on Department-run wolf surveys, models, and monitoring throughout the year. This data is supplemented by information from wolf control permittees, hunters, trappers, and others.

The proposer also believes that predation control programs risk damage to ecosystems. While no management action is without risk, current predation control programs in Alaska are structured to avoid negatively affecting the long-term integrity of ecosystems. Of many studies in Interior Alaska in which predator populations were manipulated, none indicate long-term or irreversible negative effects.

PROPOSAL 24

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Change the number of bait stations that a licensed guide-outfitter and his assistant guides may register in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area as described in 5 AAC 92.125(d)

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 25

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Prohibit the use of bait or scent lures near businesses, schools or other facilities as described.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Bear baiting regulations currently restrict using bait or scent lures within one mile of a house or other permanent dwelling. The regulation as currently written does not encompass all scenarios pertaining to the intent of the law. Locations such as schools and businesses should be included as restricted areas to set bait. A school or business is not considered a "house" or "other permanent dwelling" and falls through the legal cracks and the intent of the regulation.

PROPOSAL 26

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: The proposal would only allow for the use of bucket snares for black bear capture that are placed above ground level and have a breakaway release suitable for allowing an adult brown bear to escape if caught in the snare.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Elevated bucket snares are the current preferred method for black bear capture. The Department desires to have the option to allow the use of other snare techniques if they are found to be effective and appropriate as alternatives given different circumstances for capturing black bears. Breakaway releases suitable for adult brown bears are neither practical or safe given the nature of snares set to catch black bears. Efforts to place snares in an appropriate and specific manner (e.g., elevated bucket snares) are more effective at reducing the incidental catch of brown bears as well as much safer for those participating. Also, the necessity of having to dispatch charging snared brown bears would be less if the permittee(s) or others approaching the bear knew there was no breakaway, smaller diameter snare cable, or other equipment designed to allow for the escape of larger bears. Given that 6 of the 8 brown bears caught last year were sub-adults, it is likely that the proposed modification of the existing method would do little to reduce the incidental take of brown bears and at the same time create an unnecessary safety hazard.

PROPOSAL 27

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: The proposal would only allow the use of cable snares for bear capture by trained Department of Fish and Game employees.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The Department's current black bear snaring control program has been regulated and monitored by Department staff and an experienced professional contractor. Limited numbers of licensed trappers (permittees) participated in the program during the first year and these seven individuals attended Department sponsored training and orientation both in the classroom and in the field. With the level of attention given to permittees and the permit condition requirements, the Department does not support the idea of only ADFG staff conducting snaring operations. Also, given limited staff and budgets there is reasonable justification to allowing for public participation in conducting focused and controlled predator management programs such as black bear snaring. In addition, the Department is planning to move forward with this program and hire additional staff to work specifically with the program, increasing monitoring efforts, and evaluating the program in focused areas.

PROPOSAL 28

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Eliminate nonresident hunting for moose and caribou within all predation control areas.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE: This is an allocation issue that should be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Among the 6 current predation control areas, the Board has eliminated nonresident hunting for moose in 2 areas and for caribou in 3 areas. These determinations were made based upon a variety of factors specific to each area that included: species identified as important for providing high levels of human harvest; species benefitting from predation control; harvestable surplus; customary and traditional use findings; and historical harvest by residents and nonresidents.

If this proposal were adopted, these factors would no longer be considered, resulting in less nonresident hunting opportunity. For example, the Unit 13 predation control program was established in 2000 to benefit moose. Since it was implemented, the number of moose counted in fall trend counts has increased by 3–5% per year. During the spring 2009 meeting, the Board addressed allocation of moose in Unit 13 and determined the amount needed for subsistence was 300–600 moose and the total bull harvest had increased to more than 800. Because resident hunting opportunity was being met, the Board established a nonresident drawing permit hunt for bulls with 50-inch antlers or at least 4 brow tines. In establishing this hunt, the Board recognized that moose taken by nonresidents are often given to resident relatives or other local residents. The 2009 nonresident harvest of 11 bulls had no influence on moose numbers or resident hunter opportunity.

PROPOSAL 29

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Eliminate nonresident harvest of certain big game species in active predator control areas with positive customary and traditional use findings and change the definition of an active predator control area.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NONRESIDENT HARVEST-NO RECOMMENDATION
ACTIVE PREDATOR CONTROL AREA DEFINITION-DO NOT
ADOPT

RATIONALE: The Department has no recommendation concerning eliminating nonresident hunting because this is an allocation issue that should be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Alaska Statute (AS) 16.05.258 specifies procedures regarding game populations for which the Board made positive customary and traditional use determinations. This statute requires the Board to adopt regulations that eliminate consumptive uses other than subsistence (AS 16.05.258(b)(4)) when the harvestable portion of the population is less than the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence and is insufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses.

Among the 6 current predation control areas, the Board has eliminated nonresident hunting for moose in 2 areas and for caribou in 3 areas. These determinations were made based upon a variety of factors specific to each area that included: species identified as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumption; species benefitting from predation control; customary and traditional use findings; harvestable surplus; amounts necessary for subsistence use; and historical harvest by residents and nonresidents.

The Department recommends do not adopt concerning the change in definition of an active predator control area. The proposal to add "or Department of Fish and Game personnel and/or state contractors are conducting predator control" to the definition inserts complicated, confusing and unnecessary language. Also, changing the words "current year" to "current regulatory year" would eliminate the ability to sell black bear skulls and untanned hides of bears taken during July–October and eliminate same-day-airborne take of black bears at bait stations during that time.

PROPOSAL 30

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Eliminate harvest of most big game species by nonresidents in areas with customary and traditional use findings.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: See analysis and recommendation for proposal 29.

PROPOSAL 31

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Amend to change the dates that helicopters and snaring may be used in Unit 16 black bear management.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 32

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Establish a predation control plan for Units 9C and 9E.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 33

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Modify the population objectives for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (NAP) in Unit 9C and 9E.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 34

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 35

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would change current sealing regulations to allow the harvester at his option, to do the required steps for sealing "or" take the hide into a sealing agent.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The Department requires sealing of bears in areas where collecting biological information on harvested bears is important for management. Sealing means that a person brings in the hide and skull of the bear to an authorized representative of ADF&G, at which time information on the taking of the bear is recorded. Additionally, a tag is fixed to both the hide and skull, the hide is checked for evidence of sex, and in most cases a premolar tooth is pulled for age analysis. In some cases genetic material is also collected.

Although getting a bear sealed in some rural areas can be challenging for the hunter, the Department tries to meet this need through the use of designated sealing agents. These people are trained to seal bears and are located throughout the State in locations where the Department believes they are needed to meet the needs of hunters. The Department also tries to accommodate hunters by allowing them 30 days after harvest to get their bear sealed. Hunters can use a temporary sealing certificate that allows a 2nd party to bring the bear in for sealing if the hunter can not make it themselves.

The Department does not support this proposal because quality control of the data can not be guaranteed without having trained individuals conducting the sealing of bears. This type of data must be collected in a systematic manner to assure consistent and accurate data collection.

PROPOSAL 36

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would eliminate the sealing requirements for marten, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine statewide except when specific biological data is needed by the Department of Fish and Game that cannot be collected by the trapper for the Department.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: Often the only data the Department is able to gather on furbearers comes through the sealing process, and is important information to assess furbearer population trends and address management questions. For the furbearers referenced in this proposal, sealing means that a person must bring the hides of these animals to a designated sealing agent, at which time information on the taking of the furbearer is recorded. Additionally, a tag is fixed to the hide and the hide is checked for evidence of sex. In some cases genetic material is collected. Sealing is also required under federal law for river otter, wolf, and wolverines. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) requires that river otters, wolves, and wolverines be sealed and affixed with a Federal CITES tag.

Although getting furs sealed in some rural areas can be challenging for a trapper, the Department tries to meet this need through the use of designated sealing agents. These people are trained to seal furbearers and are located throughout the State in locations where the Department believes they are needed to meet the needs of trappers. The Department also tries to accommodate trappers by allowing them to seal most furs up to 30 days after the close of the season for each species. Trappers can use a temporary sealing certificate that allows a 2nd party to bring their furs in for sealing if the trapper can not make it themselves.

The Department does not support this proposal because quality control of the data can not be guaranteed without having trained individuals conducting the sealing of furbearers. This type of data must be collected in a systematic manner to assure consistent and accurate data collection.

Proposal 37

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would modify the sheep horn sealing requirement in GUMs 6-11 and I3-17 so that the seal would be a nonpermanent mark. As written, the seal could either be attached to the skull (nonpermanent after the horns detach from the horn core and skull, about 10-30 days after the death of the ram) and not the horns or that the seal would not have to be permanently affixed to the horn and could be removed by the taxidermist.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: The primary goal of the sealing program is to encourage hunters and guides to be more selective when judging sheep in the field, because the horns must later be presented to ADF&G or AWT for determination of legality. A secondary goal of the program is to allow the department to collect much needed data. Whether the seal is permanent or nonpermanent is primarily an enforcement issue because nonpermanent seals have a higher potential for abuse than permanent seals. After several years of changes, the sealing program is now consistent among all sport and many subsistence hunts statewide. Permanent sealing is also a nationwide practice supported by all agencies that administer sheep hunts. This proposal seeks to change the sealing regulation in only a portion of the state, which will eliminate that consistency.

PROPOSAL 38

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Allow the sale of black bear gall bladders by non-profit organizations.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: The Department recommends that sale of black bear gall bladders remain illegal. As a CITES, Appendix II species, black bears and their parts require documentation for export so that trade in protected Asian bear parts cannot occur by fraudulently mislabeling them as American black bear. To satisfy this requirement, Alaska currently requires sealing of all bear hides and skulls exported from the State. Sale of gallbladders is particularly sensitive, and has been implicated as an incentive to poaching in Alaska and other states. Ongoing law enforcement investigations indicate that black bears in Alaska have been snared illegally and only gallbladders and claws removed. Legalizing the sale of gallbladders would likely encourage such poaching activity, including areas where high black bear harvest is already a concern.

PROPOSAL 39

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Allow the sale or barter of tanned bear hides.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Currently, the fur of a bear may be used in an article of handicraft, but all other commercial uses of parts of bears are prohibited under general hunting regulations. The Department does not support the general sale of bear hides, except for those bears taken under control permits as necessary to meet the goals of predator control under an intensive management plan. The sale of brown/grizzly bear parts may lead to long-term population declines in some parts of Alaska. Transport of brown/grizzly bears are subject to CITES regulations and would require various state and/or federal permits to leave Alaska. The Department believes that the current regulatory system provides ample hunting opportunity for subsistence and other uses of the species. The sale of a complete, tanned bear hide including the head and claws, would be considered the sale of a trophy; see rationale for proposal 40.

PROPOSAL 40

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Allow the sale or barter of big game trophies.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Trophy is defined in regulation as “a mount of a big game animal, including the skin of the head (cape) or the entire skin, in a lifelike representation of the animal, including a lifelike representation made from any part of a big game animal; ...”. Except for the sale of skins of some big game animals with relatively low value, the sale of black bear hides, and the limited sale of grizzly bear hides from some areas, the Department does not support commercial use of most big game animal parts or trophies.

Alaska contains more species of trophy big game and a greater opportunity to harvest large individual animals than all other states in the USA. Alaska is in a different ‘league’ than many states with regard to trophy-sized native big game. The Board should consider attendant effects of allowing the sale of trophies, including the possibility for invoking the federal commerce clause, since discriminating between residents and nonresidents might restrict access to a potential source of income.

If the Board’s intent is to allow the purchase, sale or barter of big game trophies by removing the current prohibition, the Board may wish to consider restricting sales to prevent large-scale commercialization. This might include allowing a one-time sale by the original hunter as is done in some other states and provinces.

PROPOSAL 41

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would modify the definition of “edible meat” for big game by including disease as a factor that can render meat inedible and therefore not subject to edible meat salvage requirements.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: This proposal was deferred from November 2009 Board meeting and was modified to apply statewide rather than only in Units 23 and 26A, as originally proposed. The proponents wish to modify the definition of edible meat to exempt meat that is inedible because of disease. The definition of “edible meat” occurs

in both State statute (AS 16.30.030) and regulation (5 AAC 92.990) so changes to definitions needs to consider the statutory oversight to this requirement.

The Department has concerns about changing the definition of edible meat to allow "diseased" animals to be left in the field. Because disease is broadly defined as any deviation from normal health, this could result in hunters leaving meat in the field, claiming it was diseased, even though it is edible and safe for human consumption. This also shifts the responsibility to comply with wanton waste statutes and regulations from the hunter to enforcement officers to prove that the meat was not diseased. This represents a major change from the current practices where hunters are responsible for proper care and salvage of game from the field, until it is verified that the animal, or some portions of the animal, is not fit for human consumption.

There are very few wildlife diseases that render an animal completely inedible for human consumption and the Department provides hunters with various educational materials to help them understand wildlife diseases, when they represent a human health risk and precautions for the use of meat when disease is present or suspected in a harvested animal. In addition, Department provides services to the public to help evaluate "diseased" animals whenever animals are brought in for evaluation. In summary, the Department believes that the current approach works effectively to balance the responsibilities to avoid wanton waste of wildlife and to protect people from wildlife disease risks.

PROPOSAL 42

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal requests regulatory changes that would impose stricter standards to conditions that would be considered wasting of big game and broader authority for the BOG to limit uses of game meat after it has been processed for human consumption.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **NO RECOMMENDATION**

RATIONALE: The author requests that the BOG prohibit activities that are considered wasteful after big game has been processed for human consumption, and provides an example of using salmon fillets as fertilizer to illustrate that point. Requirements for meat salvage currently include making a reasonable effort to retrieve game and meat salvage requirements from the field, but regulations end at the point that game has been processed for human consumption. The author of this proposal suggests it would be in the best interest of sportsmen and the image of hunting to extend control over the use of game meat to include how it is used following processing. The only area where regulations currently restrict use of edible meat from game is for use as bait for trapping. The Department does not have a recommendation on this proposal because it is not clear if the Board has the authority to regulate uses of game meat beyond processing for human consumption in a manner suggested by the author.

PROPOSAL 43

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would modify the salvage requirement of all harvested big game and allow hunters to dispose of meat according to their choosing.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The proposal lacks a lot of specificity, but seems to suggest that the regulation should allow hunters the ability to decide whether to salvage meat from harvested big game after recording the harvest of the animal in the field. If this is the intent of the proposal, it is in direct opposition to State statute AS 16.30.010, which prohibits wanton waste of big game and waterfowl and AS 16.30.020 (3) which defines edible meat that must be salvaged.

PROPOSAL 44

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would change and clarify the boundary between Units 18, 19, and 21. The proposal statement of purpose in the published proposal mistakenly refers to Game Management Unit 20 instead of Unit 21.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **AMEND AND ADOPT**

RATIONALE: As stated in the proposal, the current boundary between these game management units is imprecise. The boundaries in the Kalskag area are particularly ambiguous with 1) no definition of precisely where the "straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut" begins and ends and 2) the large slough of the Kuskokwim River locally known as "Old River" makes determining what is downstream of Kalskag problematic.

This proposal would provide a more precise boundary and resolve the confusion regarding this boundary for all users and agencies. However, we believe it should be amended to better define the boundary in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages. By recommending "Amend and Adopt" we are not changing the intended boundary of the proposal, but simply clarifying the description of the new boundary. Also, we are adding latitude and longitude coordinates to the locations referenced in the proposal. The amended proposal will change the codified descriptions in 5 AAC 92.450 (18); 92.450 (19) (A); and 92.450 (21) (E).

The definition of Unit 18 should read: That area draining the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers downstream of a line beginning at the downstream boundary of Dick Nash's fish camp (61° 28' 08" N 160° 25' 50" W) on the Kuskokwim River, directly across the river to Sam Savage's fish camp (61° 28' 16" N 160° 26' 13" W), then following the western shore of First Slough and Mud Creek to the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek tramway, then following the tramway to Crooked Creek, then following the western bank of Crooked Creek to Arhymot Lake, then following the western shore of Arhymot Lake to the mouth of an unnamed creek on the northwestern shore of Arhymot Lake (61° 38' 45" N 160° 28' 23" W), then following a straight line to the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the Yukon River and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north; Nunivak, St. Matthew and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River.

The amended definition of Unit 19A should read: All drainages of the Kuskokwim River upstream of a line beginning at the downstream boundary of Dick Nash's fish camp (61° 28' 08" N 160° 25' 50" W) on the Kuskokwim River, directly across the river to Sam Savage's fish camp (61° 28' 16" N 160° 26' 13" W), then following the western shore of First Slough and Mud Creek to the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek tramway, then following the tramway to Crooked Creek, then following the western bank of Crooked Creek to Arhymot Lake, then following the western shore of Arhymot Lake to the mouth of an unnamed creek on the northwestern shore of Arhymot Lake (61° 38' 45" N 160° 28' 23" W), then following a straight line to the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the Yukon River.

The amended definition of Unit 21E should read: That area draining into the Yukon River upstream of a line beginning at the downstream boundary of Paimiut to the mouth of an unnamed creek on the northwestern shore of Arhymot Lake (61° 38' 45" N 160° 28' 23" W) to, but not including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank and to, but not including, the Tanana River drainage on the south bank, and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage.

This proposal adds 40–60 mi² to Unit 19 by moving the boundary with Unit 18 approximately 5 miles downstream. Unit 18 contains more than 41,000 mi², Unit 19 is more than 36,000 mi², and Unit 21 is almost 44,000 mi², so the effective change of total area in each unit is minor. This proposal also corrects an administrative error which has incorrectly assigned UCU 21E-0101 to Unit 21E. It should be reassigned to Unit 19A because it is within the Kuskokwim River drainage. This correction amounts to a change of less than 90 mi². About half of the small area being redefined by this proposal is moose habitat, which makes the boundary change and UCU reassignment a small fraction of the available moose habitat in the affected game management units. Therefore, we recommend maintaining existing subsistence findings.

The Department has worked with the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, particularly the chair, to assist in the development of a boundary proposal. This proposal has not yet been discussed in detail with the other advisory committees that it affects, specifically, the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee. Their comments should be considered.

PROPOSAL 45

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Housekeeping modifications to game management unit and subunit boundaries in Units 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 25.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Staff proposal-see issue statement.

PROPOSAL 46

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would create a regulatory definition for hunting big game with a crossbow.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DEFER**

RATIONALE: The Department recommends defer on this proposal because, though the author suggests providing the regulatory standards for hunting with a crossbow in 5 AAC 92.990, the Department believes it should be included in 5 AAC 92.085 (Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions), which is not in the call for this meeting. However, the Department is providing the following information regarding standards it feels would be appropriate.

Recommended standard requirements: Crossbows are not considered archery equipment for "archery only hunts" yet may be used during any general firearm season. Minimum draw weight of 100 lbs. and a minimum draw length of 14 inches from front of bow to back of string when in the cocked position; arrows must be at least 16 inches long; broadheads shall have fixed metal cutting blades at least 7/8 of an inch in diameter. No optical scopes or electronic devices may be attached to the cross bow.

Reducing the wounding loss rate leads to better management and increases future hunting opportunities for all hunters. These guidelines fall in line with the requirement of other states that currently allow the harvest of big game such as elk and moose with a cross bow.

PROPOSAL 47

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would remove snowy owl from the list of unclassified game, effectively closing the resident hunting seasons in Units 17, 18, 22, 23, and 26 where birds may be taken for food or clothing and not sold or offered for sale.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Snowy owls are found in tundra environments of western and northern Alaska. Small numbers are taken for food and ceremonial uses by local residents. The Department does not require harvest reporting. However, harvests of snowy owls were documented in 11 of 33 community subsistence surveys in northern and western Alaska from 1982 through 2007. Estimated annual harvests ranged from 0 to 29 owls per community, with an estimated annual average of 3.6 owls per community. For the 11 communities reporting owl harvests, the average harvest was 11 owls annually; the typical (median) harvest was 5 owls annually. For this species, the widespread distribution of tundra nesting habitat in North America provides significant protection from overharvest on a broad population level. Although largely unknown, the low level of harvest is not expected to have significant detrimental effects on the microhabitats identified in the proposal.

The proponent suggests that no hunting protection through the Federal Migratory Bird Treaties with Canada and Mexico should be applied to snowy owls, but this argument fails to recognize that the treaty was amended in 1997 to recognize customary and traditional harvests of treaty-protected species. Snowy owls (and many other species) are allowable for harvest because traditional use is recognized and there are no current population concerns. Due to low levels of traditional harvest in the tundra areas of western and northern Alaska, the Department favors maintaining the current classification with allowable hunting and does not support the 'no hunting' effect of the proposal.

PROPOSAL 48

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: This proposal would modify the definition of a full curl ram to include a ram whose horn tips have grown past a line drawn between the lowest point of the front bases of both horns.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: We are sympathetic to the difficulties encountered when field judging sheep, and we agree with the authors of the proposal that in most cases, legal sheep under this modified definition would "almost always be legal

under the current definition of a full curl...". We also acknowledge that there are some rams with unusual horn characteristics that are not easily classified under the current definition. However, due to the many options of viewing a line from the "front", combined with natural variability in horn growth patterns, base shapes, and positions, the proposed definition cannot be consistently applied to the extent needed to be legally defensible. Alternately, the current definition of full curl (the outer surface of the horn must grow through 360° of a circle when viewed from the side), is a proven method to consistently judge sheep. This definition has been in use for 20+ years. The department is working toward improved education and orientation of hunters, staff, and AWT to improve consistency among all parties when judging sheep.

PROPOSAL 49

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Require permittees who radiocollar wolves to report and treat any wolves they detect that are infested with lice.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **TAKE NO ACTION**

RATIONALE: The Department already has the authority under 5AAC 92.033 and AS 16.05.930 to require agencies who are issued capture permits to report and treat wolves infected with lice. In the future, we will require permittees to report any lousy wolves encountered. However, treatment should be considered on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the permittee and depending upon feasibility and conservation concerns.

PROPOSAL 50

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Allows the submittal and consideration of any Tier II or subsistence related issue for any regular Board meeting.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **DO NOT ADOPT**

RATIONALE: The Board currently considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule, ~~with five-regularly scheduled meetings~~ in a two-year cycle. Proposals concerning subsistence related issues are considered at the appropriate regional meeting; proposals concerning Tier II scoring and Tier II permits are considered every four years at the statewide regulations meeting. The public has come to rely on the predictability of the normal Board schedule ~~which facilitates their participation in the regulatory process.~~ *1/2000* *Fonten*

~~The Department understands the author's intention is to allow the submittal of proposals for inclusion in the Board proposal books. Accepting any and all proposals concerning Tier II or subsistence related issues for consideration at any regular Board meeting has the potential to add several more issues from around the State to be addressed at each meeting. Unless the Board narrowed the focus, subsistence related proposals would include all hunting or trapping proposals that impact game populations that have positive findings for customary and traditional uses. This would result in the loss of the regional/topic focus at each of the Board meetings and diminish the predictability of the process. It would also add a financial cost for public and Department for participation at additional Board meetings.~~

Additionally, as required by State law, when the Board addresses proposals affecting subsistence uses the Board is required to be sure that the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for the subsistence uses. Other Board policies providing for scheduling flexibility as appropriate, such as the Joint Board Petition Policy and the Subsistence Proposal Policy.

PROPOSAL 51

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Extend all trapping season dates ending on February 28 to incorporate leap year, February, 29.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Department proposal generated at the Board's request. See issue statement.

PROPOSAL 52

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: At the March 2009 meeting, the Board amended this proposal (formerly Proposal 117) which decreased the resident and nonresident bag and possession limits for sea ducks in Unit 15C, Kachemak Bay. The BOG action prompted a petition to seek an emergency regulation to increase the bag and possession limits on sea ducks in Unit 15C, Kachemak Bay to their former status. Upon further consideration of Proposal 117 and the petition during a May 19, 2009 teleconference, the Board concluded that additional time for public review and analysis would best serve the public and the resource. The Board acted to delay the implementation of Proposal 117 to July 1, 2010 and allowed for additional public review of the proposal during its January 2010 meeting.

The original proposal does not address specific regulations, such as bag limits, season dates, or other rules, but presumably the desired action would restrict guided sea duck hunting or introduce more restrictive harvest regulations in Unit 15C to control harvest rates and maintain abundance in localized areas.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: **AMEND AND ADOPT**

RATIONALE: Since a regulatory change has already been adopted at the March 2009 meeting, the Department recommendation is to revert (maintain) sea duck harvest regulations to the 2009 resident and nonresident possession and bag limits by amending Proposal 117 or otherwise modifying bag limits for sea ducks in Unit 15C, Kachemak Bay. No specific regulatory changes are requested by the original proposal, although the intent is to prevent local depletions of wintering sea ducks by restricting guided hunting in Kachemak Bay. The Department and Board have considered and addressed the concerns inherent in this proposal several times over the past ten years. A key issue in this proposal is concern about potential local depletions. The Department and other wildlife agencies frame management efforts primarily at the population level, with consideration of status and trends of resources within regions. Currently, the Department is managing waterfowl at the scale of regions, such as Cook Inlet and the Gulf Coast regulation zone. The Department has no practical way to monitor ducks or rationale for controlling harvest at the spatial scales suggested by the proposal.

Surveys conducted during 1999-2003 indicate that 12,000-25,000 sea ducks winter in Kachemak Bay. State harvest survey data from 1984-1996 indicate an average harvest of 1,500 sea ducks in all of Cook Inlet. More recent federal harvest data indicate that, statewide, approximately 5,500 hunters harvest 9,000 sea ducks annually. Over 250,000 sea ducks winter in Alaska.

The Board restricted sea duck bag limits for residents and non-residents in 1999 and further reduced resident daily bag limits for harlequin and long-tailed ducks from 10 to 6 in 2001. The Department does not have evidence that sea ducks are being overharvested. Further harvest restrictions in Kachemak Bay will not provide conservation benefits to populations of sea ducks.

Observations on Board of Game Meeting Cycles and Proposal Deadline

History of Change

- **Species groupings to regional based meetings**
- **Attended only by regional supervisors**
- **Include area management staff**
- **Provide analysis and recommendations to ACs and public before the meetings**
- **Developing more elaborate presentations (PowerPoint)**

Responsibilities of Area Wildlife Managers

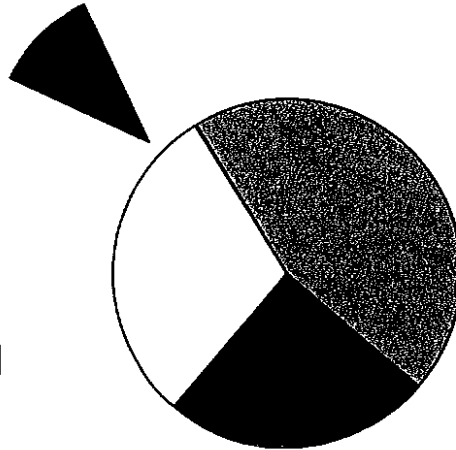
- **Wide variety of services to constituents**
- **Conduct wildlife surveys**
- **Summarize harvest and survey data and write reports**
- **Participate in State and Federal regulatory meetings**

What is involved in developing a Board proposal?

- **Understand what is being requested**
- **Review biological data related to proposal**
- **Analyze and summarize additional data**
- **Draft initial analysis and recommendations**
- **Coordinate review with other area staff, regional and division management, other divisions, enforcement, etc.**
- **Develop formal presentation for BOG meeting**
- **Attend the meeting to make presentation**

Overall workload for regulations meetings

- **Number of proposals**
- **Complexity of proposals**
- **Length of Board meetings**
- **Frequency of Board meetings**



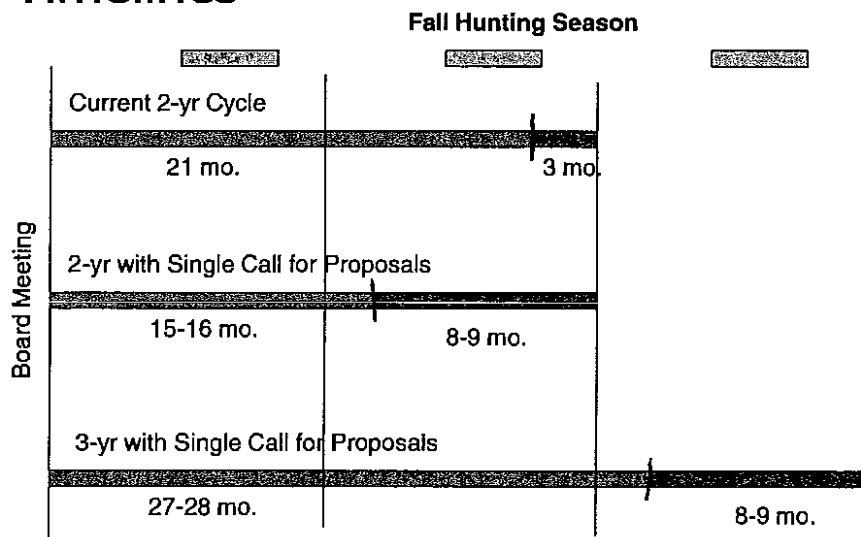
Quote from management staff

“As for the work hours, I find that wildlife is a full time job. I often work evenings and weekends trying to keep things afloat and moving. I think that is particularly true in rural offices where the AB is a 1-man show. Some days we can't get anything done during the normal hours because we're sealing furs, issuing permits, taking phone calls, attending meetings, etc. As a consequence we end up working odd hours to catch up on reports and papers and we never clock out, especially if we try to do something in a public place like going out for dinner or picking up groceries at the store.”

Comparisons of Proposals

Public Proposals	521	88	17%
AC Proposals	199	59	30%
Department Proposals	182	164	90%

Timelines



Questions

- **Is the public and the regulatory process better served by having better quality conversations about changes to regulations?**
- **Is the Department serving the public better by spending more time in the regulatory process or conducting management activities and providing local services?**

Issues to Consider

- **Tradeoffs**
- **Balance**
- **Quality vs. Quantity**



Questions and Answers about Potential Changes to the Alaska Board of Game Proposal Deadline and Meeting Cycle

October, 2009

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is developing recommendations for consideration by the Board of Game to address a number of workload and public process issues. The large number of proposals and the complexity of issues addressed by the board each year warrants changes that will improve the process to benefit the public, advisory committees, board members, and department staff. Specifically under discussion are ideas for changing the timing of proposal deadlines and shifting to a three-year meeting cycle. The board currently uses a separate proposal deadline for each meeting and operates on a two-year meeting cycle.

The following information is presented in a question and answer format. Comments from the public on the potential changes are welcome and will benefit the department and the board as they work through this process.

For additional information, please contact:

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game (465-4110), or
Suzan Bowen, Regulatory Program Coordinator, Division of Wildlife (244-6475)

Q: First off, where is the board in the decision making process?

A: It is early in the discussion stage and no decisions have been made. During the Board of Game's November 13-16, 2009 meeting, the board will have a discussion about the changes and further examine the topic. The board is expected to review more information including public comments and possibly take action during its January 29-February 1, 2010 statewide meeting.

Q: Why is the board considering changes now?

A: Recent board meetings have highlighted problems with the short time periods for public and staff review of regulatory proposals. For example, proposal books were received in the mail just 30 days before the February 2009 Board of Game meeting and advisory committee members were frustrated with the lack of time for an adequate review.

Q: What are some of the other issues?

A: Some other issues include the heavy workloads that advisory committees and other board participants including the Department of Fish and Game are faced with during years when both the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries address the same region; the proposal deadline for the

Fall regional meeting occurs in August when committees have difficulty meeting because of the hunting and fishing seasons; and many committees have only two meetings due to large travel expenses causing them be less involved with both boards.

Q: Are the short public review periods also a problem for department staff?

A: Yes. Staff members have little flexibility in carving out time for proposal review and developing department comments. This has often resulted in delays in making the department recommendations available in advance of written comment deadlines and board meetings. The workload is especially problematic in years when both the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries address the same region.

Q: Is this the only problem for department staff?

A: No, regional department staff now must commit significant time in the board regulatory process every other year. Allowing this major investment of personnel resources every third year, similar to the fisheries staff, would alleviate this workload and allow for more efficient use of staff resources. Demands of the current schedules are impacting the ability of wildlife staff to address core research and management responsibilities for monitoring wildlife populations.

Q: What are the advantages of an annual proposal deadline?

A: It provides a longer timeframe for evaluating regulatory changes and allows for much greater scheduling flexibility for all phases of the meeting preparation. Specifically, it allows time for staff to categorize proposals and place into roadmap order well in advance of board meetings. This will result in efficiencies and save money for the public and staff when the meeting structure is known well in advance.

Another significant cost savings can be realized by including all proposals into a single proposal book each year. Currently, up to three separate proposal books are published each year. Printing and mailing a single book will result in considerable time and budget savings.

In terms of public participation in the board process, a single proposal deadline would improve timeliness of department recommendations which will benefit the public and advisory committee review prior to meetings.

Q: Are there disadvantages to an annual proposal deadline?

A: One of the trade-offs is that for the Interior Region (Region III) and Southcentral/Southwest Region (Region II), proposals would have to be submitted prior to the fall hunting season and prior to late fall game population surveys. Proposals for Southeast Region (Region I) and Arctic Region (Region V) have been due prior to fall hunts, so this is not a significant change for those

regions. Statewide regulations (Chapter 92) are not tied to population changes. There are several administrative remedies available to address any biological concerns that may come up on shorter notice, including the use of “placeholder” proposals, board generated proposals, agenda change requests, and emergency petitions. Conservation concerns would not be left unaddressed.

Q: When would the proposal deadline be set?

A: May 10 of each year is a suggested date. It allows time for advisory committees to meet over the winter and develop proposals. Proposal books can be compiled over the early summer months and be distributed in July to insure an ample public review period. Note that proposals to the Board of Fisheries are due on April 10 of each year, or the preceding Friday if the April 10 falls on the weekend.

Q: What are the advantages of shifting to a three-year cycle?

A: Dividing the board’s work load into three divisions allows for the following groups:

- Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
- Interior (Region III)
- Southeast (Region I), Arctic (Region V), and “Statewide” (Chapter 92)

Each large region would become the main focus in a single year. This opens the possibility of grouping proposals for more cohesive and shorter meetings during winter months which promotes a more deliberate board process and prevents hurried decisions at the end of long meetings. For example, during years when the Southcentral/Southwest (Region II) and Interior (Region III) meetings occur, issues could be broken into two separate components. This would help to reduce the marathon meetings that currently last 10+ days. Breaking the larger regions into multiple segments may also reduce the frequency of having to defer proposals to meetings outside that meeting cycle. It would provide time between meetings to address the needs that cause proposals to be unresolved. Shorter meeting segments and scheduling specific elements in each component would also result in more efficient public participation at meetings and more efficient use of staff time.

Q: Are there other advantages of a three-year cycle?

A: Yes. A three-year cycle would eliminate those years of regional overlap between the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game which will improve the involvement by the advisory committees. This is helpful especially for those advisory committees that are limited to one or two meetings each year.

Overall, it would reduce and refocus the regional staff involvement with the board meetings from the current two-year period to a three-year period, with resulting cost efficiencies.

Q: Would a three-year cycle allow enough responsiveness to public concerns and allow the board to respond to rapidly changing resource issues?

A: Yes. The use of agenda change requests and board generated proposals would allow the board to respond more quickly as needed. Moreover, the department always has the authority to address conservation concerns. A three-year cycle would result in longer timeframes for evaluating regulatory changes on wildlife populations and give the department the ability to manage species with a management plan system over a longer time period. It would also favor the board's role in providing a more comprehensive regulatory direction, and promote more strategic changes (proactive) rather than having to adjust season dates every other year in response to public reaction to the previous season (reactive).

Q: Could the board consider an annual proposal deadline and a three-year meeting cycle as separate actions?

A: Yes, it could take either action independently, but there are advantages of implementing both changes at the same time.

Q: How would a three-year cycle for the Board of Game mesh with the three-year cycle for the Board of Fisheries?

A: Quite well if implemented correctly to avoid overlap in major regional meetings. For example, Southcentral game topics could easily be scheduled to avoid years when the Board of Fisheries is scheduled to address Cook Inlet fishery topics. Currently with the two-year game cycle and three-year fishery cycle, half the years result in this "double whammy" of board meetings causing heavy workloads and increased participation at board meetings for the local fish and game advisory committees. This is also difficult for department staff that covers both meetings.

Q: How will the proposed changes affect the state's participation in the federal subsistence board process?

A: The federal subsistence board and regional councils rely on active state participation by the local fish and game advisory committees and Department of Fish and Game staff. The increased review period will allow for improved coordination between the two regulatory systems and allow for more effective participation by advisory committees and by the department.

Q: Would delaying action improve the coordination between the game and fishery cycles?

A: No, it would not. Approving these two board process actions early in 2010 allows time to set the first annual proposal deadline for the spring of 2011 and have the "transition year" be the 2011/2012 cycle year. This schedule avoids having more than three years between any regional

or statewide meeting during the transition and allow for the game cycle and fisheries to synchronize in a pattern with the least conflict.

Q: What would a transition period look like?

A: The next two meeting cycles (2009/2010 and 2010/2011) have already been set based on the two-year cycle. The following cycle (2011/2012) begins the transition to the three-year cycle by including the Statewide Cycle B meeting and the Region V meeting to avoid gaps of more than three years between regional meetings. Beginning in 2012/2013, the transition to a three-year cycle will be complete and the smaller regions (I and V) and statewide meeting will all occur in the same year and Region II and Region III will occur alone within an annual cycle.

Transition Period for the Board of Game Schedule

2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Region III Statewide (A) Region V	Region II Region I	Region III + Statewide (B) + Region V	Region II	Region I Region V Statewide (all)	Region III

Q: Does the board have to take regulatory action to implement these changes?

A: No, the board schedule is a policy of the board and is not a regulatory action. Proposal deadlines are selected by the board's executive director after soliciting input from the board.

Q: What is the role of the advisory committees and the public in commenting on these ideas?

A: Department and board actions are always informed by public input. The schedule of holding an initial discussion with the board during its November 2009 meeting and distributing information on the topic this fall allows for public discussion prior to and during the board's January 2010 meeting.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: Staff from the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Division of Subsistence, and the Boards Support Section are aware of these potential changes to the Board of Game's public input process. Also, more information will be available on the Board of Game website at www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us. Please feel free to contact:

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game (465-4110), or
 Suzan Bowen, Regulatory Program Coordinator, Division of Wildlife (244-6475)

COMPARISON OF CURRENT TWO-YEAR CYCLE¹ AND PROPOSED THREE-YEAR CYCLE

Cycle year	Current Board of Game two-year cycle	Proposed Board of Game three-year cycle
2009/2010	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)
2010/2011	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2011/2012 <i>(transition year)</i>	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)
2012/2013	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2013/2014	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Southeast (Region 1) Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - all (Chapter 92)
2014/2015	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Interior (Region III)
2015/2016	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2016/2017	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southeast (Region 1) Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - all (Chapter 92)
2017/2018	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - A list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Interior (Region III)
2018/2019	Southeast (Region I) Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)	Southcentral/Southwest (Region II)
2019/2020	Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - B list (Chapter 92) Interior (Region III)	Southeast (Region 1) Arctic/Western (Region V) Statewide - all (Chapter 92)

¹ Statewide topics are currently on a four-year cycle.

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**WILDLIFE DISEASES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
OF BIG GAME MEAT**

Proposal 41

by

Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Division of Wildlife Conservation

Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen, Wildlife Veterinarian

Staff Report to Alaska Board of Game

January 2010

SUMMARY

1. There are NO known zoonotic diseases or parasites in the currently defined 'edible meat' portions of big game in Alaska that are a risk to humans after cooking.
2. There are NO known zoonotic diseases or parasites that occur in the currently defined 'edible meat' portions of big game in Alaska that a hunter or lay user can recognize consistently during butchering that would render the all the meat of a big game animal unfit for human consumption even if normal appearing meat portions were eaten raw.
3. The Department makes informational materials and advice readily available to user groups regarding common wildlife diseases and parasites including what may be trimmed and when cooking certain portions are recommended to eliminate risk.
4. There are no Public Health reports that Alaskans have been made sick from eating meat from big game killed, field dressed, salvaged and meat handled according to the current regulations and recommendations to hunters.
5. Even experienced hunters have and will continue to incorrectly identify injuries and common abnormalities of caribou and moose as a risk for human consumption even when they are not leading to waste of edible meat.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND – DEFINITION OF EDIBLE MEAT

2009-2010 Alaska Hunting Regulations Guide "the portions of big game that must be salvaged including all of the neck meat, all of the chest meat, all the meat of the ribs, front quarters as far as the distal joint of the radius-ulna (knee), hind-quarters as far as the distal joint of the tibia-fibula (hock), all of the meat along the backbone between the front and hind quarter (backstrap and tenderloins)". In Statue we see Title 16, chapter 30, section 16.30.030. "edible meat" means, in the case of big game animals, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters as far as the distal joint of the radius-ulna (knee), hindquarters as far as the distal joint of the tibia-fibula (hock), and that portion of the animal between the front and hindquarters; in the case of wild fowl, the meat of the breast; however, "edible meat" of big game or wild fowl does not include

(A) meat of the head;

(B) meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking;

(C) bones, sinew, and incidental meat reasonably lost as a result of boning or a close trimming of the bones;

(D) viscera;

PERTAINENT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER INCLUDE:

A. What constitutes "diseased meat" and what might a hunter recognize or define as "discased meat?"

B. What are the perceived as well as potential and real risks to human health from salvaging "diseased meat?"

C. What diseases occur in big game animals hunted in Alaska that a hunter could recognize during the field dressing process that could affect the safety of consuming meat from that animal?

C. What benign conditions and lesions that do not affect the edibility of parts or a whole carcasses are hunters likely to misidentify and mistakenly waste meat?

D. How hunter's handling of the meat is the most important factor in its fitness for human consumption?

Under current ADF&G regulations, recommendations in hunter education and informational materials, trimming of meat damaged by the method of taking, such as blood-shot meat. Likewise, these materials also clearly state that abscesses or other injured/abnormal parts of meat or bone be trimmed out of meat that is salvaged for human consumption. Hunters are also cautioned what to do if they inadvertently cut into an abscess, not to spread the pus around and wash their knife. This is prevent the potential for enhanced meat spoilage if the salvaged meat was further mis-handled, the abscesses themselves usually do not contain bacteria that would cause an issue of human consumption with one possible rare exception, *Brucella* in certain caribou herds, if a *Brucella* containing abscess fluid is spread by the hunter into the meat and then the meat is eaten raw. However, *Brucella* is only a very rare cause of caribou and reindeer and only in arctic herds but because is it the one potentially serious zoonotic bacteria in caribou, I will address *Brucella* in greater detail below.

ABSCESSSES: Abscesses are by far the most common and easily recognized 'diseased' tissues that hunters see and report. Caribou, moose, and bison in particular are excellent in walling off focal infections and wounds and resolving them in by the process we recognize as abscessation, or formation of an abscess (aka pus pocket). When there is a puncture wound, blunt injury (such as a non-penetrating gore from an antler or horn), introduction of a foreign body like a fragment of a stick, the immune system of these animals bring white blood cells (this is what pus is) in the area to kill any bacteria and then form a fibrous capsule around it, over time the pus becomes drier and other parts of the immune system remove the pus, leaving the remains of the capsule and sometimes some dark, dry material within. If the abscess is under the skin, it can form a "boil" that will rupture the surface, drain naturally, and heal faster than an internal abscess, deeper in the body or within the abdominal cavity. When an abscess is particularly large and pus filled, there are generally no bacteria left that can be grown, because the pus has done its job. When an abscess has a capsule around it, it is an indicator that the body is effectively dealing with the wound, and meat from other parts of the animal, other than the abscess itself is unaffected. In a USDA inspected meat slaughter plant, a cow with a few abscesses under the skin or in an organ such as the liver does not mean the carcass would be immediately condemned. The abscess, the abscessed organ and associated fascia would be removed, and the underlying muscle processed as usual as meat for commercial sale.

When there is bacteria still remaining in the abscess, or early in the process before it walled off, the bacteria we find in wildlife are bacteria that normally reside on the skin or with the gut or environment of the animal. These are all easily destroyed by cooking if a hunter were to spread the pus into other meat portions because of negligence during butchering. If the hunter then continued to not handle the meat properly allowing it to spoil, it would become unpalatable, but again, not actually unsafe if cooked. The majority of food-borne illnesses are due to poor handling of meat by undercooking and unsanitary practices in the kitchen rather than bacteria within the muscles of the animal before field dressing. In my experience, and that of biologists and technicians within the department talking to hunters, they generally are aware already or have the common sense not to cut into to an abscess or swelling in the meat and then spread pus onto the other parts of the meat because it would render it unpalatable. The main risk for zoonotic transmission of bacteria from an abscess to a hunter has nothing to do with edibility, it is cutting their hand with the same knife still contaminated with pus if they did cut into an abscess and then failed to wash off the knife or change knives before proceeding, AND didn't flush out their wound AND had a compromised immune system.

I have never had a case in a hunter-killed animal where there was systemic (widespread, throughout the body) pus that was not walled off or throughout the whole body that necessitated a declaration that no edible meat was salvageable from that animal. It is theoretically possible that a hunter could select a sick animal that was just about to die with a systemic bacterial infection; however, this has not happened, nor been documented by an ADF&G employee in my tenure with the Department. If a hunter did kill an animal with such a systemic condition, it is reasonable to assume the strangeness and odor would prompt a hunter to submit a sample of the meat to ADF&G before the consumed it. An animal with that systemic of an infection found at slaughter would not be put into the retail meat market, but again, it wouldn't actually be unsafe to eat if cooked. However, no one is dictating that such an animal be eaten, only that evidence of such widespread disease that rendered all of the edible neat portions of a carcasses unfit for human consumption be brought into an ADF&G or Department of Public Safety office.

BRUCELLOSIS: The zoonotic diseases and parasites that do exist in some big game animal populations in Alaska generally do not cause the animal to appear diseased, most often the animal appears healthy to the hunter. When there are these microscopic or unrecognizable diseases and parasites present, in all cases cooking the meat will make it safe. Even in the case of *Brucella suis serovar 4*, present in some northern caribou herds, where up to 5% of the caribou in those herds may carry the bacteria, the majority of those caribou appear healthy and show no evidence of disease. Furthermore even infected caribou don't typically have bacteria in the edible, required to be salvaged, meat. Where there are *Brucella* bacteria present in sufficient numbers to infect a person, they are within the uterus, placenta, fetus, testicle, abscessed knee/hock joint capsule, or other internal organ and bone marrow, none of which are required to be salvaged or defined as 'edible meat'. All the educational materials and information from ADF&G employees recommend specifically in a caribou with swollen knee/hocks or other internal organs with swellings in them, to not cut into these, just trim around them, if they do cut into one, wash the knife, and as an extra precaution, if any bacteria got spread into the meat undetected, cook the meat from those particular caribou. Since those few arctic caribou that have *Brucella* don't actually show lesions that a hunter could detect, it is always advisable not to cut into the uterus and avoid spilling uterine fluids into the body cavity during butchering and to refrain from eating raw bone marrow. The edible meat is not infected with bacteria sufficient to make a person ill, even if eaten raw, as long as the meat was handled properly and the hunter did not negligently spread infected fluids to the meat after cutting into an infected internal organ or abscessed joint.

Despite the request in the informational materials on wildlife disease, repeated requests I have made to all the biologists in the arctic region and directly to members of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, no tissues or lesions with abnormalities has contained *Brucella*. When biologists are capturing caribou, observing the herd or we conduct a scientific collection, we actively seek caribou with swollen knees or hocks. Even with active surveillance we have not been able to find a case of a *Brucella* infected caribou in my tenure. There have been two cases of arctic caribou with a swollen joint that were suspected by the hunter to be possible *Brucella* that were submitted for examination. In one case it was a dislocated joint, in the other, it was a fracture. Neither had any implication for consuming the meat, both were the result of trauma and not infectious disease. In neither case had they been cut into, so after the cause was determined, the hunter and family were confident to consume the caribou. According to the USDA public health veterinarian for Alaska, if a reindeer at commercial slaughter had a swollen knee or hock, or isolated abscess that was compatible with and suspect for *Brucella*, the carcass would not be condemned but held from sale until after it was determined if *Brucella* could be cultured from the lesion. In the state of Wyoming, where approximately 16% of elk are infected with *Brucella abortus*, a more serious form of the bacteria for humans, all the edible meat is salvaged for human consumption without exception. In Wyoming, hunters who allow meat to spoil, which would include spreading potentially infected uterine fluid on to edible meat.

The most common visible sign of brucellosis in arctic caribou that can be recognized by a hunter is a remarkably swollen carpus, then second, the hock joint. These are typically recognizable in the standing animal and can be avoided completely by not selecting that individual to kill. The next most common lesion is the swollen testicle. Sometimes this can be seen from behind in the standing animal but is certainly recognizable during the butchering process and cutting into an abnormal testicle is easily avoided. The risk of infection to a person by splashing infected fluids into eyes, nose, mouth or an open skin wound, can be largely avoided simply by not opening the uterus, testicle or swollen joints and wearing gloves while butchering. It is important to note that caribou and reindeer can be chronically infected with *Brucella suis serovar 4* and not have any grossly apparent lesions at all, in fact appear quite healthy and normal to the naked eye. Healthy appearing is more common than animals with obvious lesions. Therefore, leaving caribou with obvious lesions at the kill site, does not guarantee that a caribou brought back from the kill site will not have *Brucella* organisms in its blood, lymph nodes or bone marrow. Again, there are more healthy appearing caribou with *Brucella* than there are caribou that a person would immediately recognize and reject but these constitute less than 5% of caribou in the Western Arctic herd. *Brucella* has never been detected in any caribou herds around or south of the Alaska Range.

It important to emphasize that the skeletal meat of an animal is not typically infected with the *Brucella* organism and is still fit for consumption as long as swollen joint's fluid, abscess fluid or uterine fluid is not spilled on to it by negligent actions during field dressing. If a person does not heed the advice not to cut into the swollen joint, pus pocket, swollen testicle or uterus thereby contaminating his knife but further more continuing to butcher meat without stopping to wash the knife with soap and water, then there would be the potential to spread the infection into some portions of meat. However, routine cooking practices would still kill the organism and the meat would be safe to consume. All materials about hunting and butchering give precautions on proper game meat care...as long as normal standard butchering and meat handling practices are followed, there is no risk of becoming sick by consuming meat from a caribou even if it were to have been infected with *Brucella* with grossly visible signs or not. Infective parts are easily avoided and not typically consumed or opened. If inadvertently, meat did become contaminated by the joint or uterine fluid, then it is recommended by experts and in the information distributed to the public, to wash the knives, trim away and discard contaminated or diseased areas, and cook the meat that is to be consumed. All information distributed to the Alaskan public gives the cautionary message to avoid cutting into swellings because they might contain infective fluids, avoid spelling fluids, trim away swellings or meat contaminated with fluids/pus from swellings, and that the uncontaminated meat is edible. The Circumarctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Program worked with First Nations hunters in Canada to develop a video their own video for caribou hunters and consumers which has been distributed to caribou user representatives from all northern countries with wild caribou or reindeer including Alaska and currently available on the web or as a DVD without charge. Their specific recommendations are if you suspect a caribou has *Brucellosis* when you are butchering it take the following precautions: 1. wear gloves 2. do not cut into pus pockets 3. Do no spill uterine fluids on meat 4. Wash knives with soap and water 5. Cook the meat.

COMMON ABNORMALITIES: In our experience, hunters perceive potential risk and express concern the first time they detect a normal parasite, scar or other localized (one or just a few locations) condition that is obvious, easy to recognize, and already addressed in distributed educational materials. The most common, are tapeworm cysts in the muscles of moose and caribou. About 60-80% of caribou and moose in Alaska have this parasite which cannot infect a person even if eating raw. It is extremely prevalent but even experienced hunters may not see it if they take the carcasses to a meat processor. It is most often detected when a person is slicing muscle very thinly for producing jerky. The second most common is liver tapeworm cysts, which people can't get even if consumed raw, and is confined to the liver. Neither of these tapeworms effects the health of the animal. A third type of tapeworm cyst is seen in the lungs of caribou and moose and does not affect the meat of the animal and is not transmittable to man from the lung cysts. Only if these the cysts are consumed by a dog, wolf or fox and then a person doesn't wash their hands after handling the carnivores feces or feces contaminated hide before eating. All three of the tapeworms listed above can infect dogs if they are feed raw organs or meat, but only the third and then infect man through fecal contaminate, but not directly from the caribou/moose.

Other superficial 'abnormalities' that hunters have seen and requested to discard the meat of the animal include: Most commonly it is a papilloma or wart on the skin. These are extremely common in young moose any where on the skin, and less common on the head/antlers of deer and caribou. This is caused by a species specific virus, meaning a different virus in moose than caribou and they can't cross infect. The Warts are only on the skin surface or velvet of the antlers and do not effect the meat. A person can't get this virus from eating the meat of the effected animal. It may be possible that if a person was immunosuppressed (i.e. had AIDS or had an organ transplant and was on high doses of steroids) to cut into a papilloma and then cut themselves with the same knife and get the virus into their skin and get a wart. This is only theoretically possible under an extremely unlikely set of circumstances and never been documented as occurring. The risk for a transmission to a person is therefore negligible and only through direct contamination of a wound. I have seen several cases where the skin or head of a caribou or moose was submitted for examination, the salvage meat was consumed by the hunter after the reassurance of what the abnormality was. Another skin lump that has been noticed are demoid cysts found within or under the skin of caribou. These are a congenital defect that is circular lump, up to several inches in diameter containing hair. At least one caribou was left in the field because the subsistence hunter believed this to be cancer that they could acquire from consuming any of the caribou. There was one other from a hunter

where the subsistence hunter and family had salvaged the meat and then consumed it after receiving the information on what it was. I have also found one in a caribou collected for health surveillance. Dermoids occur in all mammals, including people who are all born with them, they are not transmittable and usually confined to the skin or under skin in caribou and not in the meat. Note also, that cancer cannot be acquired by eating part of animal, even if that animal had cancer.

Hoof rot is an infection that can occur in any of our hoofed species. It is generally confined to the lower leg and there does not affect the edible meat. However, is it possible for this infection to spread to a generalized infection and make the animal sick. A hunter would not select this animal to kill because it would be noticeably lame, very thin from being unable to move well for a long time, and be behaving lethargic and at the stage where it has spread, the animal would be unable or at least severely reluctant to rise. If is possible, but hasn't ever happened that I am aware of, that a hunter would shot such an ill animal despite the recommendations in the hunting regulations and hunter education materials. However, if this did happen, I have confidence that early during the butchering process, common sense would prevail, and the hunter would recognize such serious wide spread disease and return with an example of meat to demonstrate the edible meat was severely compromised.

ZOONOTIC DISEASES AND PARASITES UNSEEN BY HUNTERS: There are several microscopic diseases and parasites in big game animals that a person could acquire from eating raw meat, but again, the hunter would not be able to see these and the animal would appear healthy and the meat look normal. Thus, rejecting what to the hunter is 'diseased meat' in the field, does not protect people from getting zoonotic diseases or parasites from Alaskan big game species, only proper handling of raw meat in food preparation and cooking can eliminate all risk of food-borne illness. The microscopic parasites that occur in the meat of normal appearing, healthy animals are Trichinellosis, which is present in polar bear, black bear, brown bear in some areas, and some walrus. Toxoplasmosis, which occurs at a very low level in a few caribou in Alaska, and could have the potential of a flu-like illness in a person eating raw meat. The most serious impact on human health would be if a woman had her first exposure to this parasite during pregnancy because it could have serious consequences to the fetus.

In our wildlife health and disease surveillance, we find 95% of Dall's sheep and 100% of caribou (tongue and heart in particular) over 4 months of age are infected with the tiny coccidian parasite *Sarcocystis*. This is not known to be transmittable to humans. If it was zoonotic, it hasn't caused recognized illness, or every one who has ever eaten raw or under cooked Alaskan big game would have already acquired it.

CONCLUSION; The typical 'abnormalities' noticeable to hunters of Alaskan big game animals are not unusual, they are easily avoided during field dressing and rarely have any consequence for humans consuming the meat of that animal. Even in those rare circumstances where the infection has spread to edible meat, most likely through negligence during meat processing or food preparation, risk of human illness is completely eliminated by cooking. Current ADF&G hunting regulation and recommendations have been effective in avoiding transmission of zoonotic diseases from big game meat to people. Past experience with hunters indicate that allowing them to make a correct decision in the field about the fitness of the currently defined edible meat salvaged for human consumption beyond the trimming of abscesses/pus infected tissues, is likely to lead to excessive waste of meat that is of negligible risk to human health.

Attachments: Excerpts from A Field Guide to Common Wildlife Diseases and Parasites as posted on the web. Informational Handout entitled "What's this thing in my game meat?", Transcript of the CARMA Caribou Health Monitoring Training Video section on abnormalities in caribou.

CARIBOU MONITORING VIDEO SCRIPT

VIDEO #3: ABNORMALITIES

00:02 (ON-SCREEN TEXT):

Common Diseases and Parasites in Caribou

Common Diseases and Parasites in Caribou.

Caribou are important and healthy sources of food for people around the North.

Although most caribou are healthy, sometimes hunters notice diseases and parasites in caribou that they hunt and want to know if the meat is safe to eat.

Many of the things that hunters observe are normal and have always been found in caribou.

In this video we will discuss some of the common diseases and parasites found in caribou, how caribou get these, and what it means to you.

00:47 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Warbles

Warbles.

Warbles are very common in caribou and reindeer.

Warble larvae are found on the back of caribou under the skin during the winter and spring. In early summer, the larvae emerge, drop to the ground, and develop into an adult warble fly. Later in the summer, the adult fly will lay eggs on the hairs of the caribou's legs and lower body. The eggs hatch, and larvae will penetrate the skin, and travel under the skin to the caribou's back where they grow over the winter.

When laying their eggs, warble flies can harass caribou and interfere with their feeding. When the larvae migrate under the skin, they can cause some bruising and discoloration on top of the meat. Once the larvae are growing under the skin of the caribou, they do not appear to harm the caribou. Warbles do not affect people.

01:51 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Warble Life Cycle

02:00 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Nose Bots**

Nose bots.

Nose bots are also quite common in caribou.

Nose bots are found in the nose and throat of caribou. You may see them when you cut off the head. Nose bot flies lay their larvae in the nose of caribou in the fall. These develop in the back of the nose and throat through the winter. In early summer, the larvae drop out and hatch into adult flies.

When laying their larvae, nose bot flies harass caribou and interfere with their feeding. The larvae may cause irritation and sneezing. Nose bots do not affect people.

02:49 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Nose Bots Life Cycle

02:59:00 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Liver Tapeworm Cysts**

Liver tapeworm cysts.

You may see fluid filled cysts in or on the liver of caribou. These are the intermediate form of the tapeworm *Taenia hydatigena*, and are very common in caribou. The cysts may later cause white, star-like scars on the surface of the liver. Infected caribou will probably look healthy.

03:31 (ON-SCREEN: Liver Tapeworm Life Cycle)

If liver cysts are eaten by a carnivore such as wolves or dogs, they will develop into tapeworms that live in their intestines. These tapeworms will lay eggs that come out in the wolf's or dog's droppings, and contaminate plants that will be eaten by caribou.

Cooking or freezing the liver kills the cysts. The liver tapeworm cysts do not affect people.

04:00 (ON-SCREEN TEXT: Liver Tapeworm Life Cycle)

04:12:00 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Muscle Tapeworm Cysts

Muscle tapeworm cysts.

Muscle tapeworm cysts are very common in caribou. Cysts are generally found in the heart and meat. These are tapeworm cysts in the muscle of a caribou. They are the size of rice grains, round or oval and whitish or yellowish. The muscles around the cysts usually look normal, and the caribou will probably look healthy.

04:49 (ON-SCREEN: Muscle Tapeworm Life Cycle)

The cysts are the intermediate stage of a two-host tapeworm, called *Taenia krabbei*. If the muscle cysts are eaten by a carnivore like a wolf or a dog, they will develop into tapeworms that live in their intestines. Infected wolves and dogs, will shed tapeworm eggs in their droppings. Caribou get infected by eating the eggs.

Cooking or freezing the meat kills the cysts. The muscle tapeworm cysts do not affect people.

05:28 (ON-SCREEN TEXT: Muscle Tapeworm Life Cycle)

05:39:00 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Hydatid Disease

Hydatid Disease.

Some caribou may have large cysts in their lungs. The cysts have thick walls, and are filled with a clear watery liquid and hundreds of small granules. Cysts can be the size of your finger-nail to the size of a baseball. These cysts generally don't hurt the caribou. Infected caribou will probably look healthy.

If hydatid cysts are eaten by a carnivore such as wolves or dogs, they will develop into tapeworms that live in their intestines.

06:18 (ON-SCREEN: Hydatid Disease Life Cycle)

These tapeworms will lay eggs that come out in the wolf's or dog's droppings, and contaminate plants that may be eaten by caribou. The tapeworm eggs can also infect people. It is very important not to feed infected lungs to dogs. It is also important not to handle wolf, dog or fox droppings without gloves.

06:50 (ON-SCREEN TEXT: Hydatid Disease Life Cycle)

07:301:00 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Lungworms**

Lungworms.

When cutting into the lungs, you may find adult worms within the windpipe or airways inside the lungs. Lungworms are usually white, threadlike worms that may be as long as your finger.

Lungworms may also cause small round grey lumps of dead tissue.

Animals infected with lungworms often appear healthy, With severe infections they may become sick. Lungworms can cause caribou to cough and have difficulty breathing, especially after running. They can also make caribou thin.

07:56 (ON-SCREEN TEXT: Lungworm Life Cycle)

08:09 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Besnoitia**

Besnoitia.

Besnoitia is a common parasite found in caribou. Many healthy caribou carry this parasite without any signs of disease. In heavily infected animals, this parasite can cause hair loss on the lower legs and face. The skin may look thick and crusty. Hunters can sometimes feel the parasite when they are skinning the caribou, usually when taking the skin off the lower legs.

The cysts are hard and feel rough like sandpaper over the bones and skin. Cysts are sometimes visible to the naked eye. They look like very small clear to white grains on the surface of bones, muscle, skin or on the whites of the eye.

Besnoitia do not affect people.

09:08 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Abscesses**

Abscesses.

Caribou will sometimes have abscesses, or pockets of pus, in different parts of their body.

Abscesses are usually caused when a wound becomes infected. They can be found anywhere on the body in muscle or other tissues. Hunters usually find abscesses while butchering. They look like swollen areas filled with thick fluid that is white or green.

Depending on where an abscess is and how bad it is, a caribou may or may not appear sick.

If you find an abscess, be careful not to cut into it. The portion of the meat containing the abscess should not be eaten, but the rest of the caribou can still be used. If a caribou has many abscesses it may not be good to eat. Contact your wildlife office for advice.

If you cut into an abscess by accident, wash your knife and hands.

10:16 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Foot Rot**

Caribou can sometimes have infections of their hooves and lower legs. This is called 'foot rot', and is caused by naturally occurring bacteria. Foot rot occurs when the ground is unusually wet. It can also occur when rough damages the caribou's feet and allows bacteria to get in. Caribou with foot rot may have swollen hooves, discharge, and may be lame. The infection can spread deep in the foot and leg. In severe cases, the bacteria may spread to other parts of the body and cause abscesses in different body organs. This can make the caribou sick.

11:08 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Brucellosis**

Brucellosis.

Caribou can carry a disease caused Brucellosis. Brucellosis usually affects the reproductive organs and leg joints of caribou, and can cause lameness and abortion. Brucellosis is spread among caribou in the afterbirth and fluids during calving.

Caribou with brucellosis may have swollen leg joints causing limping or lameness, particularly in the front legs. In males, the testicles may be large and swollen. When butchering, you may find pus-filled swelling under the skin, in the meat or in the internal organs.

Brucellosis can also affect people. You could be exposed by handling contaminated parts, or by eating infected meat that has not been fully cooked. If you think a caribou has brucellosis, you should take some Simple precautions. Wear gloves when butchering the animal. Do not cut into diseased parts such as swollen joints or testicles. Do not spill fluid from the womb onto the meat. Wash your hands and knives with hot soapy water after handling the animal. You should also report your findings to your nearest wildlife office.

12:38 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): **Conclusion**

In this video we have discussed a number of different parasites and diseases that you might see in caribou.

Some of these diseases and parasites can infect people. It is important to wear gloves whenever you suspect something a caribou might be sick.

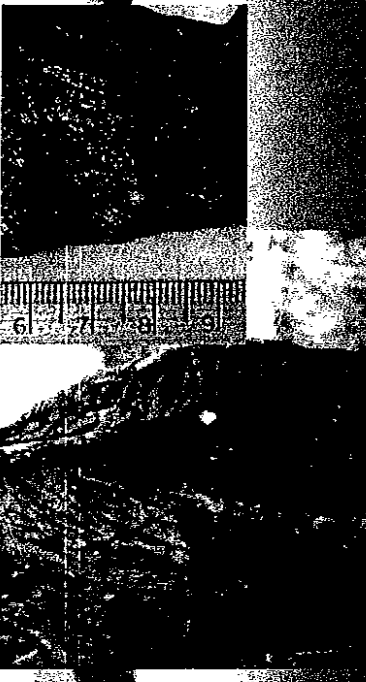
If you do notice something unusual you can collect it and submit it to your local wildlife office. When collecting samples, be careful not to cut into an abscess or unusual swelling. Put the sample into a bag, keep it away from the healthy meat, and freeze it as soon as possible. Clean your hands and knives after butchering the animal.

Although we have talked about many different parasites and diseases in this video, it is important to remember that most caribou are healthy and are an excellent source of food.

If you have any questions about this video or caribou health please contact your local wildlife officer, biologist, a wildlife veterinarian or the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre.

CREDITS

What is this "thing" in my game meat?



Tapeworm cyst in muscle- *Taenia krabbei*

- Cysts in the meat occurs in 50 to 70% of moose and caribou while the adult tapeworm occurs in the intestine of nearly 100% of wolves.
- People cannot get this tapeworm but do not feed raw meat to dogs since they can get it, just like the wolf.

Tapeworm cyst in liver- *Taenia hydatigena*

- Cysts are common in the liver of moose, caribou, deer, Dall's sheep, mt goats, etc. while the adult tapeworm occurs in the intestine of wolves.
- People cannot get this tapeworm but do not feed uncooked organs to dogs since they can get it, just like the wolf.



Abscesses aka "*Pus pockets*"

- Very common in moose and caribou muscles but can be found in or around the organs.
- It is the remainder of the animal's response to an old injury or infection.
- The white to yellow or green fluids are white blood cells.
- Avoid spreading pus during butchering. Don't eat the pus-contaminated parts but the unaffected meat is edible.

For more details please pick up a copy of the "Field Guide to Common Wildlife Disease and Parasites in Alaska" or view it on line from the "Wildlife Diseases & Parasites" link on the web at: <http://wildlife.alaska.gov>



RC 2.2

Clean list

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Clean List Criteria 5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5):

- Is it capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska?
- Is it capable of causing a genetic alteration of a species that is indigenous to Alaska?
- Is it capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species in indigenous to Alaska?
- Is it capable of transmitting a disease to a species that is indigenous to Alaska?
- Does it otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska?

Other Considerations:

- Is the animal propagated from captive stock, or are animals captured directly from the wild to supply the pet trade?
- Does the use of these animals as pets impact populations of wildlife in other parts of the world, leading to concerns of endangerment?
- Can these animals reasonably be maintained in households or on farms?
- Do these animals pose a treat to human health and safety?
- Are there concerns for transmission of diseases between the animal and humans?

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Species of Consideration: Finches (Estrildidae; weaver-finches)

Proposal 15

Department Recommendation: Amend and Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	Unknown but species dependent (native finch species overwinter successfully).
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Unknown but unlikely
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Unlikely unless released, able to survive, reproduce then may outcompete
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Yes, if caged outdoors seasonally or released: <i>Mycoplasma</i> , West Nile Virus, low path Avian Influenza, avian malaria, <i>Trichomonas</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , Poxvirus, <i>Ornithosis</i>
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	No
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Unknown for most; Zebra, Society, and Spice Finches breed in captivity
Conservation concerns for native wildlife populations (endangerment)	6 – threatened 2 – endangered
Special husbandry or care requirement	None – those species that are bred as pets do well in with normal care
Threat to human health and safety	No
Transmit disease to humans	Yes, West Nile Virus, <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Ornithosis</i>

Department recommendation is to amend the current proposal to allow only Zebra, Society Finches, and Scaly-breasted Munia to be added to the clean list.

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Species of Consideration: Primates

Proposal 16, 17, and 18

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	Unlikely.
Cause genetic alteration to native species	No.
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Unlikely.
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Possible, if allowed direct or indirect contact with wildlife including improper disposal of excrement. Discases include influenza, rabies, <i>Giardia</i> , Tuberculosis, <i>Shigella</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Vibrio</i> .
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unlikely
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Federal legislation is pending that would prohibit interstate and international trade in primates, including as pets. If passed as expected, legal pet primates will not be available for import into Alaska.
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	Primates, especially wild-caught infants of parents killed for bush meat or poached for the pet trade is a recognized conservation threat.
Special husbandry or care requirement	Yes, difficulties in meeting these requirements have subjected pets to inhumane conditions for prolonged periods. Requirements for physical and mental wellbeing include psychological enrichment, social contact with conspecifics, balanced diet with vitamin C,

	adequate exposure to direct sunlight or vitamin D supplementation, specialized veterinary health care. Private practice veterinarians that are trained and prepared to treat primates appropriately to maintain good health are not readily available.
Threat to human health and safety	Yes, hundreds of cases of injury to humans have occurred especially bites. Chimpanzees are capable of and have inflicted serious and fatal injuries to humans.
Transmit disease to humans	Serious and fatal diseases can be transmitted without prior signs of illness. The most dangerous include: Herpes B Virus, HIV, Ebola, measles, influenza, rabies, Giardia, Tuberculosis, Shigella, Salmonella. Those in bold are untreatable and rapidly fatal to humans.

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Species of Consideration: Sloths

Proposal 19

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	No – tropical adapted species
Cause genetic alteration to native species	No – not closely related to any Alaska indigenous species
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	No – primarily vegetarian
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Unlikely but possible for <i>Leishmania</i>
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	No
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Removal of wild animals through illegal pet trade is reported to occur
Conservation concerns for native wildlife populations (endangerment)	One of six species is endangered
Special husbandry or care requirement	Extremely specialized requirements difficult to achieve for a private citizen. Arboreal; sleep 12 -16 hrs per day, leave tree once every 3-4 days to defecate/urinate. Native diet specialized to vegetation of Cecropia tree. Captives are fed fresh bamboo and grape leaves which are not readily available in Alaska. All species tropical and have specialized housing requirements including sun and shade. Outdoor temperatures in Alaska are not acceptable, indoor housing with

	appropriate temperatures and humidity difficult to maintain. Qualified veterinary care not readily available.
Threat to human health and safety	Wild animal – can be aggressive especially when threatened. Bites to humans have been serious and required hospitalization.
Transmit disease to humans	Yes, sloths may harbor and transmit Leprosy and <i>Leishmania</i>

**Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List**

Species of Consideration: Kinkajou (Honey bear)

Proposal 19

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	Unlikely – tropical mammal
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Not related species in Alaska
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Unlikely – omnivore; may eat bird eggs
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Chlamydiophilia, <i>Baylisascaris</i> sp., rabies, canine distemper, <i>Leishmania</i> , <i>Sarcocystis</i> sp.
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unknown
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Primarily animals taken from the wild
Conservation concerns for native wildlife populations (endangerment)	Not currently threatened, but declining in some areas because of illegal pet trade, meat hunting, and habit destruction
Special husbandry or care requirement	Nocturnal, frugivorous animals that makes them less compatible as pets. Diet must include 48 to 63% fresh fruit and additionally eat insects.
Threat to human health and safety	Wild animal – risk of biting when threatened
Transmit disease to humans	Yes, Chlamydiosis, Visceral larval migrans (<i>Baylisascaris</i> sp. round worm) which causes brain damage and blindness especially in children, <i>Leishmania</i> , rabies (no approved vaccines)

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Species of Consideration: Wallaroo

Proposal 19

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	Unlikely
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Not related to any Alaska species
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	No - herbivore
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	<i>Leishmania</i>
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unknown but unlikely
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Unknown
Conservation concerns for native wildlife populations (endangerment)	None
Special husbandry or care requirement	Requires large space for grazing; not suited to be outside in Alaska winters
Threat to human health and safety	Large wild animal – risk of personal injury
Transmit disease to humans	<i>Leishmania</i> , Tuberculosis, ringworm, <i>Haycocknema perplexum</i> (parasite which can be life threatening to humans)

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Species of Consideration: De-venomized Reptiles

Proposal 19

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	No
Cause genetic alteration to native species	No
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Eats small mammals and birds
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	no
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unknown
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Unknown for whole group – snakes are known to be part of illegal pet trade. Veterinary organizations recommend against these snakes as pets and the AVMA Position statement is that the de-venomization surgery is inhumane.
Conservation concerns for native wildlife populations (endangerment)	There are conservation concerns for some venomous species
Special husbandry or care requirement	Similar to other non-venomous snakes. Whole live prey or freshly killed animals. De-venomization must be periodically checked and verified.
Threat to human health and safety	Significant risk of injury or death. De-venomization surgery is not always completely successful, and snakes can still produce some venom, especially overtime

	so it must be regularly checked. Fangs are intact and serious bite wounds can occur
Transmit disease to humans	<i>Salmonella typhimurium, Aeromonas shigelloides</i>

Department of Fish and Game
Analysis of Species Proposed for Addition to the Clean List

Species of Consideration: Hybrids of wild and domestic cats (e.g., Savannah, Bengal, Chausie breeds)

Proposals 20 - 22

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Evaluation Criteria	Comments
5 AAC 92.029 (h 1-5)	
Survive in the wild	Yes, easily adapts to temperate regions, e.g., southeast, southcentral, and southwest Alaska, including many islands, particularly with supplemental feeding by people. Feral cats have survived winter in Fairbanks.
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Highly improbable. More likely to be prey of native cats (lynx and mountain lion).
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Unlikely to successfully compete with indigenous cats; however, feral domestic cats have reduced populations of prey species on islands around the world, contributing to extinction of some endangered insular species.
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Yes, particularly to indigenous cats, but also rabies to any mammal. Rabies vaccine not approved for first-generation hybrids.
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Competition from large numbers of stray and feral cats in other states has affected populations of indigenous predators like gray foxes.
Other Considerations	
Source of animals as pets	Breeders in Alaska and popular breed in other states; however, high price of pedigreed cats is a limiting factor.
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	Populations of indigenous or exotic wild cats are not threatened or endangered by the hybrid cat pet trade.
Special husbandry or care requirement	May exhibit a high level of hunting instinct and skill. Breeders recommend a raw, whole prey diet.
Threat to human health and safety	May be more difficult to handle, more likely to act "wild" by scratching and biting, especially early generations.
Transmit disease to humans	Harbor same diseases as domestic cats. Lack of approved rabies vaccine increases risk to humans. Increased risk of cat scratch fever. Any pet cats fed raw meat or allowed to catch wildlife increase risk of toxoplasmosis in humans and risk of fetal death or deformity.

Proposal 15

Add domestic finches (family: Estrildidae; weaver-finches) to the clean list

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Amend and Adopt

Background

- Request to add domestic finches to clean list. Unable to generally identify members of this family as “domestic”
- Large family of Old World passerines
 - Southern Hemisphere, Equatorial region, Australia
 - >100 species
- Population status
 - Threatened (6)
 - Endangered (2)

Background

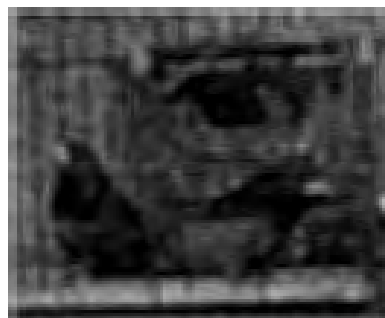
- Some species within family are commonly available in pet trade and are breed in captivity
 - Zebra Finch
 - Society Finch

Department would prefer requests be made for individual species



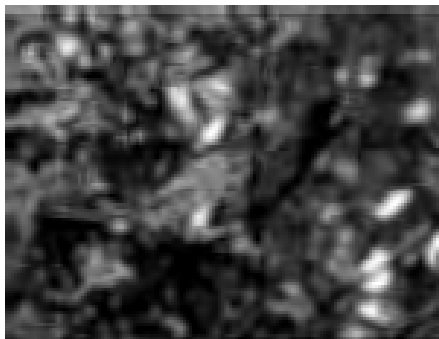
Zebra Finch
Taeniopygia guttata

Society Finch
Lonchura striata domestica





Lady Gouldian Finch
(endangered)



Scaly-breasted Munia,
Lonchura punctulata
Nutmeg Mannikin or Spice Finch

Criteria: Finches

Survive in the wild	Unknown but species dependent (native finch species overwinter successfully).
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Unknown but unlikely
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Unlikely unless released, able to survive, reproduce then may outcompete
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Yes, if caged outdoors seasonally or released: <i>Mycoplasma</i> , West Nile Virus, low path Avian Influenza, avian malaria, <i>Trichomonas</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , Poxvirus, <i>Ornithosis</i>
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	No

Other Considerations: Finches

Source of animals as pets	Unknown for most; Zebra, Society, and Spice Finches breed in captivity
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	Threatened (6) Endangered (2)
Special husbandry or care requirement	None – those species that are bred as pets do well in with normal care
Threat to human health and safety	No
Transmit disease to humans	Yes, West Nile Virus, <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Ornithosis</i>

Amendment

- Add only the species that have a long history of being bred in captivity
 - **Zebra Finch**, *Taeniopygia guttata*
 - **Society Finch**, *Lonchura striata domestica*
 - **Scaly-breasted Munia**, *Lonchura punctulata*

Proposal 19

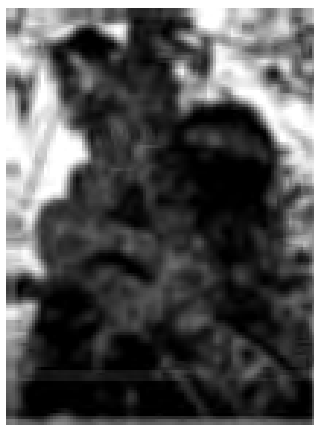
Add sloths, kinkajou, wallaroo, savannah cat, and surgically de-venomized reptiles to the clean list

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Do Not Adopt

Background: Sloths

- 6 species all native to Neotropics
- Arboreal – slow moving
- Omnivore – primary diet leave of Cecropia trees
- Live 20-30 years
- Population Status
 - Endangered (1)
- Declines related to illegal capture for pet trade, habitat destruction, meat hunting



Criteria: Sloths

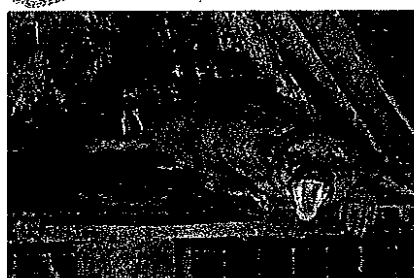
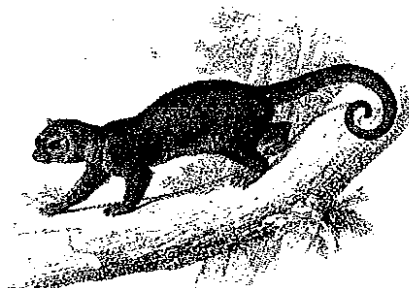
Survive in the wild	No – tropical adapted
Cause genetic alteration to native species	No – not closely related to any Alaska indigenous species
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	No – primarily vegetarian
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Unlikely but possible for <i>Leishmania</i>
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	No

Other Considerations: Sloths

Source of animals as pets	Removal of wild animals through illegal pet trade is reported to occur
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	One of six species is endangered
Special husbandry or care requirement	Specialized diet
Threat to human health and safety	Wild animal – can be aggressive especially when threatened. Bites to humans have been serious and required hospitalization.
Transmit disease to humans	Yes, sloths may harbor and transmit Leprosy and <i>Leishmania</i>

Background: Kinkajou (honey bears)

- Rainforest, Central and South America
- 4-7 pounds; 16-24 in. length
- Nocturnal; arboreal; omnivore – though diet 90% fruit
- Population Status
 - Not Endangered
- Hunted for illegal pet trade, meat, and fur



Criteria: Kinkajou

Survive in the wild	Unlikely - tropical
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Not related species in Alaska
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Unlikely – omnivore; may eat bird eggs
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	Chlamydiophilia, <i>Baylisascaris</i> sp., rabies, canine distemper, <i>Leishmania</i> , <i>Sarcocystis</i> sp.
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unknown

Other Considerations: Kinkajou

Source of animals as pets	Primarily animals taken from the wild
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	Not currently threatened, but declining in some areas because of illegal pet trade, meat hunting, and habit destruction
Special husbandry or care requirement	Nocturnal, frugivorous animals that makes them less compatible as pets. Diet must include 48 to 63% fresh fruit and additionally eat insects.
Threat to human health and safety	Wild animal – risk of biting when threatened
Transmit disease to humans	Yes, Chlamydiosis, Visceral larval migrans (<i>Baylisascaris</i> sp. round worm) which causes brain damage and blindness especially in children, <i>Leishmania</i> , rabies (no approved vaccines)

Background: Wallaroo

- Australian marsupial
- 50-100 pounds; between the size of kangaroo and wallabies, hence their name
- Strong; not indoor animal; not cold adapted
- Live 15-20 years
- Can carry and transmit rabies



Criteria: Wallaroo

Survive in the wild	Unlikely
Cause genetic alteration to native species	Not related to any Alaska species
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	No - herbivore
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	<i>Leishmania</i>
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unknown but unlikely

Other Considerations: Wallaroo

Source of animals as pets	Unknown
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	None
Special husbandry or care requirement	Requires large space for grazing; not suited to be outside in Alaska winters
Threat to human health and safety	Large wild animal – risk of personal injury
Transmit disease to humans	<i>Leishmania</i> , Tuberculosis, ringworm, <i>Haycocknema perplexum</i> (parasite which can be life threatening to humans)

Background: de-venomized reptiles

- This cover a large group of animals
- Non-venomous reptiles already on the clean list
- Venomous reptiles only allowed for educational purposes (permitted for zoos)
- Venom glands removed; requires surgery
- Require constant testing to ensure they do not produce venom
- Breeding would result in venomous offspring

Criteria: de-venomized reptiles

Survive in the wild	No
Cause genetic alteration to native species	No
Cause reduction of indigenous populations	Eats small mammals and small birds
Capable of transmitting disease to indigenous wildlife	No
Otherwise present a threat to indigenous species	Unknown

Other Considerations: de-venomized reptiles

Source of animals as pets	Unknown for whole group – snakes are known to be part of illegal pet trade. Veterinary organizations recommend against these snakes as pets and the AVMA Position statement is that the de-venomization surgery is inhumane.
Conservation concerns for wildlife populations	There are conservation concerns for some venomous species
Special husbandry or care requirement	Similar to other non-venomous snakes. Whole live prey or freshly killed animals. De-venomization must be periodically checked and verified.
Threat to human health and safety	Significant risk of injury or death. De-venomization surgery is not always completely successful, and snakes can still produce some venom, especially overtime so it must be regularly checked. Fangs are intact and serious bite wounds can occur
Transmit disease to humans	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> , <i>Aeromonas shigelloides</i>

Proposals 20 – 22

Add Bengal, Savannah and Chausie cats
to the clean list

Department Recommendation:

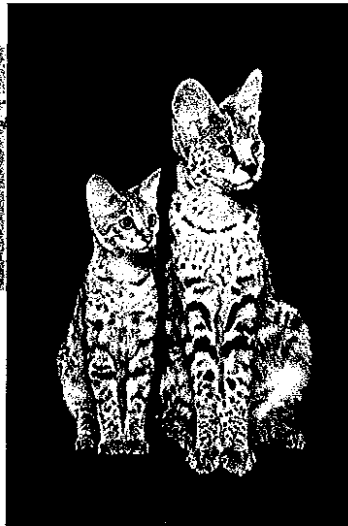
Do Not Adopt

Savannah cat



Savannah cat

- Weight: 10-30 lbs
- Accepted by TICA as Advanced New Breed in 2001
- Not yet eligible for Championship class



Savannah cat Serval



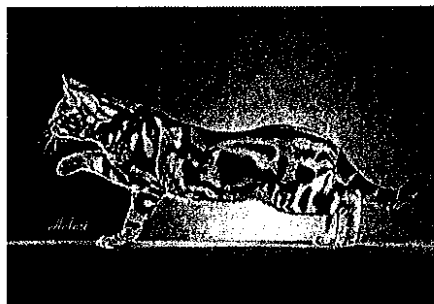
Serval
(*Leptailurus serval*)

Bengal cat



Asian leopard cat
(*Prionailurus bengalensis*)

- Weight: 6-18 lbs
- Accepted by TICA as new breed in 1986
- F4 eligible for Championship class since 1991



Bengal cat



Chausie cat

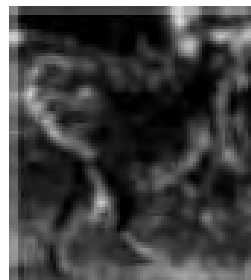


Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*)

- Weight: 15-30 lbs
- Accepted as Foundation Breed by TICA in 1995
- Considered Advanced New Breed since 2003; not yet eligible for Championship class



Chausie cat



Adding a “species” to the clean list requires clear and convincing evidence that it:

Is not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska	Cats easily adapt to temperate regions, particularly with supplemental feeding. Feral cats have survived winter in Fairbanks.
Is not capable of causing genetic alteration of indigenous species	Highly improbable. More likely to be prey of lynx and mountain lions.
Is not capable of causing significant reduction in population of indigenous species	Unlikely to successfully compete with indigenous cats; however, feral cats have reduced populations of prey species, contributing to extinction of some insular species.
Is not capable of transmitting a disease to an indigenous species	Can transmit many diseases to indigenous cats and rabies to any mammal. Rabies vaccine not approved for 1 st generation hybrids.
Does not otherwise present a threat to health or population of indigenous species	Competition from large numbers of stray and feral cats has affected populations of predators outside AK

Other considerations

Source of animals as pets	Breeders in Alaska. Popular breed in other states. However, high price of pedigree cats limits demand.
Conservation concerns for source populations	Populations of indigenous or exotic wild cats are not threatened or endangered by the hybrid cat pet trade.
Special husbandry or care requirements	May exhibit a high level of hunting instinct and skill. Breeders recommend a raw, whole prey diet.
Threat to human health and safety	May be more difficult to handle, more likely to act ‘wild’ by scratching and biting, especially early generations.
Transmit diseases to humans	Harbor same diseases as domestic cats. Lack of approved rabies vaccine increases risk to humans. Increased risk of cat scratch fever. Any pet cats fed raw meat or allowed to catch wildlife increase risk of toxoplasmosis in humans (fetal death or deformity).

Proposed regulation

5 AAC 92.xxx. Possession of ^{wild} cat hybrid prohibited. (a) It is unlawful, without a permit issued by the department, for a person to possess, transport, sell, advertise or otherwise offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase a cat hybrid, ~~including but not limited to Savannah, Bengal, and Chausie breeds.~~

(b) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for illegal possession of a cat hybrid under this section that

~~(1) the breed is recognized by The International Cat Association as a breed eligible for championship class;~~

(2) the animal is licensed as required in the jurisdiction of residence, has a registered pedigree showing the previous four generations, and these records are available for inspection by animal control officers and other government or regulatory officials; and

(3) the animal is at least four generations removed from a wild ancestor.

(c) For the purposes of this section "cat hybrid" includes

(1) the offspring from a mating of a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) or ^{wild} cat hybrid with any species of wild cat or hybrid of a wild and domestic cat; and

(2) an animal represented to be a cat hybrid by any name or description.

Wild ancestry vs. filial generations

wild cat x domestic cat = F1 or 1st generation hybrid (50% wild)

With no new wild genes...

F1 x domestic cat = F2 or 2nd generation hybrid (25% wild)

F2 x domestic cat = F3 or 3rd generation hybrid (12.5% wild)

F3 x domestic cat = F4 or 4th generation hybrid (6.25% wild)

However, hybrids may be backcrossed...

F1 x wild cat = F1 (75% wild)

F4 x F3 = F4 (9.375% wild)

F1 – F3 considered "founder generations"

Proposed regulation

5 AAC 92.xxx. Possession of cat hybrid prohibited. (a) It is unlawful, without a permit issued by the department, for a person to possess, transport, sell, advertise or otherwise offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase a cat hybrid, including but not limited to Savannah, Bengal, and Chausie breeds.

(b) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for illegal possession of a cat hybrid under this section that

(1) the breed is recognized by The International Cat Association as a breed eligible for championship class;

(2) the animal is licensed as required in the jurisdiction of residence, has a registered pedigree showing the previous four generations, and these records are available for inspection by animal control officers and other government or regulatory officials; and

(3) the animal is at least four generations removed from a wild ancestor.

(c) For the purposes of this section "cat hybrid" includes

(1) the offspring from a mating of a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) or cat hybrid with any species of wild cat or hybrid of a wild and domestic cat in the previous four generations; and

(2) an animal represented to be a cat hybrid by any name or description.

RC 2.3

Harvest Tickets
&
Reports

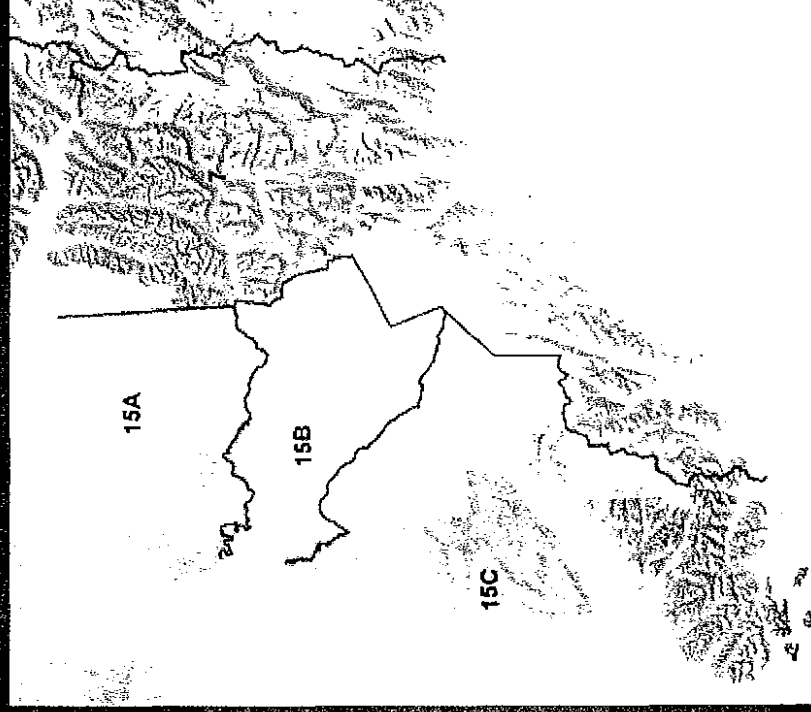
(NOTHING)

LC 2.4

Intensive
Mgmt

Proposal 34

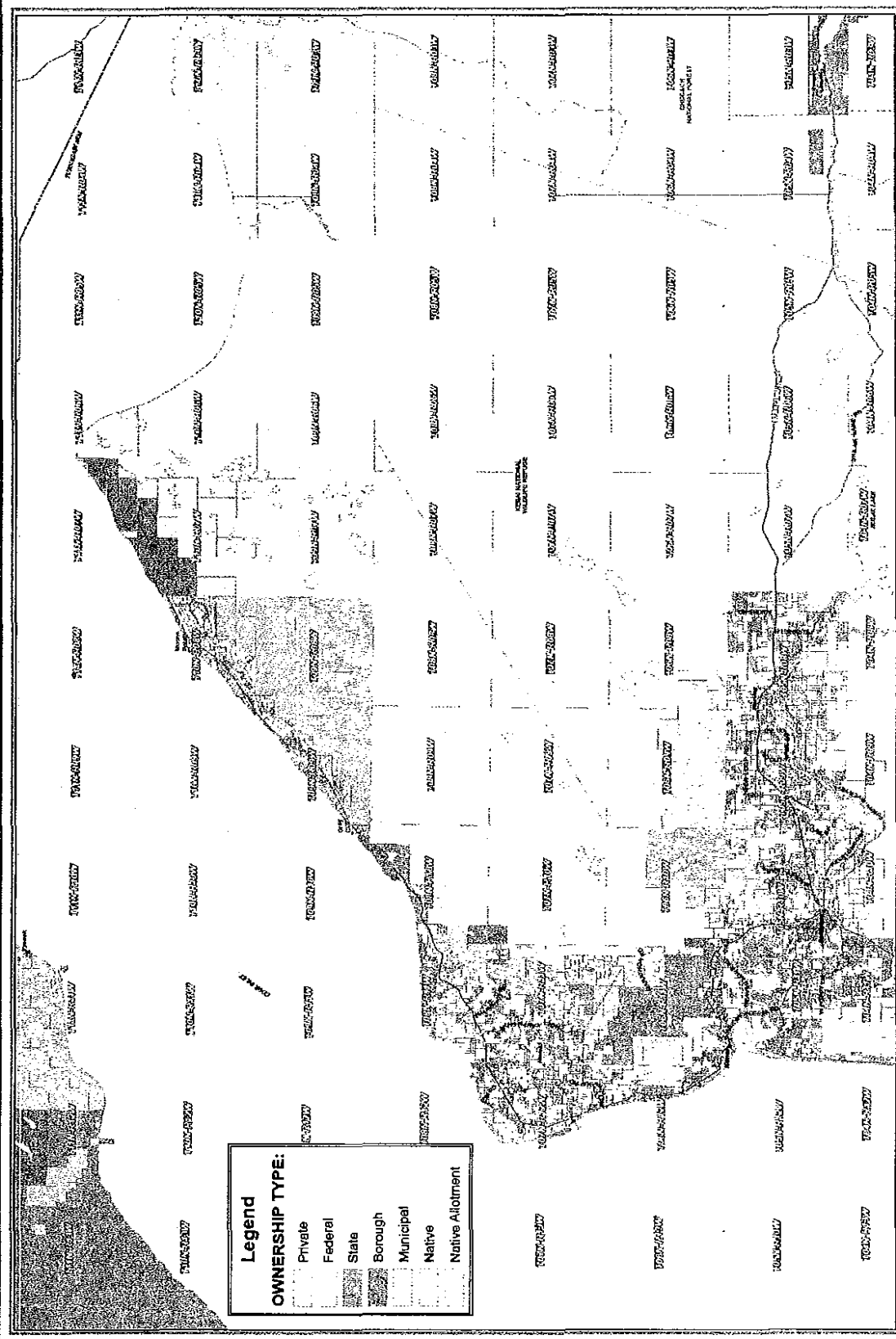
Establish a new intensive management plan
for Unit 15A



GMU 15A IM discussion points

- Land ownership-Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
 - Hunting/trapping restrictions
 - Limited access
- Past moose-habitat dynamics
- Fire management
- Predator data
- Predator harvest opportunities
- Future research

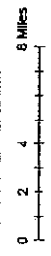
GMU 15A Land Ownership



Legend

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

- Private
- Federal
- State
- Borough
- Municipal
- Native
- Native Allotment



Printed on Mar 02, 2009

Generalized Ownership

The information depicted herein is a general representation of the land ownership data as of 3/1/09. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

Habitat Management

- Constrained by State Forestry
- Limitations of controlled burns
- Issues of fire near human settlements
- Issues of smoke near Anchorage Airport

Predator Data

- Black bear
- Wolf
- Brown bear

Black bear densities in 15A

- Schwartz and Franzman 1991 *Wildlife Monographs*. Interrelationships of black bears to moose and forest succession in the northern coniferous forest. *Wildlife Monographs*

Harvest opportunities

Black bears

- Increase access and baiting opportunities

Wolves

- Increase trapper access by relaxing snowmachine restrictions
- Modify Refuge specific trapping regulations

Brown bears

- Increase in brown bear permits

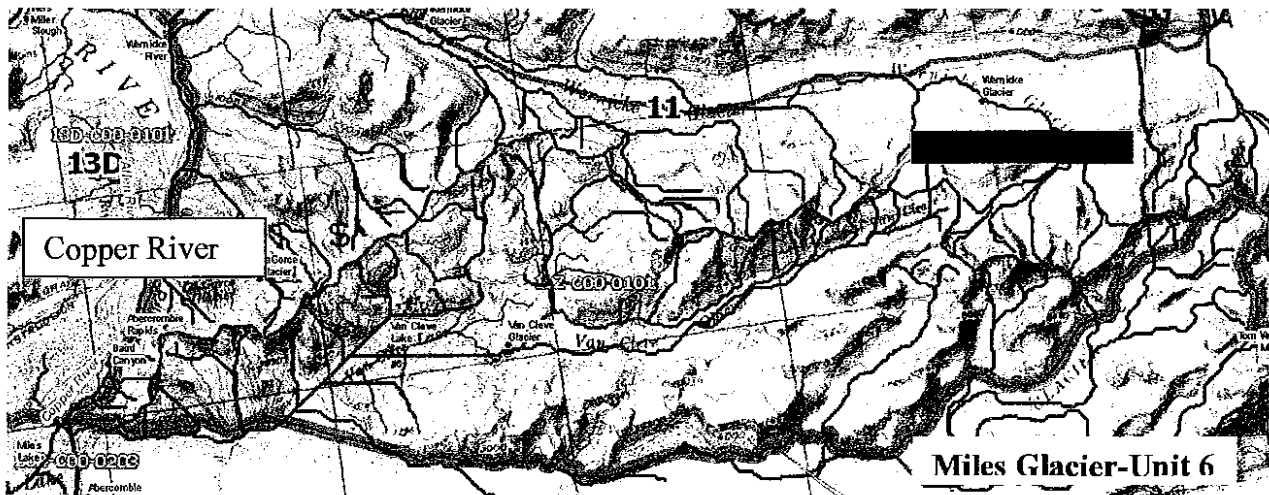
RC 2.5

Game Mgmt
Units

Boundary between northern Unit 6 and southern Unit 11.

(6) Game Management Unit 6 consists of all Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound drainages from the center line of Icy Bay (excluding the Guyot Hills) to Cape Fairfield, including Kayak, Hinchinbrook, Montague, and adjacent islands, and Middleton Island, but excluding the Copper River drainage upstream from Miles Glacier and those drainages on the north side of Miles Glacier, and excluding the Nellie Juan and Kings River drainages;

(11) Game Management Unit 11 consists of that area draining into [THE HEADWATERS OF] the Copper River [SOUTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK AND THE AREA DRAINED BY ALL TRIBUTARIES INTO THE EAST BANK OF THE COPPER RIVER BETWEEN THE CONFLUENCE OF SUSLOTA CREEK WITH THE SLANA RIVER AND MILES GLACIER] from the north side of Miles Glacier, and east of the eastern most bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier north to the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, then south of the south bank of Suslota Creek to Noyes Mountain.



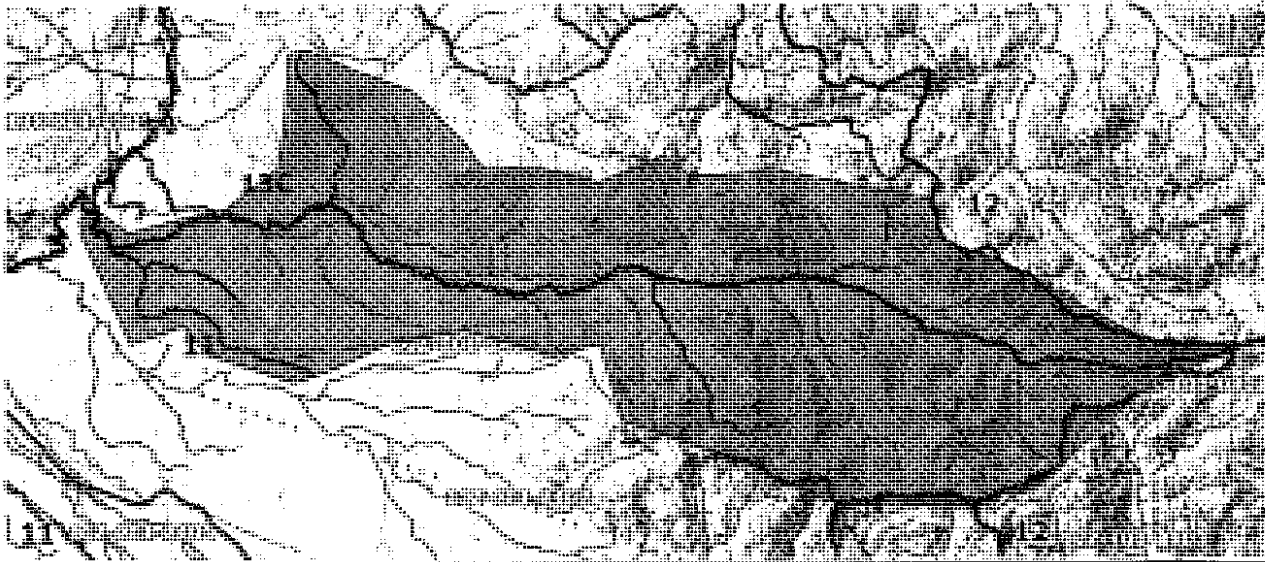
The red lines north of Miles Glacier depict drainages that do not drain into the Copper River, but instead drain into the glacier itself.

The new language clarifies that the area north of the glacier is included in Unit 11, not in Unit 6. This is not a change to existing Unit boundaries-the existing boundary is depicted by the heavy blue line along the north side of the glacier.

Boundary between northern Unit 11 and southern Unit 13.

(11) Game Management Unit 11 consists of that area draining into [THE HEADWATERS OF] the Copper River [SOUTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK AND THE AREA DRAINED BY ALL TRIBUTARIES INTO THE EAST BANK OF THE COPPER RIVER BETWEEN THE CONFLUENCE OF SUSLOTA CREEK WITH THE SLANA RIVER AND MILES GLACIER] **from the north side of Miles Glacier, and east of the eastern most bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier north to the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, then south of the south bank of Suslota Creek to Noyes Mountain.**

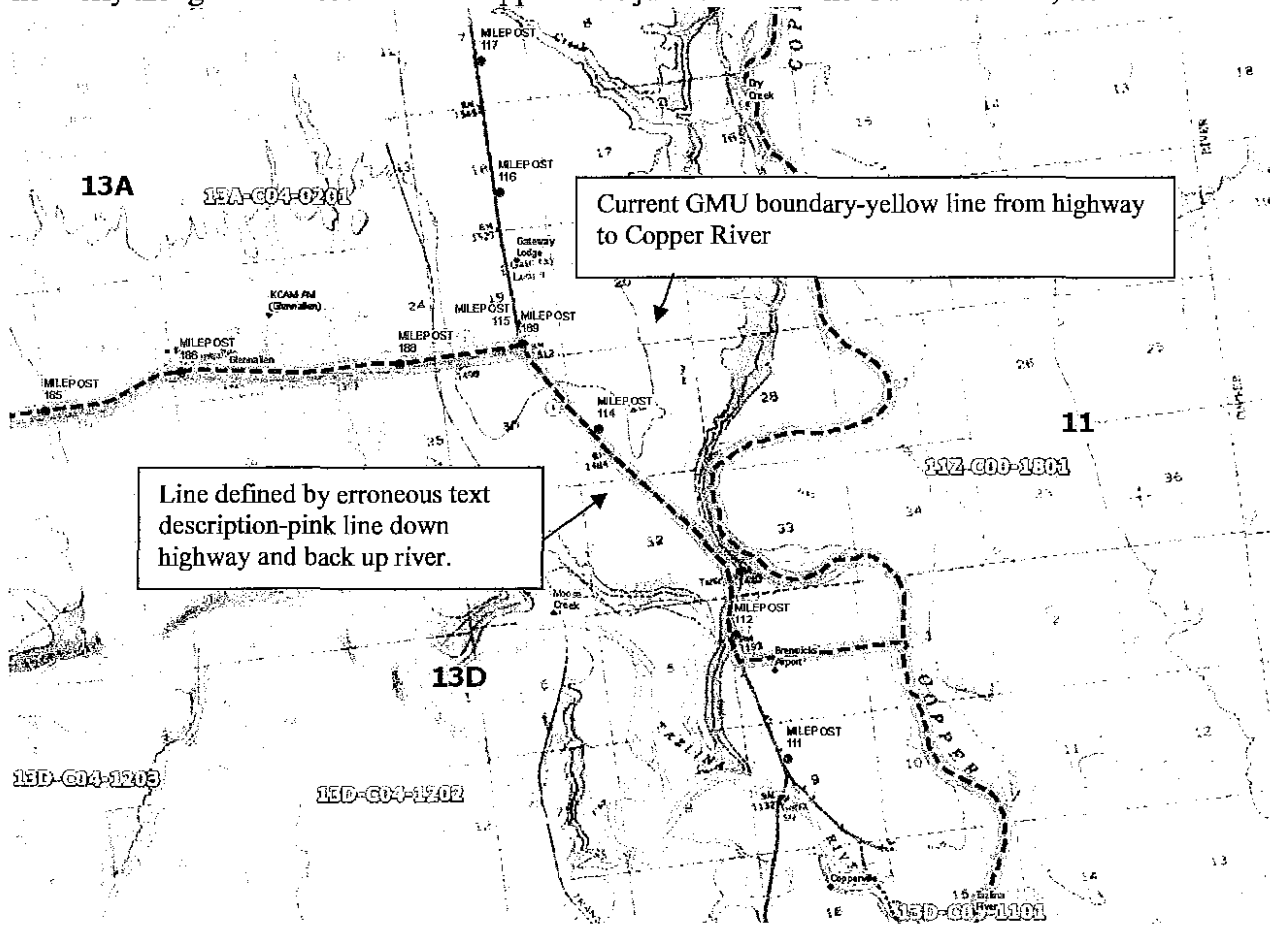
(13) Game Management Unit 13 consists of that area westerly of the **eastern most** [EAST] bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier **north to the confluence with the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, and that area of the Slana River drainage north of Suslota Creek** [AND INCLUDING THE SLANA RIVER DRAINAGES NORTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK]; the drainages into the Delta River...



The map depicts the area defined by the existing language, the area drained by Suslota Creek, and includes areas in both Unit 11 and Unit 13.

Boundary between Unit 13A and 13D.

(A) Unit 13(A) consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the Chickaloon River bridge at Mile 77.7 on the Glenn Highway, then along the Glenn Highway to its junction with the Richardson Highway, [THEN SOUTH ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY TO THE FOOT OF SIMPSON HILL AT MILE 111.5,] then east to the east bank of the Copper River, then northerly along the east bank of the Copper to its junction with the Gulkana River, ...



Current GMU boundary has always gone straight east from highway junction. The existing codified language has been in error for years. This is just a housekeeping change.

Boundary between Unit 13B and 13C.

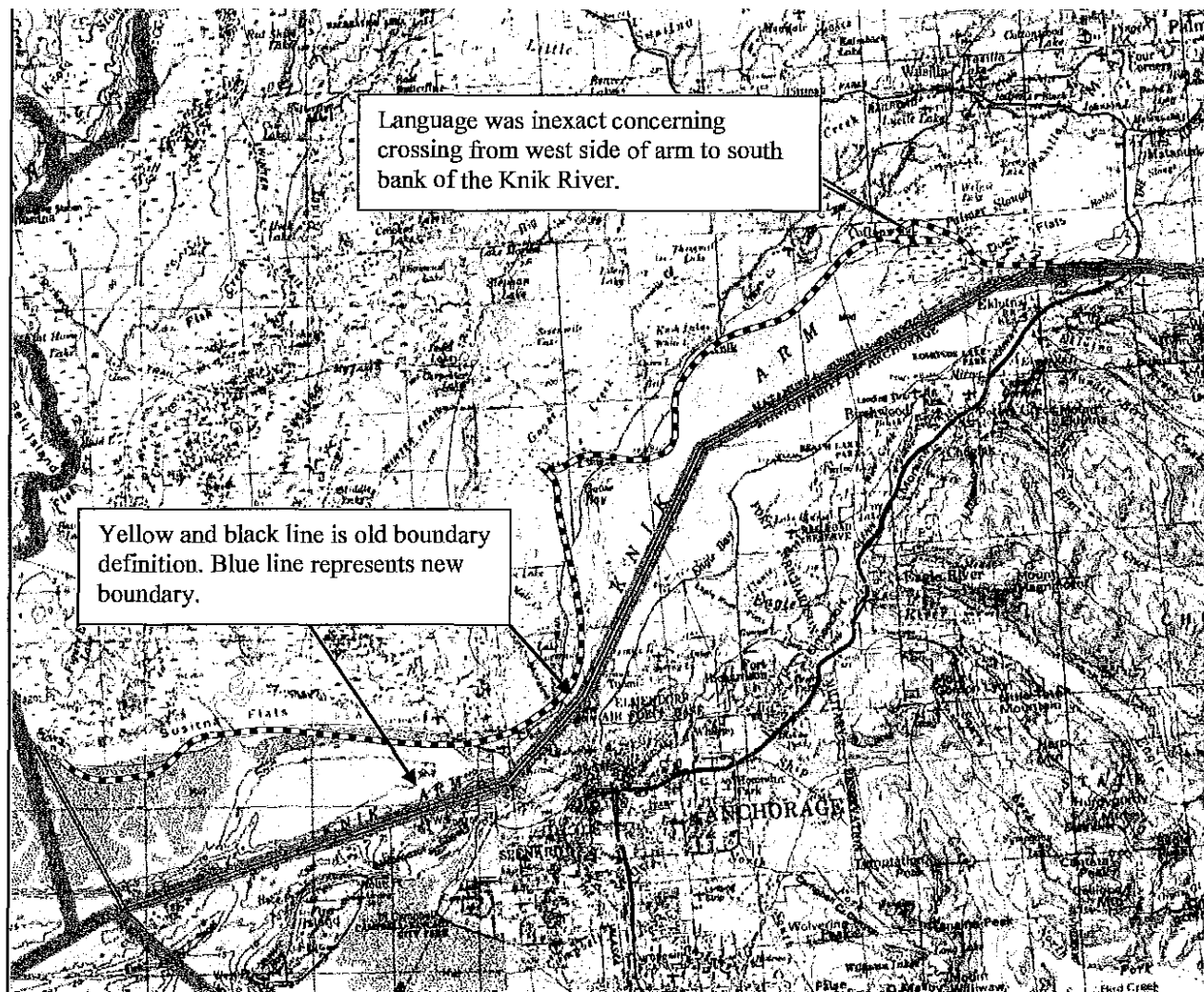
(B) Unit 13(B) consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of the Copper River and the Gulkana River, then up the east bank of the Copper River to the Gakona River, then up the **east bank of the** Gakona River and Gakona Glacier to the boundary of Unit 13, then westerly...

(C) Unit 13(C) consists of that portion of Unit 13 east of the **east bank of the** Gakona River and Gakona Glacier;

Self explanatory to clarify that the Gakona river, and all associated islands, lie within Unit 13B, and everything east of the river is in Unit 13C.

Boundary between Unit 14A and 14C.

(14) (A) Unit 14(A) consists of drainages in Unit 14 bounded on the west [BY] **beginning at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary along longitude line 150°30'00" to the mouth of the Susitna River, then north along** the east bank of the Susitna River, on the north by the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to its headwaters, then east along the hydrologic divide separating the Susitna River and Knik Arm drainages to the outlet creek at lake 4408, on the east by the eastern boundary of Unit 14, and on the south by Cook Inlet, Knik Arm, **and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary to the Glenn Highway bridge, then to the south bank of Knik Arm, then to** the south bank of the Knik River from its mouth to its junction with Knik Glacier, across the face of Knik Glacier and along the north side of Knik Glacier to the Unit 6 boundary;



This new language is a change to the existing GMU boundaries, but affects mainly water, mudflats, and tidal areas.

(16) Game Management Unit 16 consists of the drainages into Cook Inlet between Redoubt Creek and the Susitna River, including Redoubt Creek drainage, Kalgin Island, and the drainages on the west side of the Susitna River (including the Susitna River) upstream to its junction with the Chulitna River; the drainages into the west side of the Chulitna River (including the Chulitna River) upstream to the Tokositna River (**including the Tokositna River**),, and drainages into the south side of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier, including the drainage of the Kanitula Glacier;

(25) (B) Unit 25(B) consists of the Little Black River drainage upstream from but not including the Big Creek drainage, the Black River drainage upstream from and including the Salmon Fork drainage, the Porcupine River drainage upstream from the confluence of the Coleen and Porcupine Rivers, and drainages into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle, including the **Yukon River and** islands in the Yukon River **upstream from Circle**;

Both language changes result in no change to existing GMU boundaries, just clarification concerning rivers and islands.

RC 2.6

Permits for taking
Game

Special Publication No. BOG 2010-01

Alaska Native Funerary Ceremonies and Hunting Regulations

A Report to the Alaska Board of Game, January–February 2010

by

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Division of Subsistence**

January 2010

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Subsistence



Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the reports by the Division of Subsistence. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)

centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	oz
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd

Time and temperature

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	s

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols

alternating current	AC
ampere	A
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General

<i>all commonly-accepted abbreviations</i>	
<i>e.g. Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.</i>	
<i>all commonly-accepted professional titles e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.</i>	
Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
at	@
compass directions:	
east	E
north	N
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢
months (tables and figures):	first three letters (Jan., ..., Dec.)
registered trademark	®
trademark	™
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (noun)	USA
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)

Measures (fisheries)

fork length	FL
mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
standard length	SL
total length	TL

Mathematics, statistics

all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations

alternate hypothesis	H _A
base of natural logarithm	e
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
common test statistics (F, t, χ^2 , etc.)	
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	°
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	E
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	≥
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	≤
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ , etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	H ₀
percent	%
probability	P
probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var

SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. BOG 2010-01

**ALASKA NATIVE FUNERARY CEREMONIES AND HUNTING
REGULATIONS: A REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME,
JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2010**

by

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Subsistence, Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Subsistence
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK, 99518

January 2010

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INTRODUCTION

In January 2010, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) will consider 4 proposals that address hunting for Alaska Native religious ceremonies that are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle. These ceremonies are often referred to as “potlatches.” This report provides background for these proposals and is organized into 2 parts. Part 1 provides general background on Alaska Native funerary ceremonies and includes a chronology of BOG actions regarding this issue as well as some definitions. Part 2 is a brief description of the potlatch as practiced by Athabascan groups living in east central Alaska. This report is not intended to be a comprehensive account but rather an outline of the ceremony to orient BOG members and provide context for the discussion.

The use of wild game for funeral potlatches, memorial potlatches, and other funerary ceremonies is a longstanding practice within some Alaska Native groups, particularly Athabascan and Tlingit groups. Every year, wildlife is harvested for these ceremonies. Existing regulations accommodate specific ceremonies, such as the Koyukon Athabascan celebration of the *Nuchalawoyya* (5 AAC 92.053) or the ceremony known as “Stickdance” (5 AAC 92.055). The former is a celebration practiced only at Tanana, Alaska, and the latter is practiced at either Kaltag or Nulato. Other regulations allow for the harvest of big game for cultural or educational purposes (5 AAC 92.033, 5 AAC 92.034).

THE PROPOSALS

Three of the proposals address the issue of ceremonial harvest of moose *Alces americanus* and other big game in nonsubsistence areas (see Appendix A for maps of nonsubsistence areas). This issue is addressed in regulation at 5 AAC 92.019, “Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies,” which differs from the regulations mentioned above in several ways: First, it is a statewide provision; second, it is not permit based; third, it requires reporting within a specific period of time (15 days) following the ceremony; and fourth, it requires that hunters notify the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to hunting.

1. Proposal 11, submitted by ADF&G, would remove the reference to customary and traditional use findings in 5 AAC 92.019. See *Preliminary recommendations: Board of Game proposals, January 2010* (ADF&G 2010) for a revised version of the proposal.
2. Proposal 12, submitted by the Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee, would allow the taking of moose only from game populations that have been identified as having customary and traditional uses. This proposal would eliminate the ceremonial harvest of moose in nonsubsistence areas.
3. Proposal 13, submitted by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, would remove the reference to customary and traditional use findings in 5 AAC 92.019.
4. Proposal 14, submitted by the Ahtna Tene Nene’ Customary and Traditional Use Committee, would establish Ahtna criteria (tribal rules) for the ceremonial harvest of big game in Game Management Units (GMUs) 13, 11, 12 and 20A. According to the proposal, the intent is to ensure that the ceremonial harvests in these GMUs are linked to traditional Ahtna ceremonies.

PART 1: GENERAL BACKGROUND, CHRONOLOGY, AND DEFINITIONS

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND

In 1979, the Alaska Supreme Court determined that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution provide protection for the taking of moose for use in Athabascan funeral potlatch ceremonies (*Frank v. State*, 604 P.2d 1068 1979) (Appendix B). The Alaska Constitution states "No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" (Article I, Section 4, Freedom of Religion). The state's constitution also mandates that "Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses" (Article VIII, Section 4, Sustained Yield) (see Appendix C for a chronology of BOG actions).

1980 Board of Game Finding 80-27-GB

In 1980, the BOG noted that in *Frank v State* the Alaska Supreme Court held that the taking of moose for use in traditional funeral potlatch ceremonies of Alaska's Athabascan people is protected by both the state and federal constitutions. The BOG filed a letter of intent (08-27-GB, Appendix D) in which it stated:

Before meaningful regulations governing the taking of game for religious ceremony can be adopted, it would be desirable to have an authoritative study of all religious ceremonies in which game meat is used, for all Native groups and subgroups, from all communities in the state where such religious ceremonies are practiced.

The BOG concluded that it was preferable not to adopt regulations governing the taking of game for religious ceremonies until definitive guidelines could be established. The BOG also recommended that the taking of game for religious ceremony should be informally administered by the Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection. In the interim, the BOG decided, guidelines established by the court in the *Frank v. State* case provided sufficient direction for the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection and ADF&G to allow the taking of game for religious purposes.

Based upon this letter of intent, the BOG subsequently adopted in regulation 5 AAC 92.015 [1980 numbering], "Funeral potlatch report." This regulation provided that "... any person who takes a moose for a funeral potlatch as authorized by *Frank v. State* 604 P.2d 1068 (Alaska 1979) shall, as soon as practicable, and not later than 15 days after the taking of the moose, submit a report to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, Alaska 99802, or the nearest office of the department, specifying the name and address of the person taking the moose, the date and location of take, and the name of the decedent for whom the potlatch was held." This regulation remained in effect until 1996, when it was substantially revised based on input by affected parties, the public, and ADF&G.

In 1995, the ADF&G commissioner advanced an initiative that explored regulations on the taking of wildlife for use in Alaska Native religious ceremonies. This was in response to an effort by the Tanana Chiefs Conference to amend the federal Native American Religious Freedom Act.

1996 Board of Game Finding 96-98-BOG

In 1996, the BOG determined that protections for the use of moose in Athabascan funeral potlatch ceremonies should be extended to other big game animals used as food (Appendix E), and extended to all Alaskan residents for use in Alaska Native funerary and mortuary ceremonies. The BOG also adopted regulations that provided for a harvest report due after the ceremony.

2002 Board of Game Actions

In 2002, the BOG added a requirement to 5 AAC 92.019, "Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies," for **prior notification** when taking game for religious ceremonies. In addition, the BOG also established the Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony regulation (5 AAC 92.017), which does not require prior notification. The BOG directed ADF&G to publicize the game populations for which the taking of a big game animal would be inconsistent with sustained yield principals. The BOG also added a reference to 5 AAC 99.025, "Customary and traditional uses of game populations" to 5 AAC 92.019, as well as the requirement of a positive customary and traditional finding before a species could be taken for religious ceremonies.

Current Regulations

Currently there are 4 regulations governing the taking of big game for religious ceremonies. Two do not require a permit:

- **5 AAC 92.019 Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies** (Eff. 8/8/87, Register 103; am 6/28/96, Register 138; am 7/1/2002, Register 162; am 7/1/2003, Register 166).
- **5 AAC 92.017 Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony** (Eff. 7/1/2003, Register 166).

Permits are required for the following ceremonies:

- **5 AAC 92.053 Permit to take moose for Nuchalawoyya Potlatch.** This regulation provides for a permit for up to 3 moose per regulatory year for this potlatch ceremony practiced only in Tanana (Eff. 6/14/89, Register 110; am 8/10/91, Register 119; readopt 5/13/93, Register 126).
- **5 AAC 92.055 Stickdance permit,** which provides for up to 3 moose per regulatory year for this ceremony which is held alternatively in either Kaltag or Nulato, with a year between each ceremony (Eff. 10/27/90, Register 116; am 8/10/91, Register 119).

It should be noted that in addition to *Frank v. State* there have been other legal challenges to the taking of moose for potlatches. In 1985, the Tanana Chiefs Conference brought suit against the State of Alaska to challenge the ban on hunting moose out of season for memorial potlatches. In 1989, a federal court ruled that the taking of moose for memorial potlatches is a religious freedom protected under the First Amendment.

Similarly, legal sanction of taking moose for the *Nuchalawoyya* potlatch also began in court (cf. *Native Village of Tanana v. Cowper*, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, No. 90-35454, W. 945 F2d 409). After an agreement by both parties to dismiss the case and provide the BOG the opportunity to develop appropriate regulations, the BOG adopted 5 AAC 92.055 in response to a

1989 proposal These regulations allow for the taking of up to 3 moose for the ceremony known as *Nuchalawoyya*.

While not based on a legal challenge, regulations providing for the taking of up to 3 moose per regulatory year for the potlatch ceremony known as Stickdance were adopted in 1990.

DEFINITIONS

The ADF&G Division of Subsistence offers the following definitions, as found in the *American Heritage Dictionary* (American Heritage Dictionary 2004 [Dell reissue edition]). In all cases, the primary definition is presented here.

Ceremony – A formal act performed as prescribed by ritual, custom, or etiquette.

Rite – The prescribed form for conducting a religious or other solemn ceremony.

Ritual – The prescribed form of a ceremony (*note*: the fourth definition offered is “A customary or regular procedure”).

Religion – Belief in and reverence for a supernatural power or powers regarded as a creator or governor of the universe.

The division suggests that religious ceremonies, potlatches, or rituals might be defined as “sacred, set apart, and formal sets of rites with religious expressions established by custom or authority within a group, distinguished from the ordinary day-to-day taking of wild fish and game by families for food.”

ALASKA NATIVE FUNERARY CEREMONIES

There are several types of Alaska Native funerary ceremonies in Alaska. The terms “funerary” and “mortuary” are used interchangeably in the literature, and refer to ceremonies connected with the death or burial of a person, or the commemoration of a deceased person. Types of formalized funerary ceremonies practiced in Alaska Native communities include, but are not limited to:

- Funeral potlatches,
- 20-day feasts,
- 40-day feasts,
- Memorial potlatches, and
- Pay-off potlatches.

Principal Alaska Native Groups with Formal Funerary Ceremonies

Figure 1 presents a map of groups by language area.

Athabascan

Ahtna

Dena'ina or Tanaina

Deg Hit'an and Holikachuk

Han

Gwitch'in
 Koyukon
 Tanana
 Upper Kuskokwim
 Upper Tanana
 Tanacross

 Eyak
 Tlingit
 Haida
 Tsimshian
 Yup'ik (in the Middle Kuskokwim River–Lower Yukon River area)

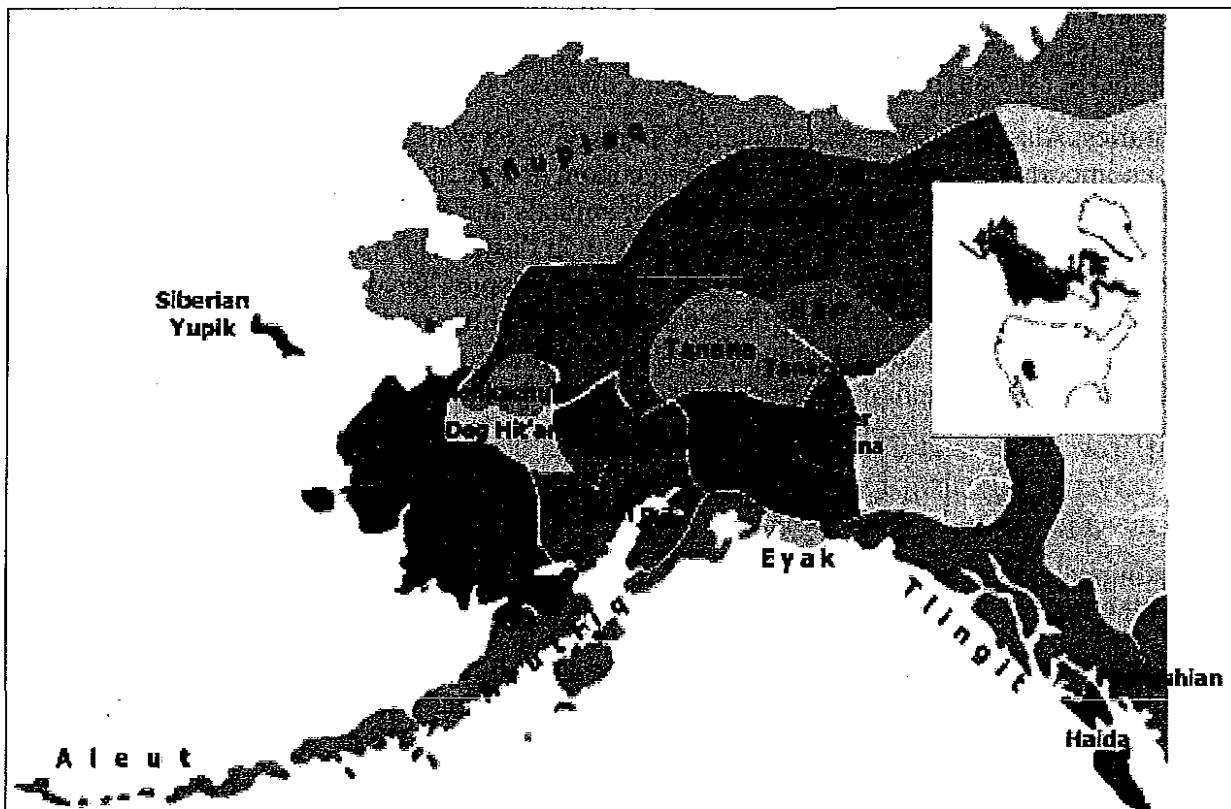


Figure 1.—Map of Alaska Native language groups.

The funeral potlatch is usually held shortly after the death of a family member. Funeral potlatches are generally unanticipated events. A central feature of the ceremony is the immediate and proper treatment of the remains of the deceased.

The other types of funerary ceremonies listed above represent a second ceremony held after a period of time after the death of a family member. These ceremonies often complete the funeral cycle of special observances. Many participants have reported that they believe that the spirit of the deceased completes the transition from the living to the spiritual world through these ceremonies, which have several names, including “memorial potlatch,” “20-day” feast or potlatch, “40-day” feast or potlatch, and “pay-off” potlatch, feast, or party. Their observance may be after a specified period of grieving, such as the 20-day or 40-day feast, or it may be related to the status of the person—more time may be needed to prepare for the final commemoration of important persons. People who have supported the immediate family through the time of their loss receive formal thanks and recompense. The rift in the community created by the death of an individual is made whole again.

PART 2: THE ATHABASCAN POTLATCH AS PRACTICED IN EAST CENTRAL ALASKA

The potlatch is a religious and social event of unparalleled significance in Athabascan culture. The word “potlatch” refers to a ritualized distribution of gifts and food.¹

Wild foods are vital element of the potlatch. Moose-head soup is often the culinary centerpiece, but every kind of wild food is served, including various species of ducks, geese, whitefishes, salmon, sheep, caribou, beavers, muskrats, bears, and berries.

For centuries, Alaska Natives have sustained themselves on wild foods, and these foods continue to play an important role in the contemporary economy and culture. Most Alaska Native cultures hold that meat is the source of human life; thus, animals and fish are treated with great respect. According to one Athabascan elder, game was “put on this earth by God to feed Native people.” She went on to say that when she was growing up, people “lived by the land,” and that her parents worked hard to get food, which was why she still cared about the animals. In most traditional Alaska Native cultures, hunting requires a strict code of ethics, which one Athabascan elder characterized as “kind of like the Bible.” Another elder expressed it this way:

[I]f we don't treat the animal right, that's been teached to us, we will not get so easy the animals...if we don't treat the animal right, anything right, you will never get animals no more...

The traditional rules governing hunting are strict: many preclude hunters, for example, from announcing their intention to hunt or even from referring to animals by name.

Some traditional rules relate to the correct treatment of humans, and it is in this arena that food has become woven into the social fabric that binds humans together for survival. The sharing of food is a cardinal virtue in Athabascan culture, as it is in most Alaska Native cultures. Tradition says that successful hunters should share moose or caribou meat with the entire community. People raised in this tradition learn the importance of sharing at early age. After a child harvests his or her first wild game animal, he or she is expected to give all of the meat to elders.

Wild foods are also shared at potlatches, which can be given for many reasons, the most important of which among the Athabascan are to bury and memorialize the dead. A funeral

¹ Such distributions occur in almost every Alaskan Native culture but the information presented here pertains specifically to Athabascan cultures of east central Alaska. This information is from an ADF&G Division of Subsistence Resource Specialist's personal attendance at Athabascan potlatches from the early 1970s to the present, and from research conducted for his doctoral degree in anthropology.

potlatch is always held immediately following a funeral and the memorial potlatch is usually held within one year of the funeral. Both funeral and memorial potlatches are often attended by hundreds of people. Funeral or memorial potlatches held in the upper Tanana River and Copper River areas often draw guests from as far as Whitehorse, Nenana, Minto, Eagle, Anchorage, and Fairbanks.

The sequence of events for a funeral or memorial potlatch follows a prescribed pattern that includes feasting, oratory, singing, dancing, and a distribution of gifts. When a member of the community dies, the decedent's family, who are the potlatch hosts, announce the death, then people gather to console the grieving relatives. Hunters are designated by the grieving family to harvest moose or caribou. Meanwhile, the host family gathers additional food, gifts, and money necessary to hold the event. In addition to the fresh meat, there is often fish, waterfowl, an assortment of small game, and berries. The potlatch hosts are expected to feed all of the guests 3 times per day for each day of the event.

Both funeral and memorial potlatches usually last 3 days, and are often held during a weekend so as to accommodate the 5-day work week and to give more people the opportunity to attend. A memorial potlatch is similar to the funeral potlatch, but because it is a planned event, memorial potlatches are often much larger in terms of the amount of food and gifts distributed.

Feasts are held every night and all of the food prepared that day is served. Most wild foods are prepared outdoors, by the men. This relates to traditional rules associated with the harvesting and processing of large animals, where it is considered bad luck for young women to handle fresh meat. Moose meat is cut up and boiled in large, industrial sized pots, although some of the meat may be fried outdoors and served at lunches. The meat from the head, including the nose and the tongue, is made into a soup. Fish are fried or boiled, a rich soup is made from ducks, beavers are baked or roasted, and muskrats are boiled or roasted. Any leftovers are distributed to the guests: no food is retained by the hosts.

After the food is prepared, it is brought to the community hall. A large pot of moose-head soup is usually placed on the floor, near a long table on which the other food has been placed. Aisle-wide rolls of paper are laid, like carpet runners, on the floor between the rows of guests, and utensils and plates are distributed. Servers walk the aisles between the guests and serve boiled moose meat from cardboard boxes, berries in Styrofoam cups, and hot tea from steaming pots. Food is often piled high on plates so guests can take it home to eat later. In fact, aluminum foil is often distributed at the end of the feast so that guests can wrap their food. Five-pound coffee cans of moose-head soup are handed out to all of the elders present.

Once the feast is over, the ceremony continues. On the first and second night there are speeches, usually eulogies for the deceased, followed by dancing and singing. On the third and final night, there is the feast, followed by dancing and singing and then a distribution of gifts, which includes blankets, rifles, beadwork, and money, which the guests use to purchase fuel for their trip home.

One purpose of the potlatch is to help the relatives of the decedent grieve; another is to assist the decedent in making the transition from the living to the spiritual world. One way to assist in this transition is for the potlatch host to feed the spirit of the decedent by throwing bits of food into the fire, another is to show respect for the decedent by sharing large amounts of food with the potlatch guests.

Traditionally the decedent's blood relatives are forbidden to handle the corpse: that is the responsibility of the decedent's in-laws. They are responsible for taking care of all the funeral arrangements, including digging the grave, building the coffin and grave fence, and performing the burial. This must all be done very carefully in order to show proper respect for the deceased. In addition, all of the potlatch guests are invited to share the burden of grief with the decedent's blood relatives. To repay their in-laws and all of those who attended the funeral and potlatch the decedent's relatives shower the guests with food and gifts. The blankets given away in the potlatch symbolize warmth and affection while the rifles symbolize the ability to feed oneself.

Within a year after the death and funeral, a memorial potlatch must be held. This is similar to the funeral potlatch, but because it is a planned event, memorial potlatches are often much larger in terms of the amount of food and gifts distributed.

Funerary/mortuary rituals are part of the religious tradition of many Alaska Natives. Most of the published information about these ceremonies was collected in the early 20th century, and contemporary ceremonies are generally not well documented. The information about contemporary Athabascan potlatches presented in this report was offered to illustrate a specific funerary/mortuary tradition especially related to the uses of wild foods. In summary, funeral and memorial potlatches are events of unparalleled significance in the spiritual and social life of the Athabascan people of east central Alaska. Wild foods are vital elements of these ceremonies, which follow a rich tradition of preparing and sharing these foods.

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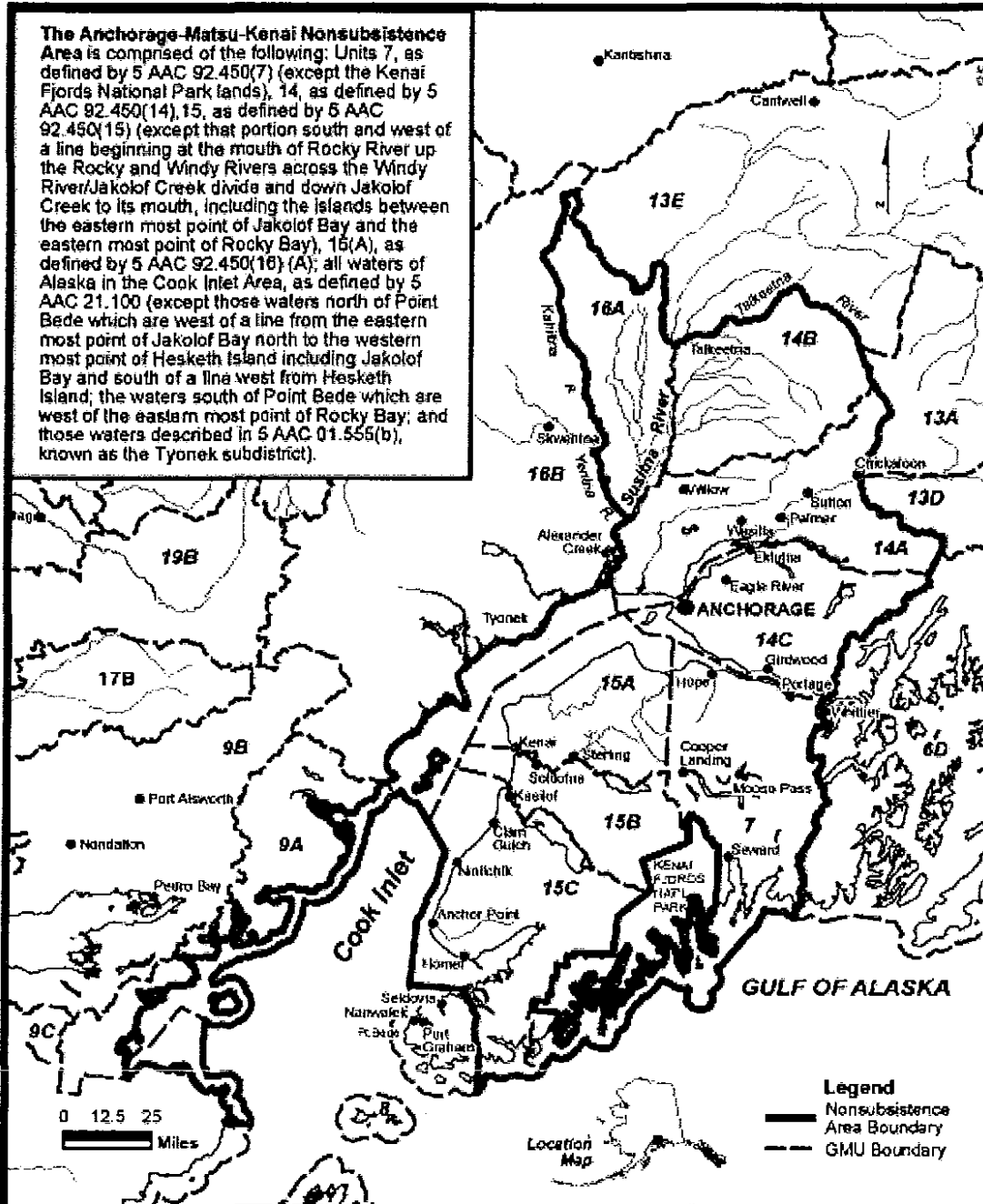
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- ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). 2010. Preliminary recommendations: Board of Game proposals, January 2010. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation, [Juneau]. <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/2009-2010/statewide09/Dept-AR-sw10pdf.pdf>

APPENDIX A: MAPS OF NONSUBSISTENCE AREAS



Anchorage Nonsubsistence Area

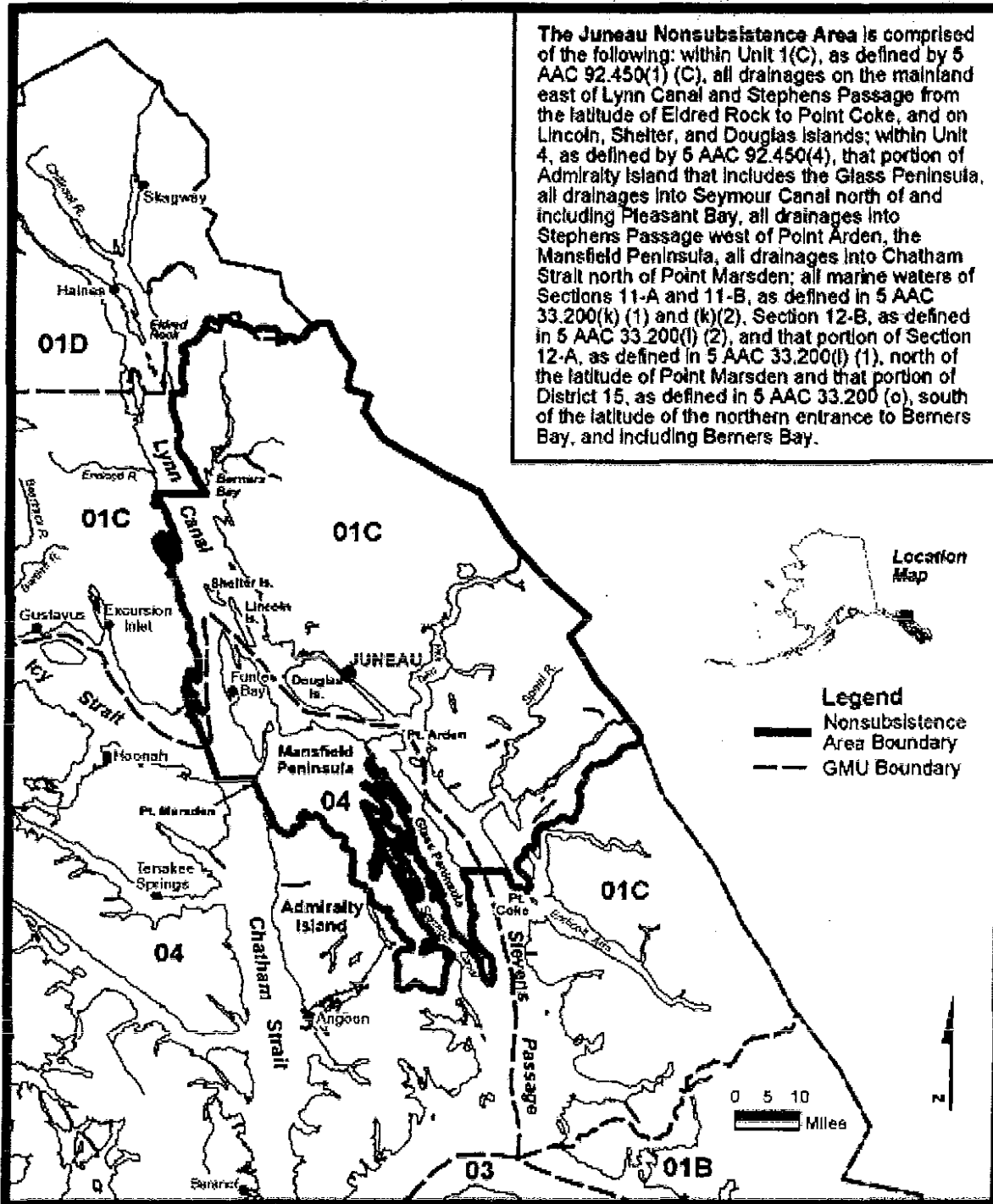
The Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: Units 7, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(7) (except the Kenai Fjords National Park lands), 14, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(14), 15, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(15) (except that portion south and west of a line beginning at the mouth of Rocky River up the Rocky and Windy Rivers across the Windy River/Jakolof Creek divide and down Jakolof Creek to its mouth, including the islands between the eastern most point of Jakolof Bay and the eastern most point of Rocky Bay), 15(A), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(16) (A); all waters of Alaska in the Cook Inlet Area, as defined by 5 AAC 21.100 (except those waters north of Point Bede which are west of a line from the eastern most point of Jakolof Bay north to the western most point of Hesketh Island including Jakolof Bay and south of a line west from Hesketh Island; the waters south of Point Bede which are west of the eastern most point of Rocky Bay; and those waters described in 5 AAC 01.555(b), known as the Tyonek subdistrict).



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Subsistence and Boards

September 2007

Juneau Nonsubsistence Area



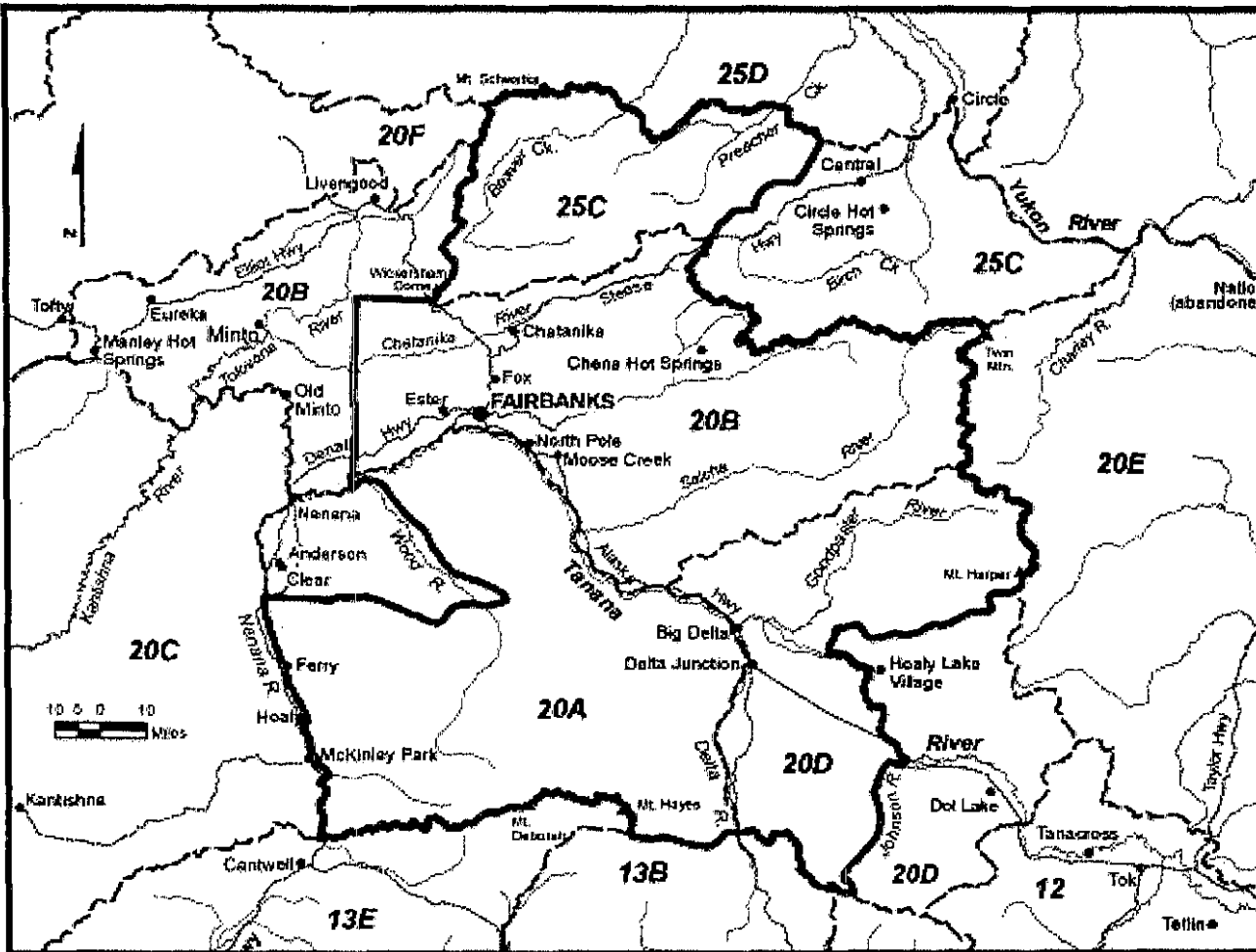
The Juneau Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: within Unit 1(C), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(1) (C), all drainages on the mainland east of Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage from the latitude of Eldred Rock to Point Coke, and on Lincoln, Shelter, and Douglas Islands; within Unit 4, as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(4), that portion of Admiralty Island that includes the Glass Peninsula, all drainages into Seymour Canal north of and including Pleasant Bay, all drainages into Stephens Passage west of Point Arden, the Mansfield Peninsula, all drainages into Chatham Strait north of Point Marsden; all marine waters of Sections 11-A and 11-B, as defined in 5 AAC 33.200(k) (1) and (k)(2), Section 12-B, as defined in 5 AAC 33.200(l) (2), and that portion of Section 12-A, as defined in 5 AAC 33.200(l) (1), north of the latitude of Point Marsden and that portion of District 15, as defined in 5 AAC 33.200 (o), south of the latitude of the northern entrance to Berners Bay, and including Berners Bay.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area



The Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following:

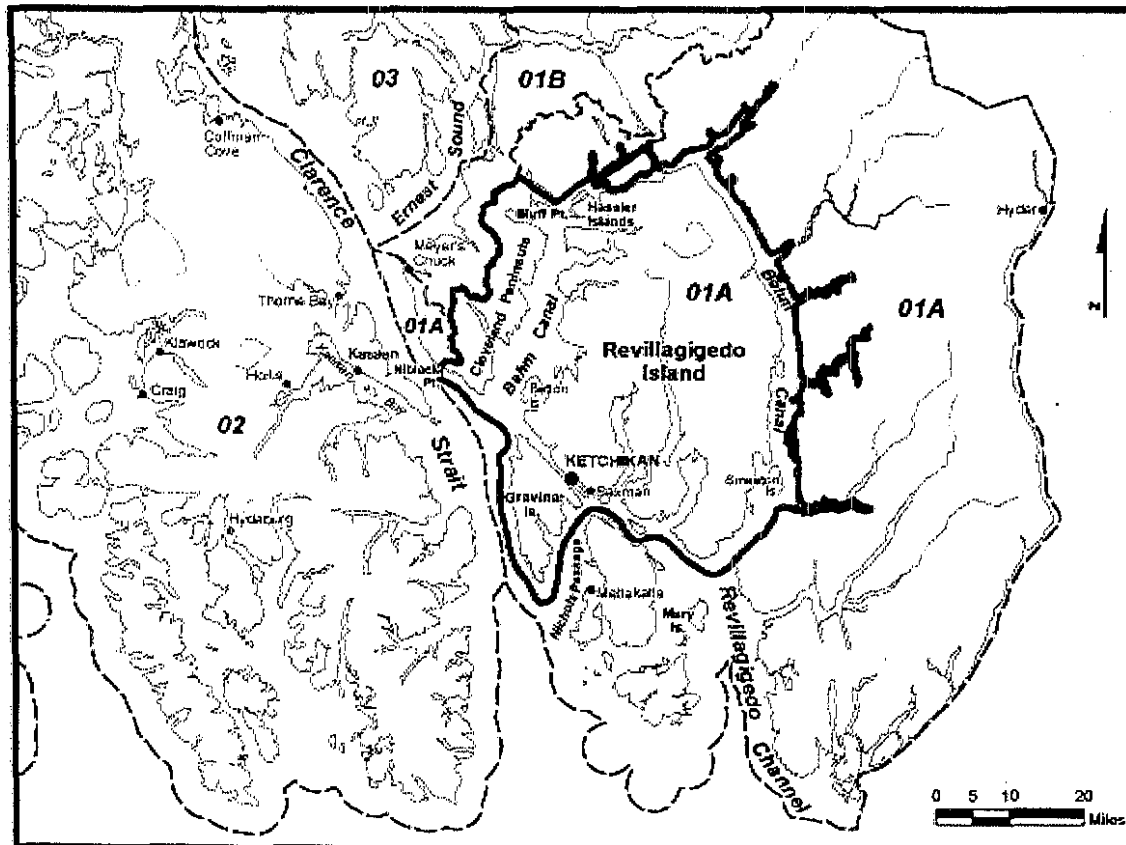
- within Unit 20(A), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (A), east of the Wood River drainage and south of the Rex Trail but including the upper Wood River drainage south of its confluence with Chicken Creek;
- within Unit 20(B), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (B), the North Star Borough and that portion of the Washington Creek drainage east of the Elliot Highway;
- within Unit 20(D) as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(20) (D), west of the Tanana River between its confluence with the Johnson and Delta Rivers, west of the east bank of the Johnson River, and north and west of the Volkmar drainage, including the Goodpaster River drainage;
- and within Unit 25(C), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(25) (C), the Preacher and Beaver Creek drainages.



- Legend**
- Nonsubsistence Area Boundary
 - - - GMU Boundary
 - Roads





Ketchikan Nonsubsistence Area



The Ketchikan Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: within Unit 1(A), as defined in 5 AAC 92.450(1) (A), all drainages of the Cleveland Peninsula between Niblack Point and Bluff Point, Revillagigedo, Gravina, Pennock, Smeaton, Bold, Betton, and Hassler Islands; all marine waters of Sections 1-C, as defined by 5 AAC 33.200(a) (3), 1-D, as defined by 5 AAC 33.200(a) (4), 1-E, as defined by 5 AAC 33.200(a) (5), that portion of Section 1-F, as defined by 5 AAC 33.200(a) (6), north of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Mary Island and within one mile of the mainland and the Gravina and Revillagigedo Island shorelines; and that portion of District 2, as defined by 5 AAC 33.200(b), within one mile of the Cleveland Peninsula shoreline and east of the longitude of Niblack Point.

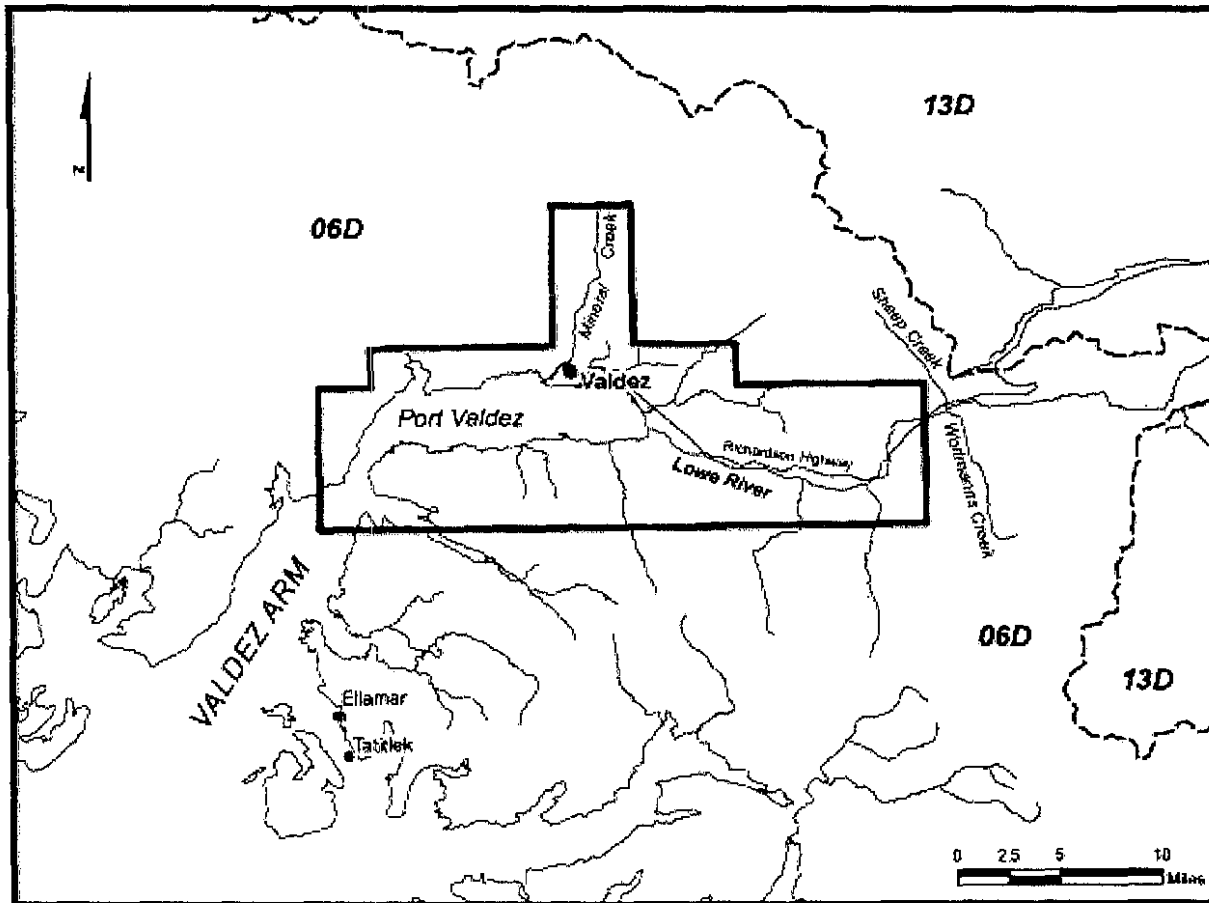


Legend

-  Nonsubsistence Area Boundary
-  GMU Boundary






Valdez Nonsubsistence Area



The Valdez Nonsubsistence Area is comprised of the following: within Unit 6(D), as defined by 5 AAC 92.450(6) (D), and all waters of Alaska in the Prince William Sound Area as defined by 5 AAC 24.100, within the March 1993 Valdez City limits.



- Legend**
-  Nonsubsistence Area Boundary
 -  GMU Boundary
 -  Roads





APPENDIX B: *FRANK V. STATE*



604 P.2d 1068
(Cite as: 604 P.2d 1068)

Supreme Court of Alaska.
Carlos FRANK, Appellant,
v.
STATE of Alaska, Appellee.
No. 3689.

Dec. 21, 1979.

Defendant was convicted in the District Court, Fourth Judicial District, Monroe Clayton, J., of unlawful transportation of game, a moose, illegally taken and he appealed. The Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District, Fairbanks, Gerald J. Van Hoomissen, J., affirmed and defendant appealed. The Supreme Court, Matthews, J., held that: (1) evidence established that use of moose meat at religious funeral ceremony was a practice deeply rooted in defendant's religion and that defendant was sincere in his religious beliefs, and (2) State did not meet its burden of proving a compelling state interest which would justify curtailing the religiously based practice.

Judgment reversed and case remanded with instructions to dismiss complaint.

Connor, J., dissented and filed opinion.

West Headnotes

[1] Constitutional Law 92 ⇌ 1304

92 Constitutional Law
92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General
92k1302 Free Exercise of Religion
92k1304 k. Freedom to Believe. Most Cited Cases
(Formerly 92k84.1, 92k84(1), 92k84)
Freedom to believe is protected absolutely by United States and Alaska Constitutions which prohibit laws restricting free exercise of religion. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[2] Constitutional Law 92 ⇌ 1290

92 Constitutional Law
92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General
92k1290 k. In General. Most Cited Cases
(Formerly 92k84.1, 92k84(1), 92k84)
Freedom to act on one's religious beliefs is protected, but such protection may be overcome by compelling state interest. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A. Amend. 1.

[3] Constitutional Law 92 ⇌ 1290

92 Constitutional Law
92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General
92k1290 k. In General. Most Cited Cases
(Formerly 92k84.1, 92k84(1), 92k84)
Religiously impelled actions can be forbidden only where they pose some substantial threat to public safety, peace or order, or where there are competing governmental interests that are of the highest order and are not otherwise served. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[4] Constitutional Law 92 ⇌ 1305

92 Constitutional Law
92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General
92k1302 Free Exercise of Religion
92k1305 k. Beliefs Protected; Inquiry Into Beliefs. Most Cited Cases
(Formerly 92k84.2, 92k84(2), 92k84)
Free exercise clause may be invoked only where there is religion involved, where conduct in question is religiously based and where claimant is sincere. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[5] Constitutional Law 92 ⇌ 1305

92 Constitutional Law
92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General

604 P.2d 1068
(Cite as: 604 P.2d 1068)

92k1302 Free Exercise of Religion
92k1305 k. Beliefs Protected; Inquiry
Into Beliefs. Most Cited Cases
(Formerly 92k84.2, 92k84(2), 92k84)

For religious practice to be within ambit of free exercise clause, it is not required that it be absolutely essential to religion and it is sufficient that the practice be deeply rooted in religious belief. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[6] Game 187 ↪9

187 Game

187k9 k. Criminal Prosecutions. Most Cited Cases

In prosecution for unlawful transportation of game, a moose, illegally taken, wherein defendant contended that the moose had been shot for use in religious funeral ceremony, evidence established that use of moose meat at the ceremony was a practice deeply rooted in defendant's religion and that defendant was sincere in his religious beliefs. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[7] Constitutional Law 92 ↪1290

92 Constitutional Law

92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General

92k1290 k. In General. Most Cited Cases
(Formerly 92k84.1, 92k84(1), 92k84)

State has burden of demonstrating a compelling state interest to justify curtailing a religiously based practice. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[8] Game 187 ↪9

187 Game

187k9 k. Criminal Prosecutions. Most Cited Cases

In prosecution for unlawful transportation of game illegally taken, wherein defendants established that the game had been taken for use in religious ceremony, State did not meet its burden of proving a compelling state interest which would justify cur-

tailoring the religiously based practice. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[9] Constitutional Law 92 ↪1311

92 Constitutional Law

92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(B) Particular Issues and Applications

92k1311 k. Indians in General. Most Cited Cases

(Formerly 92k84.5(19), 92k84)

Accommodating religious beliefs of Indians by permitting killing of moose out of season for funeral ceremonies will not violate the establishment of religion clauses of United States and State Constitutions, since purpose of accommodation is merely to permit observance of ancient traditions of Indians and, as such, the exemption reflects nothing more than governmental obligation of neutrality in face of religious differences and does not represent involvement of religious with secular institutions. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

[10] Constitutional Law 92 ↪1292

92 Constitutional Law

92XIII Freedom of Religion and Conscience
92XIII(A) In General

92k1292 k. Beliefs Protected; Inquiry Into Beliefs. Most Cited Cases

(Formerly 92k84.2, 92k84(2), 92k84)

There can be no judicial examination of truth of religious belief, but whether religious belief is sincerely held is proper subject of adjudication. Const. art. 1, § 4; U.S.C.A.Const. Amend. 1.

*1069 R. Collin Middleton, Robert H. Wagstaff, Wagstaff & Middleton, Anchorage, for appellant.

Geoffrey Haynes, Asst. Atty. Gen., Avrum M. Gross, Atty. Gen., Juneau, for appellee.

Before RABINOWITZ, C. J., and CONNOR, BOOCHEVER, BURKE and MATTHEWS, JJ.

604 P.2d 1068
(Cite as: 604 P.2d 1068)

OPINION

MATTHEWS, Justice.

In October of 1975, Delnor Charlie, a young man from Minto, died. Immediately preparations were made for a ritual that had been performed countless times in Minto and other Central Alaska Athabascan villages. It is called the funeral potlatch, a ceremony of several days' duration culminating in a feast, eaten after burial of the deceased, which is shared by members of the village and others who come from sometimes distant locations.

Delnor Charlie's burial, as is traditional, was delayed until friends and relatives living elsewhere could reach Minto and until the foods necessary for the potlatch could be prepared. With the food preparation under way, Carlos Frank and twenty-five to thirty other men from the village formed several hunting parties for the purpose of taking a moose. It was their belief that there was insufficient moose meat available for a proper potlatch. One cow moose was shot, which Frank assisted in transporting to Minto. Some 200 to 250 people attended the final feast.

A passerby took note of one of the hunting parties and reported it to state officials, who investigated and subsequently charged Frank with unlawful transportation of game illegally taken, in violation of 5 AAC 81.140(b). [FN1] The season for moose hunting was closed and in any event there was no open season for cow moose in 1975. 5 AAC s 81.320 (Register 54 at 5-136, July 1975).

FN1. 5 AAC 81.140(b) states:

No person may possess or transport any game or parts of game illegally taken.

In the district court Frank admitted transporting the moose. He raised the defense that application of the game regulation to him, under the circumstances, amounted to an abridgment of his freedom of religion. After an extensive evidentiary hearing, Judge Clayton found that "the funeral potlatch is an integ-

ral part of the cultural religious belief of the central Alaska Athabascan Indian." He found further "that moose is an integral part of the diet and 'the staff of life' to these Athabascan Indians;" that the food for such a potlatch "is primarily required to be native food;" that moose is "more desirable" for such a celebration than any other native food; but that it is not "specifically required for this ceremonial occasion however desirable it may be." Judge Clayton thus concluded that Frank had not been denied his religious privileges. Frank was thereupon convicted and sentenced to a forty-five day jail term with thirty days suspended, a \$500 fine with \$250 suspended, one year probation, and a suspension of his hunting license for one year. Judge Clayton noted at sentencing that Frank was sincere in his beliefs and it was these beliefs which had carried him into a criminal violation.

On appeal Superior Court Judge Van Hoomissen also determined "that the potlatch is an activity rooted in religious belief and a very integral part of the religious *1070 tenets of the Athabascan Indian. . . . The sincerity of the natives of Minto in their religious beliefs is not doubted." However, he agreed with Judge Clayton that fresh moose meat was not such an "absolute necessity . . . as to override the compelling state interest of the State of Alaska in the management and control of its game for the benefit of all its people, native and white," and affirmed the conviction.

We have concluded that the free exercise clauses of the first amendment to the United States Constitution,[FN2] and article I, section 4 of the Alaska Constitution,[FN3] protect Frank's conduct and that the state has not demonstrated reasons which justify prohibiting it. We therefore reverse the conviction. Our reasons follow.

FN2. U.S.Const. amend. I states in part:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

FN3. Art. I, s 4 states:

No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

I

[1][2][3] No value has a higher place in our constitutional system of government than that of religious freedom. The freedom to believe is protected absolutely. *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296, 303, 60 S.Ct. 900, 903, 84 L.Ed. 1213, 1218 (1940). The freedom to act on one's religious beliefs is also protected, but such protection may be overcome by compelling state interests. *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 406, 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1795, 10 L.Ed.2d 965, 972 (1963). [FN4] A law imposing criminal or other penalties on the performance of acts which conscience compels, pressures the underlying beliefs and infringes to that extent the freedom to believe. As one commentator has stated:

FN4. Mr. Justice Brennan has recently questioned whether a sharp distinction can be made between religious beliefs and practices, quoting from Oliver Cromwell's directive regarding religious liberty for Catholics in Ireland:

As to freedom of conscience, I meddle with no man's conscience; but if you mean by that, liberty to celebrate the Mass, I would have you understand that in no place where the power of the Parliament of England prevails shall that be permitted.

McDaniel v. Paty, 435 U.S. 618, 631 n. 2, 98 S.Ct. 1322, 1330 n. 2, 55 L.Ed.2d 593, 604 n. 2 (1978) (concurring opinion) (citation omitted). See also L. Tribe, *American Constitutional Law* 79-80 (Supp. 1979).

The violation of a man's religion or conscience often works an exceptional harm to him which, unless

justified by the most stringent social needs, constitutes a moral wrong in and of itself, far more than would the impairment of his freedoms of speech, press or assembly. The argument is not merely that avoiding compulsion of a man's conscience produces the greatest good for the greatest number, but that such compulsion is itself unfair to the individual concerned. The moral condemnation implicit in the threat of criminal sanctions is likely to be very painful to one motivated by belief. Furthermore, the cost to a principled individual of failing to do his moral duty is generally severe, in terms of supernatural sanction or the loss of moral self-respect. In the face of these costs, the individual's refusal to obey the law may be inevitable, and therefore in some perhaps unusual sense of the word, involuntary.

J. Clark, *Guidelines for the Free Exercise Clause*, 83 *Harv.L.Rev.* 327, 337 (1969). Because of the close relationship between conduct and belief and because of the high value we assign to religious beliefs, religiously impelled actions can be forbidden only where they pose "some substantial threat to public safety, peace or order," *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 403, 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1793, 10 L.Ed.2d 965, 970 (1963), or where there are competing governmental interests that are "of the highest order and . . . (are) not otherwise served . . ." *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 215, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 1533, 32 L.Ed.2d 15 (1972).

It has been clear at least since *Sherbert v. Verner* that in certain cases the free exercise clause requires government to accommodate religious practices by creating exemptions from general laws. *Sherbert* was fired because she would not work on Saturday, the sabbath of her religion. Her claim for unemployment compensation was denied in the state courts because there was a condition of eligibility that a worker be available for work Monday through Saturday. The Supreme Court held that the state had a duty to make an exception to this policy so that *Sherbert's* exercise of her religion would not be penalized. 374 U.S. at 406, 83 S.Ct. at 1795, 10 L.Ed.2d at 971.

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Sherbert was followed in *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 32 L.Ed.2d 15 (1972). In *Yoder* there was involved a conflict between respondents' belief, rooted in the religion of the old order Amish, that children should not attend public school beyond the eighth grade, and a Wisconsin statute requiring all children to attend public schools through the age of sixteen. The court held that an exemption must be granted. *Id.* at 236, 92 S.Ct. at 1543, 32 L.Ed.2d at 37. Other courts, following *Sherbert*, have also required exceptions to facially neutral laws in order to protect religiously based conduct.[FN5]

FN5. See, e. g., *In re Jenison*, 375 U.S. 14, 84 S.Ct. 63, 11 L.Ed.2d 39 (Per curiam) (state court decision vacated and remanded in light of *Sherbert*), On remand, 267 Minn. 136, 125 N.W.2d 588 (Minn.1963) (exemption from jury duty required to accommodate religious belief); *Native Amer. Ch. of New York v. United States*, 468 F.Supp. 1247 (S.D.N.Y.1979) (exemption for religious use of peyote available to any bona fide religious organization); *Michaelson ex rel. Lewis v. Booth*, 437 F.Supp. 439 (D.R.I.1977) (municipal election may not be held on religious holy day); *Stevens v. Berger*, 428 F.Supp. 896 (E.D.N.Y.1977) (religious believers exempted from requirement of obtaining social security numbers for their children); *Geller v. Sec'y of Defense*, 423 F.Supp. 16 (D.D.C.1976) (Jewish chaplain must be permitted to wear beard); *People v. Woody*, 61 Cal.2d 716, 40 Cal.Rptr. 69, 394 P.2d 813 (1964) (exempting Navajo sect's use of peyote from criminal drug laws). In addition, numerous courts have found various prison regulations unnecessarily restrictive on prisoners' religious beliefs regarding: diet, See, e. g., *Kahane v. Carlson*, 527 F.2d 492 (2nd Cir. 1975); *Chapman v. Kleindienst*, 507 F.2d 1246 (7th Cir. 1974); observance of holy days,

See *X v. Brierley*, 457 F.Supp. 350 (E.D.Pa.1978); and hair, See, e. g., *Teterud v. Burns*, 522 F.2d 357 (8th Cir. 1975) (native American's braids); *Wright v. Raines*, 457 F.Supp. 1082 (D.Kan.1978) (beard).

II

[4] The free exercise clause may be invoked only where there is a religion involved, only where the conduct in question is religiously based, and only where the claimant is sincere. *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 215, 216, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 1533-1534, 32 L.Ed.2d 15, 25 (1972). These requirements are readily present here. We shall examine them in order.

The appellant presented impressive evidence concerning the religion of the Central Alaskan Athabascan people. Several Athabascans and expert anthropologists testified and anthropological works were received in evidence. The evidence was unrefuted, and in summary it shows the following.

Athabascan culture is highly individualized. From a complex belief system individual selection is tolerated and is the norm. Yet, there is a distinct belief system recognizable in Athabascan villages many miles apart. These beliefs have blended comfortably with Christianity which was introduced in the 19th century.

Death is the life crisis receiving the greatest attention in current Athabascan culture. While it may be awaited with equanimity, it is an event of predominant significance, whose repercussions are long felt in the village.

The funeral potlatch is the most important institution in Athabascan life. It is mandatory. Peter John, seventy-six, a former tribal chief in Minto, could not remember a death that was not followed by a funeral potlatch. It is apparently an obscenity to suggest that possibility. While a potlatch may be held to celebrate secular occasions, the funeral pot-

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latch is distinguished by its fundamentally sacred aspect. The ritual has its origins in antiquity and it has not changed in any important respect since anthropologists first began to describe it.

Food is the cornerstone of the ritual. From the moment the death is learned of, food preparation begins. People begin to arrive in the village from nearby and remote places. Food is brought by all participants to one or several houses associated with the deceased and is shared in several pre-burial meals. The body will not be buried until a sufficient quantity of the proper food is prepared for the post burial feast. In the case of Delnor Charlie this took four to five days.

Athabascans believe that the funeral potlatch is the last meal shared by the living with the deceased. It is a communion meal. The deceased is discussed and songs of eulogy are sung. The deceased is thought to partake of the meal and this helps his spirit on its journey.[FN6]

FN6. As the district court found:

No sharp line of demarcation separates the living from the dead. It is believed that the *kunkubidza* ("similar to dead but still the same") of the person who died is present at the funeral potlatch where he partakes of the communal feast by food which is burned and where he is honored by those who knew him and help him on his journey to *yoyect* ("like up in the sky").

The funeral potlatch serves other functions. The grief of the family is to be eased. The community becomes involved and the sharing of food is the communal tie. Prayers are said for the dead and the living. All who have come and contributed are thanked. It is hoped that the funeral potlatch and one that is to follow, often more than a year later, the memorial potlatch, will assuage the spirits and prevent future deaths.

From the foregoing it is clear, and consistent with the findings of the courts below, that the funeral potlatch is a religious ceremony. The role of moose meat in that ceremony must next be examined.

Native foods comprise almost all of the foods served at the funeral potlatch. In a culture without many formal rules this is an absolute requirement. Native food means moose, bear, caribou, porcupine, fish, duck and berry dishes.

Of the native foods moose is at the apex. The most common big game animal is required, and in Central Alaska this is moose. As the district court found, it is the staff of life; it is the meat which the people regard as most important for their sustenance. However, the district court found that although the evidence indicated that moose is the most desirable of foods to be served, it is not "an essential requirement."

The district court's finding that moose was not essential for a funeral potlatch is based primarily on the following testimony of Chief Peter John:

Q. Could there be a potlatch without wild meat?

A. Well, it could be, maybe, but then I don't think I'll enjoy it.

However, John also stated that he had been to hundreds of potlatches and had never attended one in which there was no moose meat, a recollection shared by Catherine Attla, fifty-two, and Carlos Frank. Barbara Lane, an anthropologist, provided this gloss on John's statements:

A. If a Roman Catholic priest were in some bush area up here and found himself without the proper wafers and wine, he could still perform his function with some substitute, but it wouldn't do in the sense. If at all possible to have the proper foods, that's what you would use.

Q. But nevertheless it could be accomplished?

A. I believe so. As a dire strait, in some unusual circumstance.

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Other witnesses stated that moose meat is a necessary requirement having the sacramental equivalent to the wine and wafer in Christianity. Frank and all of the Athabascan witnesses, including Peter John, testified that they could not risk showing disrespect to the dead by failing to provide moose for the post burial ritual.

[5] Thus we would be inclined to hold that the district court was clearly erroneous in concluding that moose meat was not essential for the observance of a funeral potlatch. However, absolute necessity is a standard stricter than that which the law imposes. It is sufficient that the practice be deeply rooted in religious belief to bring *1073 it within the ambit of the free exercise clause and place on the state its burden of justification. The determination of religious orthodoxy is not the business of a secular court. *Teterud v. Burns*, 522 F.2d 357, 360 (8th Cir. 1975); *Moskowitz v. Wilkinson*, 432 F.Supp. 947, 949-50 (D.Conn.1977); *Geller v. Secretary of Defense*, 423 F.Supp. 16, 17 (D.D.C.1976); *Monroe v. Bombard*, 422 F.Supp. 211, 215 n. 4 (S.D.N.Y.1976).

[6] We think the evidence is inescapable that the utilization of moose meat at a funeral potlatch is a practice deeply rooted in the Athabascan religion. While moose itself is not sacred, it is needed for proper observance of a sacred ritual which must take place soon after death occurs.[FN7] Moose is the centerpiece of the most important ritual in Athabascan life and is the equivalent of sacred symbols in other religions.[FN8]

FN7. Of course the need to take a moose out of season arises because deaths in a village may take place at any time of year and it is not part of Athabascan culture to plan for them. By contrast, the timing of the memorial potlatch, which follows the funeral potlatch often by more than a year, is controllable and it does not give rise to the same exigency as the funeral potlatch.

FN8. Our dissenting colleague has sugges-

ted that there was moose meat enough in the village to fulfill a symbolic role. The arresting officer, upon his arrival in Minto, did note some old, somewhat dried out, moose meat hanging outdoors, but there was no evidence that this was owned by someone who would make it available for use in the potlatch. In addition, there was evidence that there was a piece of moose meat which was served at one of the pre-burial meals. However, except for the moose which Frank transported, there was no moose meat available for the final feast. The only witnesses who spoke to this subject stated that there was not enough moose meat available for a proper potlatch. On this record it would be clearly inappropriate for us to take a contrary view.

The question of sincerity requires no extended discussion. The district court found Frank to be sincere in his beliefs. That conclusion is abundantly supported in the record.

III

Having established that protected religious conduct is involved, we turn next to an evaluation of the competing state interest. There can be no question but that there is a very strong state interest underlying hunting restrictions. The game resources of Alaska occupy a place in the lifestyle of Alaskans which is unparalleled elsewhere in the United States. Rural Alaska natives are acutely aware of this. As we noted in *State v. Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association* :

For hundreds of years, many of the Native people of Alaska depended on hunting to obtain the necessities of life. To this day, despite incursions of those of different cultures, many Alaska Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts, eke out a livelihood by reliance on fish and game. . . . Not only is the game of prime importance in furnishing the bare necessities of life, but subsistence hunting is at the core of the

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cultural tradition of many of these people. It has been claimed that their very lifestyle is threatened if they are deprived of this traditional method of obtaining the wherewithal for existence.

583 P.2d 854, 859 n. 18 (Alaska 1978) (citations omitted). Illustrative of the importance of wildlife in Alaska is the fact that our state constitution contains specific requirements governing its use and management. See Alaska Constitution, article VIII, sections 2, 3 and 4.

It is not enough, however, simply to conclude that there is a compelling state interest in maintaining a healthy moose population. The question is whether that interest, or any other, will suffer if an exemption is granted to accommodate the religious practice at issue.[FN9] Thus, in *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, *1074 406 U.S. 205, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 32 L.Ed.2d 15 (1972), the inquiry was not limited to the importance of compulsory school attendance generally. Also needed was an examination of "the impediment to those objectives that would flow from recognizing the claimed . . . exemption." *Id.* at 221, 92 S.Ct. at 1536, 32 L.Ed.2d at 28.

FN9. Congress' recent enactment of 42 U.S.C.A. s 1996 (Supp.1979), which provides in part that

it shall be the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites(,)

was largely motivated by laws such as those seeking to preserve endangered species. The House report accompanying 42 U.S.C.A. s 1996, notes that Indian

peoples have long sought protective legislation for certain species and yet

such laws, when combined with more restrictive regulations, insensitive enforcement procedures and administrative policy directives, . . . have interfered severely with the culture and religion of American Indians.

H.R.Rep.No.1308, 95th Cong., 2nd Sess. 3, Reprinted in 1978 U.S.Code Cong. & Ad.News 1262, 1263. It is suggested by the House report that such impacts "upon the exercise of traditional Indian religious practices" are not in "compliance with the constitutional injunction that Congress shall make no laws abridging the free exercise of religion." *Id.* at 1262. See also 16 U.S.C.A. s 668a (Supp.1979), which authorizes the taking of bald eagles "for the religious purposes of Indian tribes," and 25 C.F.R. s 11.87H (1978), which declares it to be lawful for one to "buy, sell, possess, or use peyote in any form in connection with the religious practices, sacraments or services of the Native American Church." 21 C.F.R. s 1307.31 (1979) also exempts the religious use of peyote.

The state contends that widespread civil disobedience will result if Athabascans are allowed to take moose out of season when necessary for a funeral potlatch. As the state's brief colorfully puts it: "Alaskans seem to have a marked tendency to come unglued over fish and wildlife allocation issues." The state predicts as a result, general non-observance of the game laws, a "downward spiral into anarchy", "poaching and creek robbing," and "tragic confrontations" between recreational hunters and Athabascans.

We give no credence to this argument. It is, first of all, not supported by any evidence. Moreover, its

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prediction of general lawlessness is an extreme and unwarranted comment on the general character of the state's citizens. Interests which justify limitations on religious practices must be far more definite than these. "Justifications founded only on fear and apprehension are insufficient to overcome rights asserted under the First Amendment." *Teterud v. Burns*, 522 F.2d 357, 361-62 (8th Cir. 1975). See *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S. 503, 508, 89 S.Ct. 733, 737, 21 L.Ed.2d 731, 739 (1969).

[7][8] The state does not urge that an exemption granted to Athabascans needing moose meat for a funeral potlatch will result in so many moose taken as to jeopardize appropriate population levels. The trial record is silent on that question. We are not advised as to how many funeral potlatches are held each year, nor how many moose are legally taken, nor the level of harvest which would cause a population decline. All the record reveals is that there was but one funeral potlatch in Minto in 1975, and that one moose was needed for it. The burden of demonstrating a compelling state interest which justifies curtailing a religiously based practice lies with the state.[FN10] On this record, that burden has not been met.

FN10. *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 407, 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1795, 10 L.Ed.2d 965, 972 (1963).

IV

[9][10] Finally, we turn to the state's argument that granting an exemption in this case would amount to an establishment of religion contravening the establishment clauses of the first amendment to the United States Constitution and article I, section 4 of the Alaska Constitution. [FN11] These clauses are designed to prevent "sponsorship, financial support, and active involvement of the sovereign in religious activity." *Walz v. Tax Commission*, 397 U.S. 664, 668, 90 S.Ct. 1409, 1411, 25 L.Ed.2d 697, 701 (1970). See *Bonjour v. Bonjour*, 592 P.2d 1233,

1241-42 (Alaska 1979). Accommodating the religious beliefs of Athabascans by permitting the killing of a moose for a funeral potlatch does not rise to the level of these *1075 interests. The purpose of such an accommodation is merely to permit the observance of the ancient traditions of the Athabascans.[FN12] As such, the exemption "reflects nothing more than the governmental obligation of neutrality in the face of religious differences, and does not represent that involvement of religious with secular institutions which it is the object of the Establishment Clause to forestall." *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 234, n. 22, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 1543 n. 22, 32 L.Ed.2d 15, 36, n. 22 (1972), quoting *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 409, 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1796, 10 L.Ed.2d 965, 974 (1963).[FN13] Arguments similar to the state's were dismissed as plainly wrong in *Sherbert and Yoder*. [FN14]

FN11. See notes 2 and 3 *Supra*.

FN12. See, e. g., *Jones v. Butz*, 374 F.Supp. 1284, 1292 (S.D.N.Y.), *Aff'd. mem.*, 419 U.S. 806, 95 S.Ct. 22, 42 L.Ed.2d 36 (1974), holding 7 U.S.C.A. s 1902(b) (Supp.1979), which exempts certain religiously prescribed methods of animal slaughter from the requirements of the Humane Slaughter Act, to be consistent with the establishment clause.

FN13. One commentator has suggested that no accommodation which is even "arguably compelled" by the free exercise clause can violate the establishment clause:

In attempting to distinguish between situations where accommodating programs to religious needs has been held excessive and those where it has been held permissible or even mandatory, it is helpful to posit a dichotomy between Governmental actions arguably (even if not beyond doubt) compelled by the free exercise clause, and Governmental actions supportive of religion in ways

clearly not mandated by free exercise. Actions "arguably compelled" by free exercise are not forbidden by the establishment clause.

L. Tribe, *American Constitutional Law* 822 (1978) (emphasis in original). See also *Wondzell v. Alaska Wood Products, Inc.*, 601 P.2d 584, Opn. No. 1720 (Alaska, 1979).

FN14. As a part of its argument concerning the establishment clause the state contends that the state, and the courts, will become unduly entangled in religion by the necessity of separating spurious claims from genuine ones. While it is correct that there can be no judicial examination of the truth of a religious belief, *United States v. Ballard*, 322 U.S. 78, 86-87, 64 S.Ct. 882, 886-887, 88 L.Ed. 1148, 1154 (1944), whether a religious belief is sincerely held is a proper subject of adjudication. *United States v. Seeger*, 380 U.S. 163, 185, 85 S.Ct. 850, 863, 13 L.Ed.2d 733, 747 (1965); *People v. Woody*, 61 Cal.2d 716, 40 Cal.Rptr. 69, 77, 394 P.2d 813, 821 (1964); *In re Grady*, 61 Cal.2d 887, 39 Cal.Rptr. 912, 913, 394 P.2d 728, 729 (1964).

V

If the reason the state did not urge that exemptions for funeral potlaches will endanger moose populations is that such a showing cannot be made, the state may be well advised to adopt regulations governing the taking of moose for such purposes. Carefully designed regulations would have the effect of guarding against abuses and aid in record keeping, which would be of value in determining the impact of the exemption on moose populations. There exist models for similar religious accommodations. For example, 16 U.S.C.A. s 668a (Supp.1979), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to allow eagles to

be taken "for the religious purposes of Indian tribes," upon a finding that the taking is compatible with the preservation of the species. Regulations have been published implementing this. 50 C.F.R. s 22.22 (1978). Similarly, the Wisconsin legislature has recently enacted a statute permitting the taking of deer by Winnebago Indians for religious ceremonies, and has directed the state Department of Natural Resources to promulgate appropriate regulations.[FN15]

FN15. Wis.Stat. Ann. s 29.106 (West Supp. 1978-79). Detailed administrative regulations, promulgated prior to the statute had achieved the same end. See Wis. Dep't. of Nat. Resources, Sec'y's Directive, "Taking of Deer by Winnebago Indians for Religious Purposes" (Dec. 15, 1976).

In view of the result we have reached we have no occasion to consider the appellant's other claims.

The judgment is reversed and this case is remanded with instructions to dismiss the complaint.

CONNOR, J., dissents.
CONNOR, Justice, dissenting.
I must respectfully dissent.

On the record I am unable to conclude that a freshly killed moose was necessary to *1076 conduct the funeral potlatch. While it is traditional that as many native foods as possible should be served, it has not been established by the evidence in this case that fresh moose meat is indispensable for such a ceremony.[FN1] It is merely desirable that such meat be served at those functions.[FN2] For this particular potlatch there was already on hand a moose hind quarter, bear meat, and fish. No ducks, porcupine, rabbit or caribou were used, although they are also considered native food which may be served at a funeral potlatch. To the extent that moose meat was desirable because it had magico-religious, i. e., symbolic, significance, it was already available.

FN1. Although the anthropologists presen-

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ted by appellant testified that, on the basis of their personal observations, they believed the use of fresh moose meat at a funeral potlatch is an important tradition of the Athabascan culture, they were not aware of any documentation showing that it is essential or required.

FN2. Former Tribal Chief Peter John testified that there could be a potlatch without wild meat, "but then I don't think I'll enjoy it." He also testified that although "it would be best to have . . . fresh meat," it would not be a disgrace to serve frozen moose meat.

Unless the use of fresh moose meat rises to the level of a cardinal religious principle, unless it is central to a religious observance, it cannot qualify as a practice protected by the "free exercise" clauses of either the state or federal constitutions. See *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 219, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 1535, 32 L.Ed.2d 15, 27 (1972); *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 406, 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1795, 10 L.Ed.2d 965, 971 (1963).

Because there was not a sufficient showing made here a case for the application of those clauses was not made out.

For these reasons, I would affirm the judgments of the district and superior courts.

Alaska, 1979.
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**APPENDIX C: CHRONOLOGY OF ADMINISTRATIVE
ACTIONS**



Administrative summary regarding the taking of big game for religious ceremonies

Date	Action
1979	In 1979, the Alaska Supreme Court determined that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 4 of the Alaska constitution provide protection for the taking of moose for use in Athabaskan funeral potlatch ceremonies (<i>Frank v. State</i> , 604 P.2d 1068 (Alaska 1979)).
1980	Board of Game Finding 80-27-GB. Based on the Alaska Supreme Court decision (in <i>Frank v State</i> ; 1979) the BOG filed a letter of intent, concluding that it was preferable not to adopt regulations governing the taking of game needed for religious ceremonies and until definitive guidelines could be established, the taking of game for religious ceremony should be informally administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection. In the interim, guidelines established by the court in the Frank case provide sufficient direction for the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection and the Department of Fish and Game to allow the taking of game for religious purposes.
1987	Based upon their letter of intent, the BOG subsequently adopted in regulation 5AAC 92.015, Funeral Potlatch Report. This regulation provided that "... any person who takes a moose for a funeral potlatch as authorized by <i>Frank v. State</i> 604 P.2d 1068 (Alaska 1979) shall, as soon as practicable, and not later than 15 days after the taking of the moose, submit a report to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, Alaska 99802, or the nearest office of the department, specifying the name and address of the person taking the moose, the date and location of take, and the name of the decedent for whom the potlatch was held."
1995	The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game advanced an initiative that would explore regulations dealing with the taking of wildlife for use in Alaska Native religious ceremonies.
1996	Board of Game Finding 96-98-BOG. The BOG determined that protections for the use of moose in Athabaskan funeral potlatch ceremonies should be extended to other big game animals used as food, and extended to all Alaskan residents. Board of Game adopted regulations that provide for a harvest report after the ceremony.
2002	<p>The BOG clarified which game populations were allowed for use in religious ceremonies. In doing so the Board added reference to 5 AAC 99.025 within regulation 5 AAC 92.019 (Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies) and added a requirement of a positive customary and traditional finding before a species could be taken under the provision for taking big game for religious ceremonies.</p> <p>The Board of Game added a requirement for prior notification when taking game for religious ceremonies in 5 AAC 92.019.</p> <p>The BOG also established the Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony regulation 5 AAC 92.017, which does not require prior notification.</p>



APPENDIX D: ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDING 80-27-GB



ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

LETTER OF INTENT REGARDING
USE OF ALASKA'S GAME FOR RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

The Alaska Board of Game recognizes and respects traditional religious practices of Alaska's Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts, some of whom use game animal meat during religious ceremonies.

During its March-April, 1980, meeting in Fairbanks, the Board received extensive written and oral testimony from diverse members of the Alaska Native community on proposed regulations that would govern taking of game for meat to be used during religious ceremonies.

The number and variety of religious ceremonies involving use of game meat by Alaska's Natives may vary from group to group, within groups, and from area to area. These variances include:

1. reasons for holding religious ceremonies;
2. a need for different foods for religious ceremony within a region, and from region to region;
3. acceptance of meat from highway kills for ceremonies by some groups or individuals, and objections to such meat from others who say it is not suitable for religious ceremonies;
4. in the case of funeral ceremonies, length of time after death, the number of religious ceremonies held to honor a deceased individual, and the relationship to the deceased (i.e., clan, relatives, friends) of individuals who assume responsibility for arranging religious ceremonies at the time of a death, or at some later date.

In Frank v. State, 604 P.2d 1068 (Alaska 1979), the Alaska Supreme Court held that taking of moose when moose meat is not otherwise available for use in traditional funeral potlatch ceremonies of Alaska's Athabascan people is protected by both the state and federal constitutions--at least where the person taking the moose is sincere in his or her religious beliefs and where the taking will not jeopardize appropriate resource population levels. These constitutional protections also may apply to the taking of other game species by non-Athabascans for use in traditional ceremonies according to the following principles:

1. there must be a religion involved;
2. the conduct in question must be religiously based; and
3. the person claiming constitutional protection must be sincere in his or her beliefs.

Because of the complexity and variety of the traditional religious practices of Alaska's Natives, and in order to protect all of these religious beliefs, the Board concludes that it is preferable at this

time to not adopt regulations governing the taking of game needed for religious ceremony. Such regulations could have an influence on the date, place, time, and extent of some religious ceremonies. Regulations could have an adverse impact on the religious experience.

Before meaningful regulations governing the taking of game for religious ceremony can be adopted, it would be desirable to have an authoritative study of all religious ceremonies in which game meat is used, for all Native groups and subgroups, from all communities in the state where such religious ceremonies are practiced.

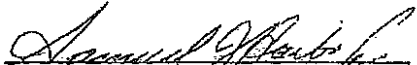
Until definitive guidelines can be established, the Board believes that the taking of game for religious ceremony should be informally administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection. In the interim, the guidelines established by the court in the Frank case provide sufficient direction for the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection and the Department of Fish and Game to allow the taking of game for religious purposes.

Game meat used in religious ceremonies that can be scheduled and planned in advance should be obtained during regularly scheduled hunting seasons when feasible and consistent with religious practices and beliefs.

Full cooperation must exist between State officials and Natives who participate in the taking of game to be used in religious ceremonies. To the maximum extent possible and practicable, Native participants should provide advance notice to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Protection office, or official, when a need exists for the taking of game outside of the regular season. In all cases, a full accounting of such game must be made to the Department of Fish and Game after the fact if the nonregulatory approach is to succeed, either as a temporary or a permanent arrangement.

ADOPTED: Fairbanks, Alaska
April 4, 1980

VOTE: 6/0


Dr. Samuel J. Harbo, Jr., Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**APPENDIX E: ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDING 96-98-
BOG**



ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS
Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
96-98-BOG

During the publicly convened Board of Game meeting in March 1996, the Board heard public and advisory committee testimony and ADF&G staff reports on the taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Based on testimony and reports, and after due consideration, the Board finds that:

- 1) Protection for the use of moose as part of the Athabascan funeral potlatch ceremony, as authorized in Frank v. State 604 P.2d 1068 (Alaska 1979), should extend to other big game animals used as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies. The Board heard testimony from several residents and advisory committee representatives describing the use of big game species as part of funerary and mortuary practices in Alaska Native religious ceremonies. The Board also heard ADF&G staff reports describing the harvest patterns, use of big game in these ceremonies, and associated practices with respect to the taking of big game for religious purposes.
- 2) There is a compelling state interest in regulating the take of big game for any reason. Provisions for allowing and regulating the take of big game are important and necessary for managing game consistent with the constitutionally mandated sustained yield principle. Testimony by ADF&G staff indicates that there are no known cases where sustained yield has been threatened by taking of big game for Alaska Native religious ceremonies. The ADF&G will notify the public of any big game populations for which the taking of a big game animal would be inconsistent with sustained yield principles and which are closed to taking. Notification by the users to the department of the number of big game animals taken from a population is necessary and important as part of responsible management of the big game populations.
- 3) The adoption of this proposal provides regulations which are reasonable and least intrusive with respect to Alaska Native religious practices. The regulations adopted by the Board provide for a harvest report after the ceremony. The Board heard testimony in support of a harvest report only after the taking of big game or after the ceremony, within a specified amount of time. The regulations provide for an annual cycle of twelve months in which to harvest big game for religious ceremonies, described as a necessary and customary practice in some of the mortuary and funerary ceremonies. The regulations adopted by the Board provide that the big game harvest for funeral or mortuary religious ceremonies does not count as a hunter's individual bag under general or subsistence regulations, because the Board heard testimony that the harvest for a ceremony is an additional harvest above that normally used to feed one's family during a yearly cycle.



**Potlatch Harvest of Moose, Caribou, and Deer
by Game Management Unit**

2004-2008

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation**

Values in the report represent best available information based on user reporting, which may vary by Game Management Unit



Reported Pottlatch Moose Harvest, Regulatory Years 2004–2008

GMU	RY 2004			RY 2005			RY 2006			RY 2007			RY 2008			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
1A																-	-	-	-
1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
1D	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	4
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2
6A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6BA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6C	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	5
6D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	3
9C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 **	-	2	-	1	3	2	3	3	-	3	2	1	3	5	1	10	15	4	29
16B																-	-	-	-
17A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
12	3	3	-	2	1	4	2	3	-	5	3	6	4	1	-	16	11	10	37
19A	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	2	3	2	5	15	4	2	19	7	9	35
19D	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	4	1	6
20A	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	4
20B	-	3	-	-	1	-	2	5	-	7	8	-	6	15	-	15	32	-	47
20D	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	3	5	1	3	2	1	9	10	2	21
20E	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
21B	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
21D	1	5	4	1	5	6	2	4	8	6	8	9	-	3	4	10	25	31	66
21E	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	3	-	1	-	1	5	5	1	1	7	-	7	12	2	21
24	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	2	3	-	1	5	2	1	-	2	4	13	19
25C	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2
25D	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	3
18	5	2	-	7	4	-	7	9	3	7	11	1	6	7	-	32	33	4	69
22	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13	16	6	16	20	17	23	30	19	44	47	34	48	47	9	144	157	85	386
TOTAL	35			53			72			125			104			386			



Reported Potlatch Caribou Harvest, Regulatory Years 2004–2008

GMU	RY 2004			RY 2005			RY 2006			RY 2007			RY 2008			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
9A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	5	-	-	2	3	-	7	5	2	2	1	-	2	2	-	18	11	2	31
16B																-	-	-	-
17A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
19A	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19D	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20A	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
20B	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	3
20D	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
20E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21E	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
25C	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	1	-	7
25D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	11	-	-	7	3	-	7	6	2	3	1	1	6	2	2	34	12	5	51
TOTAL	11			10			15			5			10			51			



Reported Potlatch Deer Harvest, Regulatory Years 2004-2008

GMU	RY 2004			RY 2005			RY 2006			RY 2007			RY 2008			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
1A-2	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	16	16
1B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	20	20
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	8	-	-	9	-	-	7	-	-	7	-	-	5	-	-	36	36
TOTAL	8			9			7			7			5			36			



Anchorage/Matsu/Kenai Nonsubsistence Area Estimated Moose Take by Other Means, Regulatory Years 2004-2008					
GMU	Vehicle	Trains	Illegal (est.)	Other*	Total Other Moose Take
7	127	****	****	****	127
14A, 14B, 16A**	1,387	158	300	158	2003
14C***	850	50	****	****	900
15A	363	N/A	****	****	363
15B	250	N/A	****	****	250
15C	331	N/A	****	****	331
Total Moose Take	3308	158	300	158	

* Other includes DLP, incidental trap take and other.

** 14 A, B and 16A combined, but mostly from 14A

*** Estimate based on annual averages.

**** No estimate available.



Anchorage/Matsu/Kenai Nonsubsistence Area Reported Pottlatch Caribou Harvest Regulatory Years 2004-2008										
GMU	Harvested Within Nonsubsistence Area			Harvested Outside of Nonsubsistence Area			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
7	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
14A	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
14B	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
15A	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
15B	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
15C	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
16A	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	0			0			0			

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area Reported Pottlatch Caribou Harvest Regulatory Years 2004-2009										
GMU	Harvested Within Nonsubsistence Area			Harvested Outside of Nonsubsistence Area			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
20A	2	-	-	0	0	0	2	-	-	2
20B	5	-	-	0	0	0	5	-	-	5
20D	3	-	-	0	0	0	3	-	-	3
25C	-	-	-	8	1	0	8	1	-	9
Total	8	-	-	6	1	0	14	1	-	19
TOTAL	10			9			19			



Anchorage/Matsu/Kenai Nonsubsistence Area Reported Potlatch Moose Harvest Regulatory Years 2004-2008										
GMU	Harvested Within Nonsubsistence Area			Harvested Outside of Nonsubsistence Area			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
7	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a				
14A**	-	9	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	9	4	13
14B**	-	1	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	1	-	1
14C	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
15A			35***	n/a	n/a	n/a			35	35
15B	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
15C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16A**	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-
Total		10	39					10	39	49
Total Moose Harvest ed	49			0			49			

* Take is suspected to be underreported.

** 74 Requests for potlatch were received in the Palmer Area Office during this period.

*** Estimated based on 7/year annual average.

Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area Reported Potlatch Moose Harvest Regulatory Years 2004-2009										
GMU	Harvested Within Nonsubsistence Area			Harvested Outside of Nonsubsistence Area			Total			TOTAL
	M	F	U	M	F	U	M	F	U	
20A	3	1	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	5
20B	17	29	-	4	14	-	21	43	-	64
20D	13	12	3	-	-	-	13	12	3	28
25C	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	2
Total	33	43	3	6	14	-	39	57	3	99
Total Moose Harvest ed	79			20			99			



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JAN 26 2010

BOARDS

RC 3

January 19, 2010

Alaska Board of Game
c/o ADF&G Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Chairman and Members, Alaska Board of Game,

This letter is to provide written comments on Proposal 52 regarding bag limits for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay, on the agenda for the January meeting in Anchorage. I oppose new restrictions on sea duck hunting in Kachemak Bay and urge the Board to rescind the amendment adopted in March.

Background - I am a resident of Alaska and an owner of a waterfowl guide service, Alaska Wildfowl Adventures. We offer guided waterfowl and upland game bird hunts throughout the state in Fairbanks, Valdez, and Adak from September 1 through January 22, and we are currently completing our sixth season. The majority of our business is for sea duck hunting. We have made major capital investments from specialty boats and equipment to lodging for our wildfowl hunters. My company has hosted writers and TV hosts from Wildfowl Magazine, Ducks Unlimited Magazine, Ducks Unlimited Television and Larry Csonka's North to Alaska.

Concerns - Our business is not directly affected by this proposal, as we do not guide in the Kachemak Bay area. My concern, however, lies in how our waterfowl are being managed. I believe in using real data gathered in our state by our state biologists, USFWS and individual observations to make educated decisions when changing regulations, not changes driven by an individual's personal views and wishes. In brief here are my observations and comments on a few of the statements made within the proposal:

- **Local Populations & Over Harvest.** Firstly, duck hunters are not solely harvesting local waterfowl populations. It is true that telemetry research done by ADF&G has shown that many sea ducks winter-over in the same general areas annually, but it is also true that those birds are only part of the entire system. Waterfowl ecology is not a closed system, and many sea ducks seen in an area have not necessarily reached their final wintering grounds, they merely stop over and continue to migrate through. I have personally observed large migratory flocks coming through our region all through the hunting season, their movement dependant on weather patterns and pressure. Therefore, hunting pressure on local populations is distributed through the migrating populations. Also, it is my experience that if one location is over-pressured one day, the birds adapt and move to another area the next day. I believe that with the current bag limits, and three-shell limit in shotguns, it is difficult for hunters to over-pressure one local population as this proposal suggests. A few birds are taken from the flock, and the flock adapts by moving across the bay, and a new flock comes into the unoccupied food source.
- **Areas Cannot Recover.** Stating that "areas cannot recover" is merely a scare tactic to restrict hunting. This goes against all biological data from any type of game management study. The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, for example, is one of the worst case scenarios for sea

duck population collapse in an area. The populations of sea ducks, including the Harlequin Duck, plummeted in western Prince William Sound due to the effects of oil in the intertidal zone where the ducks fed. This brought about extensive studies on the harlequin, and their recovery has been documented through the years, to the point where now the population outlook is for full recovery. This is because the habitat is recovering. Hunting has no effect on the habitat; it doesn't destroy the ducks' food source, or obliterate their shelter, so to say an area could never recover is a false statement. No matter what as long as the habitat is in good shape, more ducks will immigrate, such as harlequins and other species are now occupying PWS.

- **Wanton Waste.** The suggestion that sea ducks are not used for food and discarded illegally after hunting is completely erroneous and un-validated. Having personally harvested all the species of North American sea ducks, I can attest they are much better table fare than most people give them credit for, especially when consumed fresh after harvest. I know many hunters that specifically harvest sea ducks for their taste. And if wanton waste is truly the problem, I would hope we would regulate consumption with enforcement and fines, instead of changing bag limits. Many people do not like moose meat either, so should we close an area to moose hunting? It is a personal choice. People who don't like moose don't hunt for moose. People who don't like sea ducks don't invest the time and money into harvesting sea ducks. My wife and I both prefer duck over moose any day, along with many of our friends.
- **More Research.** If we are truly concerned about sea duck populations in Alaska, more studies should be conducted. As of now, data, including winter bird counts, show that populations are historically steady. Why would we ignore current ecological data and trends? There are other management options that could be implemented, such as sea duck registration cards, a program the state of Washington has used to keep track of the annual sea duck harvest. This option would provide greater hunter data, from which regulations can then be assessed and amended. With the current federal HIP program we have statewide data which shows no need to reduce bag limits, if the current data did the USFWS would be considering this also. It seems a bit impulsive and reckless to drastically change the bag limits based on the current lack-of-data, especially when it would abolish the livelihood of local hardworking Alaskan waterfowl guides. I heavily urge the board to consider alternatives before radically changing regulations based on presumption.
- **U.S. Fish & Wildfowl Service.** Overall our regulations for waterfowl are governed by the USFWS. They collect data from both wild bird surveys and hunter harvest records to determine if over-harvesting by hunters is occurring. The state has very little control over the management of waterfowl because the birds are part of an interstate and national ecology system. With all the data they have found no issues with over-harvest of sea ducks in Alaska, else they would be moving forward with regulation changes. If USFWS and the biologist at ADFG do not see a problem, why would we see a problem that is not there? We should follow the data they have collected and allow them to regulate the waterfowl harvest as always has been done.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the board keep the sea duck limit the same as it has been since 2001. Proposal 52 contains a tremendous lack of evidence to suggest changing the regulations, and an overwhelming amount of biased and misleading conjecture. Alternative

methods should first be emplaced to determine the state of sea duck populations. Management and regulations for all game in Alaska should be created based on biological and ecological data, not on personal beliefs and vendettas. If at one point the data show that sea duck populations are declining, many of us hunters will be first in line to change the regulations. This resource is extremely important to many of us Alaskans, both as a food source and a business industry.

Thank you for considering my comments on Proposal 52 and I encourage you to reject the new restrictions proposed on the sea duck limit.

Sincerely,

Tim Bouchard
Alaska Wildfowl Adventures
tim@akduckhunts.com
(907) 322 - 3825

BOG Statewide
AC comment
RC4

FROM: WARREN (BUCK) BROWN
1/25/2010
RE: PROPOSAL 52

I AM WARREN, BUCK BROWN, MEMBER OF THE SELDOVIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
THE SELDOVIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST PROPOSAL 52.
WE FELT IT WAS AN UNNECESSARY INFRINGEMENT ON OUR HUNTING AND
SUBSISTANCE WAY OF LIFE.

TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO DATA TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL, NOTHING BUT
OPINIONS. DECISIONS ON WILDLIFE SHOULDNT BE MADE ON BIASED OPINIONS.
WHERE IS THE BIOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION TO SUPPORT ANY REDUCTION IN BAG
LIMITS?

LOCALS DONT WANT OUR WAY OF LIFE TAKEN AWAY, NOT BEING ABLE TO TEACH OUR
CHILDREN HOW TO HUNT DUCKS TO FEED THEIR FAMILY. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO BIG
GAME AVAILABLE IN THE SELDOVIA AREA AFTER THE BEARS GO TO SLEEP.

PEOPLE DO SHOOT SEADUCKS FOR FOOD BY THE WAY. THEY MAY NOT BE CORN FED
MALLARDS BUT THEY ARE PLENTY EDIBLE AND THEY ARENT HARD TO FIND.

SELDOVIA IS A SMALL SECLUDED TOWN NOT ACCESABLE BY ROAD. WE DONT HAVE A
SAFeway OR COSTCO TO GO TO. ALL OUR GROCERIES MUST BE SHIPPED OR FLOWN IN,
AND ITS VERY EXPENSIVE. ANY MEAT WE CAN HARVEST LOCALLY KEEPS OUR
EXPENSES DOWN.

THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO TOURISM IN NOV AND DEC, EXCEPT FOR THE FEW DUCK
HUNTERS THAT COME TO TOWN. THEY SPEND MONEY ON LODGING, FOOD,
AIRFARE, THE LOCAL TAVERN AND SOUVENIERS. THE HUNTERS ARE GOOD FOR THE
ECONOMY.

THE MAYOR OF SELDOVIA SENT IN HIS OPPOSITION OF PROP 117 LAST SPRING DURING
THE APPEAL PROCESS, 117 IS THIS YEARS PROPOSAL 52.. HE IS AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL
FOR ALL THE SAME REASONS STATED.. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO
SIGNED THE PETITION AND SENT IN LETTERS OPPOSING PROPOSAL 117, 3 SHEETS OF
SIGNATURES FROM HOMER. SO THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN HOMER AND OTHER
PARTS OF THE STATE THAT ARE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL.

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JAN 26 2010

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Seldovia AC rep

p 1 of 1

BOG Statewide Public Comment

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2010

BOARDS ANCHORAGE

FROM: WARREN (BUCK) BROWN
1/25/2010
RE: PROPOSAL 52

I AM WARREN BUCK BROWN, RESIDENT OF SELDOVIA , ALASKA FOR 35 YEARS. I HAVE HUNTED DUCKS IN ALASKA SINCE THE DAY I GOT HERE AND WAS AMAZED AT THE AMOUNT OF DUCKS AND SO LITTLE HUNTING PRESSURE. NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THAT RESPECT. THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF DUCKS IN KACHEMAK BAY AND ITS SMALLER BAYS AND COVES.

PEOPLE TALK OF THE BIG RAFTS OF SEADUCKS THEY USED TO SEE, A LOT OF THEM INSIDE THE SMALLER BAYS AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO HUNT OR VIEW. THAT HAS CHANGED SOME. NO LONGER ARE THESE BIG RAFTS OF MOSTLY SCOTERS SEEN IN CLOSE, BUT THAT DOESNT MEAN THE DUCKS ARENT THERE IN GOOD NUMBERS. MAYBE 30 YEARS AGO THE NUMBERS WERE TOO HIGH LOCALLY TO SUPPORT THAT MANY BIRDS.

IT ISNT LIKE K-BAY IS EVERY SEADUCKS FINAL RESTING SPOT ON THEIR MIGRATION. IF THEY DONT FIND THE FEED HERE ONE YEAR THEY MOVE TILL THEY DO. AND THE NEXT YEAR THEY ARE SMART ENOUGH TO GO BACK TO THE PLACES THAT CAN SUSTAIN THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY. THATS WHY DUCKS ARE MANAGED BY THE BIG PICTURE, THE WHOLE NORTH GULF COAST, NOT ONE ISOLATED BAY. THAT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE AS THE BIRDS CAN AND DO MOVE ON. WE ARE NOT COUNTING BULL MOOSE IN THE HOMER HILLS.

ITS LIKE THE WHITE FRONT GOOSE. KACHEMAK BAY ONLY SEES LESS THAN A HUNDRED WHITE FRONTS IN THE FALL. HOW CAN THAT BE, ARE THEY BECOMING EXTINCT? NO, THERE IS HALF A MILLION WHITE FRONTS THAT NEST ON THE NORTH SLOPE EVERY SPRING, BUT THEY DONT STOP OVER HERE FOR WHATEVER REASONS. WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE WE MANAGE ON THE BIG PICTURE.

I CANT TELL YOU HOW MANY SEADUCKS THERE USED TO BE, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT IN THE 18 YEARS IVE BEEN GUIDING, THE TOTAL POPULATION HAS STAYED STABLE. I WOULDNT BE ABLE TO CARRY ON MY BUSINESS IF THEY DIDNT.

THE DIFFERENT DUCK SPECIES SWING LIKE ANY OTHER ANIMAL, THE OLDSQUAWS ARE DOWN BUT THE GREATER SCAUP ARE UP. THE HARLEQUINS ARE MORE PLENTIFUL NOW THAN 18 YEARS AGO. IVE NEVER SEEN MANY EIDERS HERE ,EVER. THIS ISNT THEIR RANGE.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE LARGE RAFTS OF SEADUCKS, EXCEPT FOR A FEW INSIDE PLACES, YOU HAVE TO GO OUT ON THE BIG WATER WHERE THEY FEED ON SMALL FISH AND DIVE AND FORAGE IN RELATIVLY DEEP WATER.

YOU PROBABLY WONT SEE THEM FROM YOUR CAR ON THE HOMER SPIT. THE BIRDS HAVE CHANGED THEIR FEEDING HABITS AND NOW THEY HANG OUT IN PLACES HUNTERS AND VIEWERS DONT SEE THEM, UNLESS YOU ARE OUT ON A BOAT IN NOV TO DEC.

THIS HAS BENEFITED THE BIRDS AS THEY ARE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO HUNT OUT ON THE MAIN BAY. I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEM TO GET BLOWN IN BY A STORM TO SEE BIG NUMBERS IN INSIDE WATERS WHERE I HUNT. THIS IS MOSTLY SCOTERS, HARLEQUINS AND OLDSQUAWS IM TALKING ABOUT. ALL THE OTHER SPECIES DO HANG OUT IN THE SMALLER BAYS.DONT GET ME WRONG, THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF SEADUCKS TO HUNT INSIDE, BUT THE BIG NUMBERS DONT EVER COME IN CLOSE

plg2

ENOUGH TO HUNT.

THE MAIN SUBJECT MISSING FROM THIS DEBATE IS BIOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION. WHERE ARE THE HARD FACTS TO SUPPORT A REDUCTION IN BAG LIMITS. ALLS WE HAVE IS PEOPLES OPNIONS, SOME BIASED. THAT ISNT GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE SUCH A RADICAL CUT IN BAG LIMITS IN MY OPINION. THE SURVEYS THAT WERE DONE IN THE PAST SHOWED A STABLE POPULATION, AND THAT HASNT CHANGED. PLEASE LISTEN TO THE WATERFOWL BIOLOGISTS WHOS JOB IT IS TO MANAGE WATERFOWL.

I SEE THAT ANOTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED A ZERO SEADUCK BAG LIMIT UNTIL MORE STUDIES ARE DONE. AND THEY HAVE ADDED GOLDENEYES TO THE SEADUCK DEBATE. GOLDENEYES ARE NOT SEADUCKS. THEY HANGOUT IN LAKES, RIVERS AND SALTWATER. THEY ARE ALSO THE MOST PROLIFIC DUCK IN ALASKA. THEY ARE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY BAY FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE ALASKA PENINSULA TO KODIAK TO THE KENAI PENINSULA TO THE OUTER GULF COAST BAYS TO SEWARD DOWN TO JUNEAU. I HAVE HUNTED MOST OF THESE AREAS AND KNOW FIRST HAND THAT GOLDENEYES ARE PLENTIFUL. SO WHY ARE THEY BEING ADDED TO THE MIX? WHATS NEXT, NOT ENOUGH MALLARDS FOR THEM? IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THE INTENT IS TO OUTLAW DUCK HUNTING COMPLETLEY IN K-BAY. READ THE MINUTES OF THEIR MEETING, ONE MEMBER STATED THEY THOUGHT GUIDED DUCK HUNTS SHOULD BE OUTLAWED..

IF AND WHEN THERE IS A SERIOUS COLLAPSE OF ANY DUCK POPULATION, I WILL BE THE FIRST TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE BECAUSE BESIDES BEING A HUNTER I AM A CONSERVATIONALIST, I DONT WANT ANYTHING TO DISAPEAR.

THE IDEA OF MORE GUIDED HUNTS COMING INTO K-BAY HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. MANY CHARTER BOAT OPERATORS OVER THE YEARS HAVE TRIED IT, ALL UNSUCCESSFULLY. ITS NOT SOME THING A HALIBUT CHARTER BOAT OPERATOR WITH NO EXPERIENCE IN SEADUCK HUNTING CAN DO, AS THEY HAVE FOUND OUT. ITS JUST NOT THAT EASY OR PROFITABLE.

IF THERE IS A BAG LIMIT REDUCTION IN K-BAY, IT WILL PUT ME OUT OF BUSINESS. THERE ARE TOO MANY OTHER PLACES LIKE VALDEZ AND KODIAK WHERE THE BAG LIMITS HAVENT BEEN LOWERED AND ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE HUNTER. THE LAST TIME THERE WAS A SEADUCK BAG LIMIT REDUCTION IT WAS STATE WIDE AND AFFECTED EVERYONE THE SAME. THIS TIME IT IS AIMED AT ME AND THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO UTILIZE THIS RESOURCE IN KACHEMAK BAY.

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2010

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

Warren Bock - Personal
P 2072

RC5

ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

I am writing in favor of adopting Proposal 16, adding capuchin monkeys to the clean list.

In Alaska Statute 5AAC 92.029 Section "h", and Section "i"...there are 5 criteria for animals to be added or removed from the clean list. There is no part of this law that gives the Alaska Department of Fish & Game the mandate or jurisdiction to deny private ownership based on a health and safety issue to the public or on a welfare concern for the animal. The assumptive and inaccurate concerns for health and welfare issues between monkeys and the public are only a diversion. Concerns between monkeys and indigenous species are non-existent. Someone in the Fish & Game has determined an unwritten policy that there will be no privately owned monkeys in Alaska. However, there is no science to justify that and no other way to enforce that policy than through 5AAC 92-029 Section "h".

In the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's recommendation to not adopt Proposal 16, it was stated that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game thinks they are responsible for the health and safety of the public even in

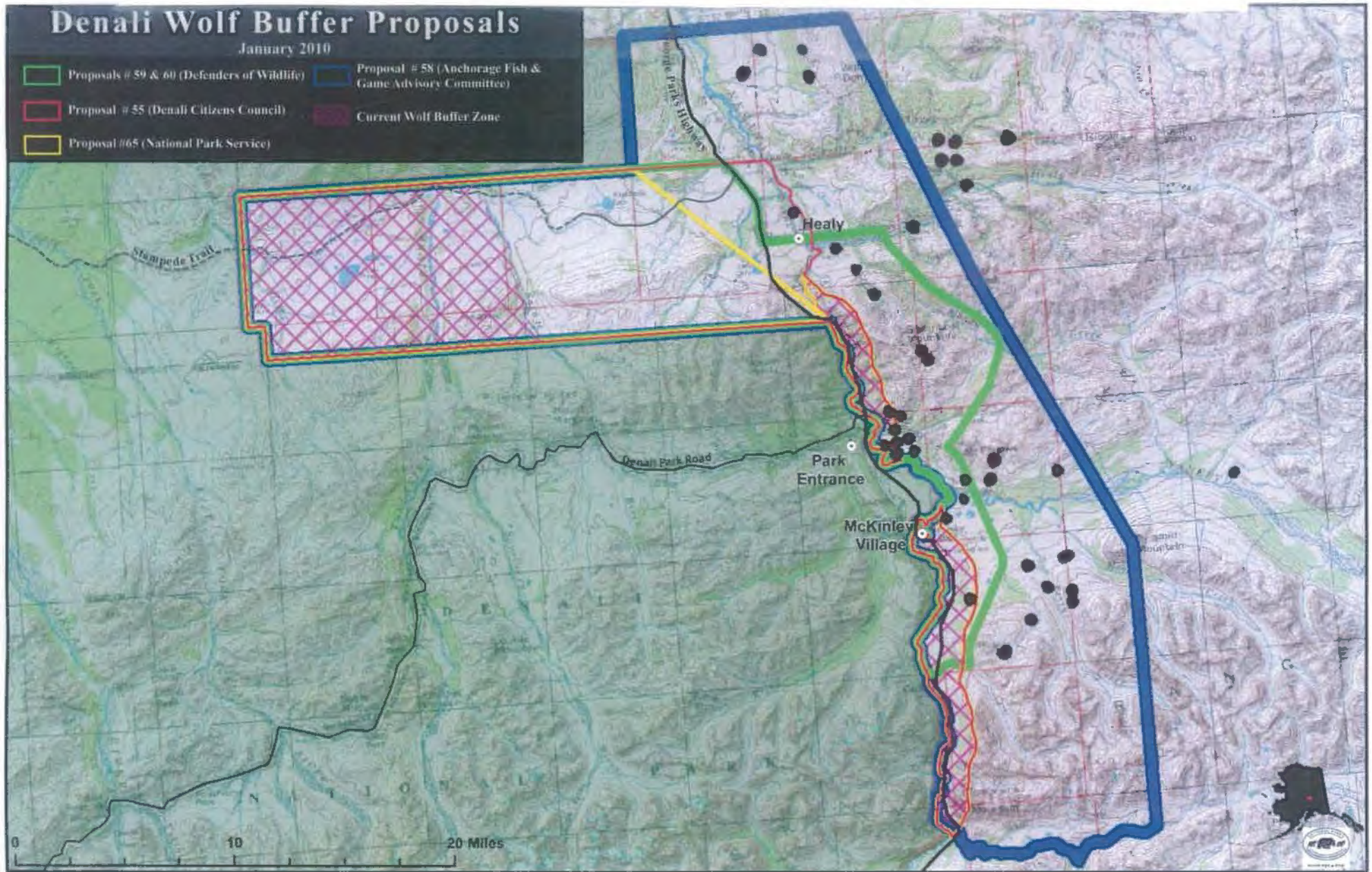
private settings and for the welfare of captive animals. In that case, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game is assuming responsibility and liability for all safety and welfare issues with all captive animals allowed on the clean list. That is way beyond the scope of 5AAC 92.029 Section "h" and "i".

Capuchin monkeys meet the 5 criteria in 5AAC 92.029 Section "h" to allow their inclusion on the clean list. As board members who represent the people of Alaska, you have the legal responsibility to comply with that law. It should be that simple.

Steve Nelson

Locations of radio-collared Denali Park wolves in and near the Nenana Canyon Buffer Area, winters 1995-2002. Data from G. Haber (2002).

RCS



VIC VAN BALLEEN BERGHE

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman, and board members, Alaska Board of Game

I am making a request that the Board of Game develop set of written findings which recognize the intrinsic value of naturally occurring Alaskan wild game meat as a means of providing high quality subsistence for the physical body and emotional health to the people of the state of Alaska and those nonresidents who harvest wild game animals with in Alaska.

Several points that I believe these findings should be based on are:

- Years of testimony in front of this board and at other venues, by Alaska natives and all Alaskans who use big game meat, who have stated that historically and presently, the taking and use of wild game meat by Alaskans is highly sought after for subsistence food for the human body. That the pursuit, taking, gathering and consumption of the wild game, individually, and in aggregate with other family members and friends aids in providing positive emotional health. The taking, and use of wild game for funerary and mortuary purposes by many Alaska native tribes and the subsequent events that follow, is equally as important as the use of game for basic human survival.
- The Alaska Legislature has enacted statutes found in AS 16. 30. That put such a high regard on Alaskan big game meat that the legislature has placed significant penalties for the waste of big game meat including presumptive sentencing that requires the implementation of significant fines and jail time for those convicted.
- The Alaska Board of Game has enacted several regulations which include but not limited to: required salvage of game meat from the field to the place of human consumption, prohibiting the possession of antlers with out the meat, requiring meat to be naturally attached to the bone to aid in the prevention of spoilage, and by defining those portions of the harvested animal that must be salvaged.
- The State of Alaska, from the Governors office, through the Alaska Legislature, ADF&G, state advisory committees, and resource users have worked long and hard to implement and carry out multiple levels of predator control to continue to provide basic levels of big game populations which will insure harvest of these animals for human consumption.

I am requesting that the board make a strong statement to the people of Alaska stating that the Board recognizes the high value placed on Alaskan game meat by residents of the state and that the board opposes the practice of taking individual or multiple game animals and then leaving them in the field to waste because of personal judgments by the hunter that the animal is diseased.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

David Lorring
3530 Holden Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-687-4858

Copper River/ Prince William Sound Advisory Committee
PO BOX 1663
CORDOVA, ALASKA
99574
(907)424.3101

RC 7

Ann. Scott
BOG AC
Comments

Committee Action: opposed 0-9

Proposal 2

Proposal: Repeal the black bear harvest ticket requirement.

Issue: This committee opposes this proposal for several reasons. This harvest ticket was just implemented in 2008 and has not had a chance to show its potential. This tool also gives ADFG its first indication of effort, number of days hunted and area. This tool is vital to management of black bears in Prince William Sound.

What will happen if nothing is done: lose of important information.

Who is likely to benefit: species, ADFG

Who is likely to suffer: hunters having to fill out one more report at the end of the season.

Committee Action: passed 9-0

Proposal 4

Proposal: Require harvest report cards for deer.

Issue: This committee favors this, once again giving ADFG free information. This will ultimately save the department money by not having to mail out surveys. Between 1000-2000 in Prince William Sound, with only a 50% return rate. This will lead to a greater return of information at less cost.

What will happen if nothing is done: less information for management.

Who is likely to benefit: all users

Who is likely to suffer: hunters who will have to fill out one more report at the end of the season.

Committee Action: opposed 0-9

Proposal # 5

Proposal: Lower the age for youth hunters to eight.

Issue: This committee opposes this as legal age of Ten is adequate, safe, and has worked well since 2002. Individuals that are of legal age have the option under state law currently to allow any youth hunter to harvest under supervision an animal under there permit.

What will happen if nothing is done: more accidents, violations

Who is likely to suffer: individuals trying to increase there odds of there household drawing a permit.

Copper River/ Prince William Sound Advisory Committee
PO BOX 1663
CORDOVA, ALASKA
99574
(907)424.3101

Committee Action: opposed 0-9

Proposal # 10

Proposal: Provide a permit to disabled individuals for taking brown bear with the use of bait.

Issue: This committee opposes this proposal bases on the fact that brown bears will become habituated to human food, are far more aggressive, and the state already has plans in place to allow disabled individuals increased opportunity.

RC 8

PETERSBURG FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY
2010

State Board of Game Statewide Proposals

Proposal # Vote Comments

#2 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Adopted information on black bears; northern unit hunters (especially in predator control areas) want it abolished. Unit by unit requirements make more sense. Want to keep it in S.E.-general consensus.

#3 Favor-8 Oppose-0 Housekeeping by state.

#4 Favor-0 Oppose-8 State says info may not be worth the effort. Unit 2 State/Federal reporting for deer has provided very good info. Documentation could be very beneficial for future take. (C&T findings)

#5 Favor-7 Oppose-1 Most feel the system is working as is. Some 8 year olds may be ready but not all.

#7 Favor-8 Oppose-0 Should not be necessary for permanent disabled

#8 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Some against because of potential abuse. There are federal regs you can use if you're rural.

#9 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Asking for a lot-very general-there's already provisions in place for vets.

#10 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Baiting brown bears is not a good idea.

#23 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Guilds should not get aerial wolf hunting permits.

#25 Favor-8 Oppose-0 Housekeeping

#27 Favor-0 Oppose-8 State is against; no discussion.

#28 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Not always a serious problem in active predator control areas. Where there is a serious problem, then it may be ok to exclude non-residents.

#29 Favor-0 Oppose-8 No discussion

#30 Favor-0 Oppose-8 No discussion

#35 Favor-0 Oppose-8 Not much of a burden to get capes & skulls sealed as it is now.

11 members now present.

#36 Favor-0 Oppose-11 The state gets most info. on furbearers from sealing. Not that hard to get animal sealed. Some animals must be sealed by federal law.

#37 Favor-0 Oppose-11 No discussion

#38 Favor-0 Oppose-11 There was a general feeling that if the state could figure out a way to do this it could be a good thing.

- #39 Favor-0 Oppose-11 Could result in harvest of bears just to sell hides.
- #40 Favor-0 Oppose-11 Didn't seem like a good thing to start.
- #41 Favor-0 Oppose-11 Could encourage waste.
- #42 Favor-0 Oppose-11 Would be enforcement nightmare; Does the board have authority after processing?
- #43 Favor-0 Oppose-11 Must keep track of meat disposal after killing. Does not necessarily oppose wanton waste?

The last discussion we took up was changing to a three year cycle. We felt it was important to make sure the BOG will address emergencies out of cycle. If we do change, we don't want to get locked in with the BOF on same cycle year.

Thank you for considering our comments,

Michael Bangs
Chairman; Petersburg AC



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FWS/OSM/10006/CA

JAN 20 2010

RC9

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 January 29 – February 1, 2010, to deliberate on proposals concerning changes to Statewide regulations, Cycle "A" schedule. We have reviewed the 52 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 Mr. Chuck Ardizzone, Wildlife Liaison, 907-786-3871, with any questions you may have concerning this material.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Probasco,
Assistant Regional Director

Enclosure

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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS

Statewide Regulations, Cycle A

January 29 – February 1, 2010

Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 92.010 Harvest tickets and reports. Repeal the black bear harvest ticket requirement as follows:

No black bear harvest tickets are required, especially in areas where intensive management objectives for ungulates remain below objectives.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would rescind the harvest reporting requirements instituted by the Alaska Board of Game in 2009. The data gathered from harvest ticket reports are important as they provide State and Federal wildlife managers with valuable information to aid black bear population management decisions. However, because harvest reporting and sealing are now required in some areas, redundant reporting requirements should be addressed. This issue is addressed in comments for Proposal 3.

PROPOSAL 3 - 5AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Housekeeping proposal to: 1) update reporting requirements, 2) clarify possession of moose, sheep, and black bear harvest reports while hunting and 3) uncouple the black bear harvest report/ticket requirement from black bear sealing.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports

...

(c) Within 15 days after taking the bag limit for a species or, if the hunter does not take the bag limit, within 15 days after the close of the season, the hunter shall **submit a completed harvest report** [COMPLETE THE HARVEST REPORT AND MAIL IT] to the department.

...

(h) For moose and sheep, a person may not hunt moose or sheep, except in a permit hunt or in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and **has obtained** a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); however, a person who is hunting Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park must register with the department.

...

(l) For black bear, a person may not hunt black bear in **Units 1-7, 11-17, 19D, and 20** [A UNIT WITH BLACK BEAR SEALING REQUIREMENTS], except when a permit is required, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and **has obtained** a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket).

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would clarify and simplify reporting options and possession of harvest reports while hunting for moose, sheep, and black bear. It would also uncouple the new general season black bear harvest reports/tickets from black bear sealing requirements, which would allow the Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game the flexibility to evaluate whether both sealing and harvest reports are need in each unit. This could help eliminate redundant reporting requirements for black bears in units where both sealing and harvest ticket are necessary.

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reporting. Require hunters to submit harvest reports for deer.

This proposal would require harvest report cards be submitted by all hunters who get deer harvest tickets, and those data would be considered by managers in setting seasons, bag limits, etc.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would require harvest reports be submitted by deer hunters. Deer harvest is currently monitored by a survey questionnaire sent to a random sample of individuals that obtain deer harvest tickets. These surveys allow the collection of more detailed information about hunting effort and harvest of each deer than harvest ticket reports. The survey results are statistically expanded on a community-level to give an estimate of deer harvest, hunting effort and success rates for hunters. The mail-out questionnaire survey has been in use for over 20 years and was developed to address problems with harvest ticket reporting. Managers are satisfied with the information they get through the mail out survey and feel that it is sufficient for management.

Proposal 11: 5AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Remove the reference requiring game taken for certain religious ceremonies to be defined as customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence; and limit the take to moose, deer and caribou. In non-subsistence areas, a letter of authorization must be obtained from the department.

This department proposal would change the regulations around the taking of big game for funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies to make clear the Board of Game's intent to allow the taking of big game for funerary or mortuary ceremonies in non subsistence areas.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(m) You may take wildlife, outside of established season or harvest limits, for food in traditional religious ceremonies, that are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches, under the following provisions:

(1) The harvest does not violate recognized principles of wildlife conservation and uses the methods and means allowable for the particular species published in the applicable Federal regulations. The appropriate Federal land manager will establish the number, species, sex, or location of harvest, if necessary, for conservation purposes. Other regulations relating to ceremonial harvest may be found in the unit-specific regulations in §242.26(n).

(2) No permit or harvest ticket is required for harvesting under this section; however, the harvester must be a federally qualified subsistence user with customary and traditional use in the area where the harvesting will occur.

(3) In Units 1–26 (except for Koyukon/Gwich'in potlatch ceremonies in Units 20F, 21, 24, or 25):

(i) A tribal chief, village or tribal council president, or the chief's or president's designee for the village in which the religious/cultural ceremony will be held, or a Federally qualified subsistence user outside of a village or tribal-organized ceremony, must notify the nearest Federal land manager that a wildlife harvest will take place. The notification must include the species, harvest location, and number of animals expected to be taken.

(ii) Immediately after the wildlife is taken, the tribal chief, village or tribal council president or designee, or other Federally qualified subsistence user must create a list of the successful hunters and maintain these records, including the name of the decedent for whom the ceremony will be held. If requested, this information must be available to an authorized representative of the Federal land manager.

(iii) The tribal chief, village or tribal council president or designee, or other Federally qualified subsistence user outside of the village in which the religious/cultural ceremony will be held must report to the Federal land manager the harvest location, species, sex, and number of animals taken as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the wildlife is taken.

(4) In Units 20F, 21, 24, and 25 (for Koyukon/Gwich'in potlatch ceremonies only):

(i) Taking wildlife outside of established season and harvest limits is authorized if it is for food for the traditional Koyukon/Gwich'in Potlatch Funerary or Mortuary ceremony and if it is consistent with conservation of healthy populations.

(ii) Immediately after the wildlife is taken, the tribal chief, village or tribal council president, or the chief's or president's designee for the village in which the religious ceremony will be held

must create a list of the successful hunters and maintain these records. The list must be made available, after the harvest is completed, to a Federal land manager upon request.

(iii) As soon as practical, but not more than 15 days after the harvest, the tribal chief, village council president, or designee must notify the Federal land manager about the harvest location, species, sex, and number of animals taken.

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

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

Rationale: Current Federal regulations allow for the taking of wildlife for cultural or religious ceremonies on federal public lands throughout the state according to the parameters set forth in regulation (§ .26 (m) (1-4))... While it is recognized that the taking of wildlife for cultural or religious ceremonies is not subsistence take per se, it is part of the customary and traditional pattern of life for which Congress mandated protection under the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is thus covered under federal subsistence management regulations.

Proposal 12: 5AAC 92.034. Permit to take game for cultural purposes. Modify the permit requirements for taking potlatch moose.

The proposal intends to clarify existing language in 5 AAC 92.019 that restricts the taking of moose for funerary religious purposes to populations of big game animals for which the Board has established a positive C&T finding in 5 AACC 99.025.

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

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM is **neutral** on the proposal. See comments on proposal 11.

Proposal 13: 5AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Modify the language concerning the take of big game for religious ceremonies.

Proposal would remove “customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence” language from 5 AAC 92.019, thus allowing harvest of big game for Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious purposes in non subsistence areas and other areas for which there is a negative or no C&T finding under 5AAC 92.025.

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

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM is **neutral** on the proposal. See comments on proposal 11.

Proposal 14: 5AAC 92.XXX. Create a new regulation regarding traditional potlatch. Establish an Ahtna traditional Potlatch Religious Ceremonies Use of Big Game.

The proposal would create a new regulation that establishes guidelines for taking of big game animals for Ahtna traditional potlatch ceremonies in Game Management Units 11, 12, 13 and 20A.

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

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM is **neutral** on the proposal. See comments on proposal 11.

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 92.165 Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Provide hunters the option for sealing hides.

The proposal would change current sealing regulations to allow the harvester at his/her option, to either do the required steps to seal the hide him or her self, or take the hide into a sealing agent.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(j) Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

(1) Sealing requirements for bear apply to brown bears taken in all Units, except as specified in this paragraph, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20.

(2) You may not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin or skull of a bear unless the skin and skull have been sealed by an authorized representative of ADF&G in accordance with State or Federal regulations, except that the skin and skull of a brown bear taken under a registration permit in Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A need not be sealed unless removed from the area.

(3) You must keep a bear skin and skull together until a representative of the ADF&G has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin; however, this provision does not apply to brown bears taken within Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A and which are not removed from the Unit.

(i) In areas where sealing is required by Federal regulations, you may not possess or transport the hide of a bear that does not have the penis sheath or vaginal orifice naturally attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the bear.

(ii) If the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage is removed from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Bethel, Dillingham, or McGrath; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iii) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A from the area or present it for commercial tanning within the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Barrow, Galena, Nome, or Kotzebue; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iv) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 5 from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Yakutat.

(v) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 9E from Unit 9, you must first have it sealed by an authorized sealing representative. At the time of sealing, the representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

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

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

Rationale: Information collected from skull measurements, examination of the hide and in some cases the pulling of a premolar for age analysis, during the sealing process, provides important data which aids in the management of bear populations in some areas. The Office of Subsistence Management supports the consistent and accurate collection of data, which is currently collected by Department staff trained in Department protocols. The collection, analysis and archiving of data is best accomplished by one entity. On the other hand, it is recognized that in some cases, sealing presents a burden to remote hunters. The Department has tried to ameliorate this burden by allowing the use of a temporary certificate that allows a second party to bring the bear in for sealing if the hunter is unable to do it themselves.

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 92.170 Sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf and wolverine

Eliminate the sealing requirements for certain furbearers.

Eliminate sealing requirements for marten, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine statewide except when specific biological data is needed by the Department of Fish and Game that cannot be collected by the trapper for the department.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(k) Sealing of beaver, lynx, marten, otter, wolf, and wolverine. You may not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin of a marten taken in Units 1–5, 7, 13E, or 14–16 or the untanned skin of a beaver, lynx, otter, wolf, or wolverine, whether taken inside or outside the State, unless the skin has been sealed by an authorized representative in accordance with State or Federal regulations.

(1) In Unit 18, you must obtain an ADF&G seal for beaver skins only if they are to be sold or commercially tanned. (2) In Unit 2, you must seal any wolf taken on or before the 30th day after the date of taking.

(l) If you take a species listed in paragraph (k) of this section but are unable to present the skin in person, you must complete and sign a temporary sealing form and ensure that the completed temporary sealing form and skin are presented to an authorized representative of ADF&G for sealing consistent with requirements listed in paragraph (k) of this section.

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

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

Rationale: The data gathered through the sealing process is often the only information that Alaska Department of Fish and Game is able to obtain to assess furbearer population trends and to address management questions. The Office of Subsistence Management supports the consistent and accurate collection of data, which is currently collected by Department staff trained in Department protocols. The collection, analysis and archiving of data is best accomplished by one entity.

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 92.171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns. Modify the sheep sealing requirement as follows:

A person may not possess, transport, or export from the state the horns **and skull (naturally attached)** of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit, **or the skull and horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in Units 6-11 and Units 13-17, unless the skull has been sealed** by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department.

- A. Horns must be naturally attached to skull;
- B. Head must be skinned out for sealing;
- C. Marker must stay attached until the start of taxidermy, as defined in AS 16.05.940(35).

Current Federal Regulation:

§ .14 Relationship to State procedures and regulations.

(a) State fish and game regulations apply to public lands and such laws are hereby adopted and made a part of the regulations in this part to the extent they are not inconsistent with, or superseded by, the regulations in this part.

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(g) Evidence of sex and identity. (1) If subsistence take of Dall sheep is restricted to a ram, you may not possess or transport a harvested sheep unless both horns accompany the animal.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal to clarify the requirements for harvest salvage, reporting and sealing for Dall sheep in Units 11 and 12 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would modify the sheep sealing requirements in Units 6-11 and 13-17 so the seal would be nonpermanent. Information collected during the sealing process, provides important data which aids in the management of sheep populations in some areas. The Office of Subsistence Management supports the consistent and accurate collection of data, which is currently collected by Department staff trained in Department protocols. The way sheep are sealed, either by a permanent or nonpermanent method is of less importance.

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 92.031 Permit for selling skins, skulls and trophies. Allow the sale of black bear gall bladders by non-profit organizations.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall at its discretion issue permits to non-profit conservation organizations to sell black bear gall bladders that have been removed from legally harvested bears and donated to such organizations.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.7 Restriction on use.

(a) You may not use fish or wildlife or their parts, taken pursuant to the regulations in this part, unless provided for in this part.

Note: There is no Federal regulation authorizing the sale of black bear gall bladders.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would allow the sale of black bear gall bladders by non-profit organizations. Commercialization of black bear parts such as gall bladders is a nationwide and worldwide conservation and law enforcement problem. The sale of gallbladders has been implicated as an incentive to poaching in Alaska and other states.

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 92.200(b)(1) Purchase and sale of game. Allow the sale or barter of tanned bear hides.

The sale of tanned bear hide can be bought, sold, traded, or bartered. Or the sale of tanned bear hides without face or claws attached can be bought, sold, traded, or bartered.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .25 Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations.

(j) Utilization of fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

(8) If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user, you may sell the raw fur or tanned pelt with or without claws attached from legally harvested furbearers.

(13) You may sell the raw/untanned and tanned hide or cape from a legally harvested caribou, deer, elk, goat, moose, musk ox, and sheep.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal to reclassify black bears as furbearers in Units 12, 20 and 25, would allow the sale of the raw fur or tanned pelt from black bear legally harvested under Federal wildlife regulations, has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would allow the general sale of bear hides and could lead large scale commercial sales. Bears have low reproductive rates and a moderate increase in harvest could lead to long-term population declines in some areas. The Federal Subsistence

Board has provided for the sale of handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls of brown bears by Federally qualified subsistence users where appropriate. The intent of the Board in passing these regulations was to provide for the customary and traditional use, by Federally qualified subsistence users the opportunity to fully utilize the above-listed parts of bears legally harvested under Federal subsistence regulations.

PROPOSAL 44 - 5AAC 92.450. Description of Game Management Units. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 20 as follows:

Create new boundary language for Unit 18 to read: That area draining into the Yukon River downstream from the 'down river' boundary of; and that area draining into the Kuskokwim River downstream from the 'down river' boundary of Dick Nash's fish camp, on the South bank of the river and the 'down river' boundary of Sam Savage's fish camp on the North side of the river (both located five miles downriver of Lower Kalskag); and that area draining into Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) downstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) tramway (also known as Mud Creek to Johnson River Portage).

Create new boundary language for Unit 19 to read: That area draining into the Kuskokwim River upstream from the 'down river boundary of Dick Nash's fish camp, on the South bank of the river and the 'down river' boundary of Sam Savage's fish camp, on the North bank of the river; and that area draining into Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) upstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) tramway (also known as Mud Creek to Johnson River Portage).

Create new boundary language for Unit 21 to read: That area draining into the Yukon River upstream from the "down river" boundary of...

(Note: All of the above-mentioned land marks are well known to all hunters in Units 18, 19, and 21. They are also very easy to locate on "up-to-date" maps. It would also make it easier for the "map makers" to draw in the affected drainages.)

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(n) Unit regulations.

(18) Unit 18 consists of that area draining into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers downstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north; Nunivak, St. Matthew, and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River.

(19) Unit 19 consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut:

(21) Unit 21 consists of drainages into the Yukon River upstream from Paimiut to, but not

including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank, and to, but not including, the Tanana River drainage on the south bank; and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage:

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted, the geographic descriptions for Units 18, 19 and 21 would differ between the State and Federal regulations. Note: if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions to correspond.

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 92.450 Game Management Units. Housekeeping modifications to game management unit and subunit boundaries in Units 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 25.

(6) Game Management Unit 6 consists of all Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound drainages from the center line of Icy Bay (excluding the Guyot Hills) to Cape Fairfield, including Kayak, Hinchinbrook, Montague, and adjacent islands, and Middleton Island, but excluding the Copper River drainage upstream from Miles Glacier **and those drainages on the north side of Miles Glacier,** and excluding the Nellie Juan and Kings River drainages;

(11) Game Management Unit 11 consists of that area draining into [THE HEADWATERS OF] the Copper River [SOUTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK AND THE AREA DRAINED BY ALL TRIBUTARIES INTO THE EAST BANK OF THE COPPER RIVER BETWEEN THE CONFLUENCE OF SUSLOTA CREEK WITH THE SLANA RIVER AND MILES GLACIER] **from the north side of Miles Glacier, and east of the eastern most bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier north to the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, then south of the south bank of Suslota Creek to Noyes Mountain,**

(13) Game Management Unit 13 consists of that area westerly of the **eastern most** [EAST] bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier **north to the confluence with the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, and that area of the Slana River drainage north of Suslota Creek** [AND INCLUDING THE SLANA RIVER DRAINAGES NORTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK]; the drainages into the Delta River...

(A) Unit 13(A) consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the Chickaloon River bridge at Mile 77.7 on the Glenn Highway, then along the Glenn Highway to its junction with the Richardson Highway, [THEN SOUTH ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY TO THE FOOT OF SIMPSON HILL AT MILE 111.5,] then east to the east bank of the Copper River, then northerly along the east bank of the Copper to its junction with the Gulkana River, ...

(B) Unit 13(B) consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of the Copper River and the Gulkana River, then up the east bank of the Copper River to the Gakona River, then up the **east bank of the** Gakona River and Gakona Glacier to the boundary of Unit 13, then westerly...

(C) Unit 13(C) consists of that portion of Unit 13 east of the east bank of the Gakona River and Gakona Glacier;

(14) (A) Unit 14(A) consists of drainages in Unit 14 bounded on the west [BY] beginning at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary along longitude line 150°30'00" to the mouth of the Susitna River, then north along the east bank of the Susitna River, on the north by the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to its headwaters, then east along the hydrologic divide separating the Susitna River and Knik Arm drainages to the outlet creek at lake 4408, on the east by the eastern boundary of Unit 14, and on the south by Cook Inlet, Knik Arm, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary to the Glenn Highway bridge, then to the south bank of Knik Arm, then to the south bank of the Knik River from its mouth to its junction with Knik Glacier, across the face of Knik Glacier and along the north side of Knik Glacier to the Unit 6 boundary;

(16) Game Management Unit 16 consists of the drainages into Cook Inlet between Redoubt Creek and the Susitna River, including Redoubt Creek drainage, Kalgin Island, and the drainages on the west side of the Susitna River (including the Susitna River) upstream to its junction with the Chulitna River; the drainages into the west side of the Chulitna River (including the Chulitna River) upstream to the Tokositna River (including the Tokositna River), and drainages into the south side of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier, including the drainage of the Kanitula Glacier;

(25) (B) Unit 25(B) consists of the Little Black River drainage upstream from but not including the Big Creek drainage, the Black River drainage upstream from and including the Salmon Fork drainage, the Porcupine River drainage upstream from the confluence of the Coleen and Porcupine Rivers, and drainages into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle, including the Yukon River and islands in the Yukon River upstream from Circle;

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(n) Unit regulations.

(6) Unit 6 consists of all Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound drainages from the center line of Icy Bay (excluding the Guyot Hills) to Cape Fairfield including Kayak, Hinchinbrook, Montague, and adjacent islands, and Middleton Island, but excluding the Copper River drainage upstream from Miles Glacier, and excluding the Nellie Juan and Kings River drainages:

(11) Unit 11 consists of that area draining into the headwaters of the Copper River south of Suslota Creek and the area drained by all tributaries into the east bank of the Copper River between the confluence of Suslota Creek with the Slana River and Miles Glacier.

(13) Unit 13 consists of that area westerly of the east bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier and including the Slana River drainages north of Suslota Creek; the drainages into the Delta River upstream from Falls Creek and Black Rapids Glacier; the drainages into the Nenana River upstream from the southeast corner of Denali National Park at Windy; the drainage into the Susitna River upstream from its junction with the Chulitna River; the drainage into the east bank of the Chulitna River upstream to its confluence with Tokositna River; the drainages of the Chulitna River (south of

Denali National Park) upstream from its confluence with the Tokositna River; the drainages into the north bank of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier; the drainages into the Tokositna Glacier; the drainages into the east bank of the Susitna River between its confluences with the Talkeetna and Chulitna Rivers; the drainages into the north and east bank of the Talkeetna River including the Talkeetna River to its confluence with Clear Creek, the eastside drainages of a line going up the south bank of Clear Creek to the first unnamed creek on the south, then up that creek to lake 4408, along the northeast shore of lake 4408, then southeast in a straight line to the northern most fork of the Chickaloon River; the drainages into the east bank of the Chickaloon River below the line from lake 4408; the drainages of the Matanuska River above its confluence with the Chickaloon River:

(13)(A) Unit 13A consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the Chickaloon River bridge at Mile 77.7 on the Glenn Highway, then along the Glenn Highway to its junction with the Richardson Highway, then south along the Richardson Highway to the foot of Simpson Hill at Mile 111.5; then east to the east bank of the Copper River, then northerly along the east bank of the Copper River to its junction with the Gulkana River, then northerly along the west bank of the Gulkana River to its junction with the West Fork of the Gulkana River, then westerly along the west bank of the West Fork of the Gulkana River to its source, an unnamed lake, then across the divide into the Tyone River drainage, down an unnamed stream into the Tyone River, then down the Tyone River to the Susitna River, then down the southern bank of the Susitna River to the mouth of Kosina Creek, then up Kosina Creek to its headwaters, then across the divide and down Aspen Creek to the Talkeetna River, then southerly along the boundary of Unit 13 to the Chickaloon River bridge, the point of beginning;

(13)(B) Unit 13B consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of the Copper River and the Gulkana River, then up the east bank of the Copper River to the Gakona River, then up the Gakona River and Gakona Glacier to the boundary of Unit 13, then westerly along the boundary of Unit 13 to the Susitna Glacier, then southerly along the west bank of the Susitna Glacier and the Susitna River to the Tyone River, then up the Tyone River and across the divide to the headwaters of the West Fork of the Gulkana River, then down the West Fork of the Gulkana River to the confluence of the Gulkana River and the Copper River, the point of beginning;

(13)(C) Unit 13C consists of that portion of Unit 13 east of the Gakona River and Gakona Glacier;

(14)(A) Unit 14A consists of drainages in Unit 14 bounded on the west by the east bank of the Susitna River, on the north by the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to its headwaters, then east along the hydrologic divide separating the Susitna River and Knik Arm drainages to the outlet creek at lake 4408, on the east by the eastern boundary of Unit 14, and on the south by Cook Inlet, Knik Arm, the south bank of the Knik River from its mouth to its junction with Knik Glacier, across the face of Knik Glacier and along the north side of Knik Glacier to the Unit 6 boundary;

(16) Unit 16 consists of the drainages into Cook Inlet between Redoubt Creek and the Susitna River, including Redoubt Creek drainage, Kalgin Island, and the drainages on the west side of the Susitna River (including the Susitna River) upstream to its confluence with the Chulitna River; the drainages into the west side of the Chulitna River (including the Chulitna River) upstream to the Tokositna River, and drainages into the south side of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier, including the drainage of the Kahiltna Glacier:

(25)(B) Unit 25B consists of the Little Black River drainage upstream from but not including the Big Creek drainage, the Black River drainage upstream from and including the Salmon Fork drainage, the Porcupine River drainage upstream from the confluence of the Coleen and Porcupine Rivers, and drainages into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle, including the islands in the Yukon River;

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted, the geographic descriptions for Units 6, 11, 13, 13A, 13B, 13C, 14A 16 and 25B would differ between the State and Federal regulations. Note: if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions to align.

Proposal 51 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend all trapping season dates ending on February 28 to incorporate leap year, February. 29.

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(2) Coyote		
Unit 14(C)	Nov. 10 – Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(3) Fox, arctic, white, or blue		
Units 9 and 10	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 24 and 25	Nov. 1 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(4) Fox, red (including the cross, black, or silver color phases)		
Units 6, 9 - 11, 13, 14, excluding Chugach State Park, and 16	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 7, 14(C) within Chugach State Park, and 15	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	One per season.
Unit 8	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	No limit.
Units 20, except 20(E), 21, 24, and 25	Nov. 1 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.

(5) Lynx

Units 7, 11, and 13 - 16	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.
Units 8 and 10	No open season.	
Units 6 and 9	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 20(A), 20(B), 20(C) east of the Teklanika River, 20(D), and 25(C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30 Dec. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	2 lynx No limit
Unit 20(F) and remainder of Unit 20(C)	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 19	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 21	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 22, 23, and 26	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	No limit.
Unit 24	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Remainder of Unit 25	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.

(6) Marten

Units 6, 9, 11, 13, and 17	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 12, 19 - 21, 24, and 25	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.

(7) Mink and weasel

Units 6, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 17	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 18	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	No limit.
Units 12, 19 - 21, 24, and 25	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.

(9) Otter, land

<i>Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 1 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Mink and Weasel</i>		
<i>Units 9, 10, 11, 13 and 17</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 1 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Muskrat</i>		
<i>Unit 17</i>	<i>2 muskrat</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>River Otter</i>		
<i>Units 7, 14C and 15</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Wolf</i>		
<i>Unit 14C</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Wolverine</i>		
<i>Units 6, 7, 9, 10, 14C, 15B, 15C, 16 and 17</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Unit 11</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Units 12, 20 and 25C</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 1 – Feb 28</i>

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would provide trappers an additional day to harvest during leap years. There should be minimal impacts the wildlife populations being trapped by adding an additional day to the harvest season every four years. If this proposal is adopted the Federal Subsistence Board should consider taking parallel action in order for the seasons to be in alignment.

RC 10

Board of Game Comments, Nissa Pilcher

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526 fax 465-6094

Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Dear AK Fish and Game,

I am a Healy resident, and I support Proposal: 72, Log #1-10S-G-018 and urge the Fairbanks Board of Game to approve it at their meeting Feb 26-March 6. I and my family have had pets/sled dogs in our care caught in traps set IN public trails. Once a trap in a trail endangered my family and turned a five day Dog Sled /Snow Machine trip into a two day exercise in survival. I believe this proposal is the minimum needed to protect us from irresponsible trapping.

I also support PROPOSAL 3 Log number: HQ-10S-G-026, pages 3 & 4 in the proposal booklet. I believe it is irresponsible and cruel for trappers not to check their traps regularly for fur-bearers as well as for accidentally caught pets.

Thank You

David P. Braun
David P. Braun

Box 227

Healy AK 99743

To whom it may concern,

My name is Theresa Bauer and I am writing concerning the proposition that is before the Board allowing Hybred cats such as the Bengal, Savannah etc...I belong to a Serval/Caracal group that have these wonderful cats down in the lower 48, there has never been a case of Rabies in any Hybred, and these owners keep their cats vaccinated yearly! To own one of these magnificent cats runs around \$1,000 and up to \$25,000 I know for a fact when a person pays this much for a kitten they are going to do everything in their power to keep this cat safe and very well taken care of.

I have had the pleasure of meeting two Bengal cats that were born up here in Alaska, the first one is 4 years old and she weighs 6.5 lbs and is a house cat. The other Bengal I was introduced to is a 1 year old and will probably weigh 8 lbs as an adult so not all Hybrids are large cats, these cats have been vaccinated for Rabies of course as all household and domesticated animals should be.

Please pass the law allowing these wonderful cats in Alaska, have the owners microchip them, register them whatever it takes for these owners to be able to have and keep their "family members" home and safe and not worry about having them ripped away from the only safe home's they have!

Sincerely,

Theresa Bauer

RC 12

Thomas C. Rothe
11828 Broadwater Drive
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Tel: (907) 694-9068 Fax: (907) 694-9069
E-mail: tom.halcyon@gmail.com

January 15, 2010

Alaska Board of Game
c/o ADF&G Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Advance by Fax

Chairman and Members, Alaska Board of Game;

This letter is to provide written comments on Proposal 52 regarding bag limits for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay, on the agenda for your January meeting in Anchorage. I oppose new restrictions on sea duck hunting in Kachemak Bay and urge the Board to rescind the amendment adopted in March.

For the record, I am a 32-year resident of Eagle River, Alaska. I have hunted waterfowl in Alaska for at least 28 years. In addition, I recently retired from a 30-year federal and state career as a professional waterfowl biologist and migratory game bird manager—I have extensive knowledge of sea duck biology and management, as well as information on sea duck hunters and harvest in Alaska.

My wife and I have hunted sea ducks in Kachemak Bay for at least 16 years. We highly value this unique opportunity to hunt ducks in November and December when most migrant ducks are gone, and to maintain a special seasonal social and economic tradition of these hunts. We have invested in special hunting equipment for sea duck hunting, including clothing and decoys, and my wife has made a tremendous investment in raising and training a Chesapeake Bay retriever specifically for sea duck hunting. Our hunts also contribute income to businesses in Homer and Seldovia.

Procedural Concerns—My opposition to Proposal 52 (and March Proposal 117) is based on several procedural concerns, as well as technical issues. First, I believe the proponent's primary motivation for over 10 years has been to eliminate duck hunting in Sadie Cove where she has a cabin. As such, her efforts to restrict sea duck hunting regulations are a misguided means to address a user conflict with hunters and an inappropriate tool for a local zoning issue. I don't know if the Board has latitude to develop hunting regulations to resolve such a problem; a more traditional zoning solution seems hindered by the lack of a borough government or jurisdiction from Homer or village governments in Kachemak Bay.

The second procedural concern I have is that the original Proposal 117 did not recommend a specific regulatory change (e.g., bag limits or seasons) to address the claims of high exploitation rates and potential depletion. Yet the Board adopted a regulation reducing the resident sea duck bag limit in Kachemak Bay from 10 daily, 20 in possession to 2 daily, 4 in possession (current Proposal 52). This arbitrary action was not based on a close

examination of available data on sea duck stocks in the bay, local or regional harvest levels, conservation concerns for any particular species, or the impacts of hunting restrictions on local residents or visitors. The reduction in bag limit adopted by the Board is unjustifiably drastic and is likely to eliminate waterfowl guiding in the bay, as well as taking nearly all the public value out of this traditional hunt.

Third, the Board's excessive bag limit restriction for sea ducks, in essence, removes any reasonable provision for traditional subsistence waterfowl hunting by residents of Kachemak Bay. In the mid-1990s, the state and federal government negotiated amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada to legalize and regulate subsistence hunting in Alaska. Based on federal direction, the U.S. negotiating team developed guiding principles for preferential spring and summer subsistence hunting by rural residents under federal rules, but they did not support creation of preferential subsistence regulations during the fall and winter season. There was no desire to expand the concept of "dual management" to migratory birds when state regulations adopted by the Board of Game (under federal frameworks in 50 CFR 20) were deemed to provide reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity in fall and winter. Implementation of Proposal 52 would largely eliminate sea duck harvest for all hunters and rightly be perceived as taking away subsistence opportunity.

Technical Concerns—I won't go into extensive detail on my concerns that calls for restricting sea duck regulations in Kachemak Bay are based on lots of inaccurate statements and faulty rationalizations. However, I encourage the Board to thoroughly consider all of the relevant data available from Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the status of sea ducks wintering in Kachemak Bay, current harvest levels, and the impacts of hunting regulations on traditional harvests and the local economy. Here, in brief, are my assessments of the key technical issues, based on the best available science:

- Sea duck stocks wintering in Kachemak Bay can sustain current levels of harvest without becoming depleted. On average, 20-30,000 ducks winter in Kachemak Bay. In general, state and federal survey data do not indicate declines in sea ducks since the early 1990s. State and federal harvest data indicate that relatively few sea duck hunters take low numbers of sea ducks annually.
- All sea duck species have not declined in Alaska. Although continental indices of some sea duck species (e.g., eiders, scoters, long-tailed ducks) declined from the 1960s through the 1980s, their abundance has been relatively stable for the past 20 years. Also, some species, including mergansers, goldeneyes and bufflehead, have shown long-term significant increases over the past 40 years. It is important not to generalize continental trends to Alaska or to the Kachemak Bay region. Winter duck surveys in Kachemak Bay by ADFG during 1999-2003 did not indicate declines in total ducks or most individual species. However, as a precautionary measure for harlequin and long-tailed ducks, the Board substantially reduced bag limits statewide for these species for residents and non-residents in 2001.
- Sea duck populations are not structured in discrete localized units that can be depleted. Proponents of restrictions claim that wintering sea ducks occur in discrete units (closed populations) that are strictly faithful to specific wintering sites and are vulnerable to extirpation. Although sea ducks exhibit site fidelity, it is not absolute, and there is sufficient evidence that there are annual shifts in distribution and interchange among areas within regions. Thus, wildlife agencies appropriately manage waterfowl at the

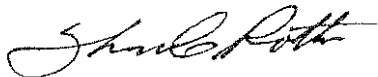
broad scale of populations—in practical terms, it is not feasible or necessary to monitor ducks or regulate harvest at the fine scale of local marshes, bays, and coves.

- Sea duck hunting is not primarily an activity of outside trophy hunters. Alaska has a unique array of wildlife resources that attract viewers and hunters from across the country. The number of licensed non-resident waterfowl hunters, however, is very small—well below 100 annually. Because sea duck harvest is low in Alaska and mostly by residents, there is no need to exclude visitors from hunting. In 1999 and 2001, the Board restricted sea duck species and seasonal limits for non-resident hunters. In terms of what non-residents do with their ducks, they are subject to standard state and federal regulations on the legal uses of game. These include documentation of transfer, prohibition of wanton waste, and taxidermy of legally taken birds.
- Sea ducks represent an important seasonal resource that is highly valued for hunting activity and fare for the table. There is a widespread misconception that sea ducks are not very palatable and that hunting them is not warranted. In fact, many Alaskans, especially subsistence hunters, enjoy the taste and nutrition from sea ducks. Personally, I eat every duck I harvest—I enjoy the diversity of tastes and creativity of developing complimentary recipes for each bird. I do not think the Board should regulate wildlife based on perceived palatability or the personal tastes of hunters—otherwise regulations for goats should be changed!
- Sea duck hunting is not easy and entails special challenges (local knowledge of habitats and distribution, special gear, poor weather). As with all hunting, there are some hunters who try to skirt these challenges and cheat the system by violating regulations. These are problems best addressed through public education and law enforcement—not by penalizing legal hunters that practice their skills well and value birds in the bag.

In summary, I urge the Board to rescind the sea duck bag limit restriction for Kachemak Bay as adopted in March and described in Proposal 52. I believe that the best available information on sea duck status and harvest provides a strong justification for retaining the regulations as they have been since 2001. In the absence of a definable wildlife resource problem, and with no evidence that harvest is detrimental, I ask the Board to maintain the sea duck hunting opportunities that are currently sustainable and are valuable to me and many other Alaskans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Proposal 52. I would be pleased to provide more information on request. I plan to provide personal testimony at your meeting in Anchorage.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Rothe

RC 13



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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January 27, 2010

ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 998811-5526

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Animal Research Issues

By fax to 907-465-6094

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization including nearly 19,000 supporters in Alaska, I am writing to provide comments on several regulatory proposals to be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its meeting January 29 – February 1, 2010.

Proposals 16-18: We strongly agree with the Department's recommendations and oppose Proposals 16 and 17 (which would add capuchin monkeys and all primates, respectively, to the "clean" list of animals who may be possessed as pets in Alaska) and support Proposal 18 (which would remove chimpanzees from the list of animals allowed).

Removing chimpanzees from the clean list would close a gap in Alaska's otherwise strong policies against ownership of primates and other wild animals as pets. The 2009 attack by a chimpanzee that left a Connecticut woman severely disfigured and the chimpanzee shot and killed demonstrates the dangers these animals pose. Chimpanzees become many times stronger than humans, but even small monkeys can cause serious injuries by biting and scratching. Some owners remove their teeth, which would be a violation of the Animal Welfare Act if done by a zoo, but even that does not make the animals safe.

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January 27, 2010

Page 2

In addition to the risk of attack, because we are so similar, human and nonhuman primates can spread disease to each other. For example, macaque monkeys in captivity typically carry Herpes B virus. Research published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concludes the disease risk makes macaques unsuitable as pets. At professionally run zoos and research facilities, workers take precautions to minimize contact with these animals, especially since a researcher died in 1997 after biologic matter from a macaque splashed into her eye.

When kept in captivity, primates require specialized care, the companionship of other nonhuman primates, and housing in very large enclosures that allow for climbing and swinging -- in short, the kind of environment provided by their natural habitat. The average pet owner cannot provide for these needs. Primates in the pet trade are taken from their mothers long before they would separate in the wild. These social, intelligent, and long-lived animals may spend the bulk of their lives confined to barren cages, isolated from others of their kind.

Proposal 19: We strongly agree with the Department's recommendation and oppose Proposal 19 (which would add sloths, kinkajous, wallaroos, savannah cats, and surgically de-venomized venomous reptiles to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska).

Whether captured in the wild or bred in captivity, wild animals maintain their wild instincts. Keeping them as pets threatens both public safety and animal welfare. Alaska has been a leader in protecting wild animals from the exotic pet trade and should maintain the existing policy.

Proposals 20-22: We strongly agree with the Department's recommendation and oppose Proposals 20-22 (which would allow hybrid cats; Bengal and Savannah cats; and Bengal, Savannah and Chausie cats, respectively, to the list of animals that may be possessed as pets in Alaska).

The Department lists numerous reasons why prohibitions on hybrid cats should be maintained including the potential threat to the health and safety of Alaskans and Alaska's wildlife. With hybrid cats, people hope for the best of both worlds -- a house cat with the coat pattern of a wild cat. Instead, hybrid cats don't fit well in either world. They are often difficult as pets -- demanding, loud, and prone to get loose -- but they cannot be released to the wild. The cats may be passed from owner to owner, but they do not adapt well to such changes. Many cats may be bred to create the one who might turn out to be a good companion, leaving a trail of hard-to-place animals.

January 27, 2010

Page 3

The Department notes it is aware that some Bengal cats (hybrid of Asian leopard cat), Savannah cats (hybrid of serval), and possibly Chausie cats (hybrid of jungle cat) are currently possessed as pets in Alaska, contrary to current regulations. Should illegally owned cats be located, we encourage the Department to assist in placing them in accredited sanctuaries that can provide proper care for the animals and maintain them securely to prevent escapes. People owning these cats illegally should contribute toward their lifetime care.

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Alaska's leadership in keeping exotic animals out of the pet trade. By adopting Proposal 18 and rejecting Proposals 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22, the state will continue to protect public health and safety, the environment, and the welfare of the animals.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and would be glad to provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,



Beth Preiss
Captive Wildlife Regulatory Specialist
The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
301-258-3167
bpreiss@humanesociety.org

RC 14

I don't think that the Kachemak bay sea duck proposal should pass because it is made up of mostly what-if's and thoughts not facts.

Sea ducks, like all waterfowl are migratory birds that travel over large areas and stop in many areas for a short time unless they are wintering or breeding. Kachemak Bay is a large area with many different species of ducks. Many of are which are wintering but many are stopping over. I have no problem with a action taken because of biologist research but such a large action to be taken because a group of people don't want sea duck hunters in the area is not good management of a resource. If there is a large hunter impact in the Kachemak sea duck population then there should be a large research project to see what the problem is. When a group wants to drop a limit from 10 to 2 with no research it is clear that it is that they just don't want hunters there. They are using the Eiders decline as the draw to drop the limit. Eiders are only one species of duck in the area and in my time in the bay there are large numbers of golden eyes, harlequins , scoters, and long tailed ducks. As well as many species of puddle ducks.

Thank you for
your time

Ryan R. James

RC 15

ARLA Ranch
37500 Old Sterling Highway
Anchor Point, AK 99556

January 25, 2010

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

RE: Board of Game statewide meeting--Permit for possessing live game. Add Bactrian camels to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska without a permit.

Dear Board of Game Members:

I am petitioning the Board to add the Bactrian Camel, *Camelus bactrianus*, the domestic two-humped camel, on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's clean list.

The Issue: Bactrian camels are in the in the family, Camelidae, along with alpacas, llamas, and dromedary camels, which are all currently on the clean list. Domesticated Bactrian camels are common, more than a million worldwide, and are used for pulling or carrying heavy loads. As herbivores, their main diet is grass or hay, but they also may eat shrubs. These deep brown to beige colored animals are even-toed like alpacas and llamas. They are roughly 660 to 1518 pounds and are between 7.4 to 11.3 feet in height. In the wild they generally live in desert or steppe grasslands where temperatures vary from -40 degrees F to above 100 degrees F. They can live up to 50 years. They have been domesticated for thousands of years. The Alaska Zoo currently has one Bactrian camel, so there is a precedent for allowing these animals in the state. Bactrian camels would fit in well with ranches that presently raise other camelids like alpacas and llamas. They would be useful in helping with some of the heavy carrying chores that are beyond the limits of a llama.

Here are the guidelines in which to add a species and my evidence as follows:

1. That the species is not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska; Alaska has a significantly different climate from the steppes and deserts of Mongolia where wild Bactrian camels still live. Significantly more snow falls in most parts of Alaska, making it difficult for herbivores to obtain grass. It is not very likely that they would be able to survive a winter without access to their main food. This species would also be preyed upon by large carnivores, such as bears or wolves. Without a large herd to protect them, it is unlikely they would be able to survive attacks by large carnivores. Furthermore, they are easily contained, confined and controlled.
2. That the species is not capable of causing a genetic alteration of a species indigenous to Alaska; It is very unlikely that Bactrian camels would interbreed with any species in Alaska, not even moose. It is very improbable that any species in Alaska is genetically similar enough to allow reproduction or any genetic alteration in an indigenous species.
3. That the species is not capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska; Not being a carnivore, there would not be an impact to other species. Furthermore, the Bactrian camel's ability to survive is not likely so there would not be competition for vegetation food sources.
4. That the species is not capable of transmitting a disease to a species that is indigenous to Alaska; The

State Veterinarian oversees importation of livestock such as llamas and alpacas. The rules and regulations pertaining to these camelids should be sufficient to prevent any importation of diseases from Bactrian camels. State statutes already sufficiently cover this aspect of consideration for approval of Bactrian camels for the clean list.

and, 5. That the species does not otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska. Since Bactrian camels would be managed as confined livestock, it is unlikely they would present a threat to indigenous species. They would be certified clean before importation to Alaska as required of other camelid livestock like llamas and alpacas. Once in Alaska, they would be susceptible to many of the same parasites that llama and alpacas are, such as tapeworms. Good veterinary care would keep the Bactrian camels healthy and able to do well in a domestic setting as do the other allowed camelids.

Owning a Bactrian camel as part of our llama and alpaca ranch would enhance our business and allow us to do more public education about the fascinating camelid family. With current veterinarian regulations already in place for llamas and alpacas, adding Bactrian camel to the list seems like a natural.

Sincerely,

Kathy Simpson

RC 16



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/OSM/10006/CA

JAN 20 2010

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 January 29 – February 1, 2010, to deliberate on proposals concerning changes to Statewide regulations, Cycle "A" schedule. We have reviewed the 52 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 Mr. Chuck Ardizzone, Wildlife Liaison, 907-786-3871, with any questions you may have concerning this material.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Probasco,
Assistant Regional Director

Enclosure

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



RECOMMENDATIONS

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS

Statewide Regulations, Cycle A

January 29 – February 1, 2010

Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 92.010 Harvest tickets and reports. Repeal the black bear harvest ticket requirement as follows:

No black bear harvest tickets are required, especially in areas where intensive management objectives for ungulates remain below objectives.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would rescind the harvest reporting requirements instituted by the Alaska Board of Game in 2009. The data gathered from harvest ticket reports are important as they provide State and Federal wildlife managers with valuable information to aid black bear population management decisions. However, because harvest reporting and sealing are now required in some areas, redundant reporting requirements should be addressed. This issue is addressed in comments for Proposal 3.

PROPOSAL 3 - 5AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Housekeeping proposal to: 1) update reporting requirements, 2) clarify possession of moose, sheep, and black bear harvest reports while hunting and 3) uncouple the black bear harvest report/ticket requirement from black bear sealing.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports

...
(c) Within 15 days after taking the bag limit for a species or, if the hunter does not take the bag limit, within 15 days after the close of the season, the hunter shall **submit a completed harvest report** [COMPLETE THE HARVEST REPORT AND MAIL IT] to the department.

...
(h) For moose and sheep, a person may not hunt moose or sheep, except in a permit hunt or in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and **has obtained** a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); however, a person who is hunting Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park must register with the department.

...
(i) For black bear, a person may not hunt black bear in **Units 1-7, 11-17, 19D, and 20** [A UNIT WITH BLACK BEAR SEALING REQUIREMENTS], except when a permit is required, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and **has obtained** a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket).

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would clarify and simplify reporting options and possession of harvest reports while hunting for moose, sheep, and black bear. It would also uncouple the new general season black bear harvest reports/tickets from black bear sealing requirements, which would allow the Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game the flexibility to evaluate whether both sealing and harvest reports are need in each unit. This could help eliminate redundant reporting requirements for black bears in units where both sealing and harvest ticket are necessary.

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reporting. Require hunters to submit harvest reports for deer.

This proposal would require harvest report cards be submitted by all hunters who get deer harvest tickets, and those data would be considered by managers in setting seasons, bag limits, etc.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.6 Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags, and reports.

(a)(3) Possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State unless any of these documents or individual provisions in them are superseded by the requirements in subpart D of this part.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would require harvest reports be submitted by deer hunters. Deer harvest is currently monitored by a survey questionnaire sent to a random sample of individuals that obtain deer harvest tickets. These surveys allow the collection of more detailed information about hunting effort and harvest of each deer than harvest ticket reports. The survey results are statistically expanded on a community-level to give an estimate of deer harvest, hunting effort and success rates for hunters. The mail-out questionnaire survey has been in use for over 20 years and was developed to address problems with harvest ticket reporting. Managers are satisfied with the information they get through the mail out survey and feel that it is sufficient for management.

Proposal 11: 5AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Remove the reference requiring game taken for certain religious ceremonies to be defined as customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence; and limit the take to moose, deer and caribou. In non-subsistence areas, a letter of authorization must be obtained from the department.

This department proposal would change the regulations around the taking of big game for funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies to make clear the Board of Game's intent to allow the taking of big game for funerary or mortuary ceremonies in non subsistence areas.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ 26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(m) You may take wildlife, outside of established season or harvest limits, for food in traditional religious ceremonies, that are part of a funerary or mortuary cycle, including memorial potlatches, under the following provisions:

(1) The harvest does not violate recognized principles of wildlife conservation and uses the methods and means allowable for the particular species published in the applicable Federal regulations. The appropriate Federal land manager will establish the number, species, sex, or location of harvest, if necessary, for conservation purposes. Other regulations relating to ceremonial harvest may be found in the unit-specific regulations in §242.26(n).

(2) No permit or harvest ticket is required for harvesting under this section; however, the harvester must be a Federally qualified subsistence user with customary and traditional use in the area where the harvesting will occur.

(3) In Units 1–26 (except for Koyukon/Gwich'in potlatch ceremonies in Units 20F, 21, 24, or 25):

(i) A tribal chief, village or tribal council president, or the chief's or president's designee for the village in which the religious/cultural ceremony will be held, or a Federally qualified subsistence user outside of a village or tribal-organized ceremony, must notify the nearest Federal land manager that a wildlife harvest will take place. The notification must include the species, harvest location, and number of animals expected to be taken.

(ii) Immediately after the wildlife is taken, the tribal chief, village or tribal council president or designee, or other Federally qualified subsistence user must create a list of the successful hunters and maintain these records, including the name of the decedent for whom the ceremony will be held. If requested, this information must be available to an authorized representative of the Federal land manager.

(iii) The tribal chief, village or tribal council president or designee, or other Federally qualified subsistence user outside of the village in which the religious/cultural ceremony will be held must report to the Federal land manager the harvest location, species, sex, and number of animals taken as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the wildlife is taken.

(4) In Units 20F, 21, 24, and 25 (for Koyukon/Gwich'in potlatch ceremonies only):

(i) Taking wildlife outside of established season and harvest limits is authorized if it is for food for the traditional Koyukon/Gwich'in Potlatch Funerary or Mortuary ceremony and if it is consistent with conservation of healthy populations.

(ii) Immediately after the wildlife is taken, the tribal chief, village or tribal council president, or the chief's or president's designee for the village in which the religious ceremony will be held

must create a list of the successful hunters and maintain these records. The list must be made available, after the harvest is completed, to a Federal land manager upon request.

(iii) As soon as practical, but not more than 15 days after the harvest, the tribal chief, village council president, or designee must notify the Federal land manager about the harvest location, species, sex, and number of animals taken.

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

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

Rationale: Current Federal regulations allow for the taking of wildlife for cultural or religious ceremonies on federal public lands throughout the state according to the parameters set forth in regulation (§ 26 (m)(1-4)). While it is recognized that the taking of wildlife for cultural or religious ceremonies is not subsistence take per se, it is part of the customary and traditional pattern of life for which Congress mandated protection under the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is thus covered under federal subsistence management regulations.

Proposal 12: 5AAC 92.034. Permit to take game for cultural purposes. Modify the permit requirements for taking potlatch moose.

The proposal intends to clarify existing language in 5 AAC 92.019 that restricts the taking of moose for funerary religious purposes to populations of big game animals for which the Board has established a positive C&T finding in 5 AAC 99.025.

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

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM is **neutral** on the proposal. See comments on proposal 11.

Proposal 13: 5AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Modify the language concerning the take of big game for religious ceremonies.

Proposal would remove “customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence” language from 5 AAC 92.019, thus allowing harvest of big game for Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious purposes in non subsistence areas and other areas for which there is a negative or no C&T finding under 5AAC 92.025.

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

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM is **neutral** on the proposal. See comments on proposal 11.

Proposal 14: 5AAC 92.XXX. Create a new regulation regarding traditional potlatch. Establish an Ahtna traditional Potlatch Religious Ceremonies Use of Big Game.

The proposal would create a new regulation that establishes guidelines for taking of big game animals for Ahtna traditional potlatch ceremonies in Game Management Units 11, 12, 13 and 20A.

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

Federal Position /Recommended Action: The OSM is **neutral** on the proposal. See comments on proposal 11.

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 92.165 Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Provide hunters the option for sealing hides.

The proposal would change current sealing regulations to allow the harvester at his/her option, to either do the required steps to seal the hide him or her self, or take the hide into a sealing agent.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(j) Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

(1) Sealing requirements for bear apply to brown bears taken in all Units, except as specified in this paragraph, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20.

(2) You may not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin or skull of a bear unless the skin and skull have been sealed by an authorized representative of ADF&G in accordance with State or Federal regulations, except that the skin and skull of a brown bear taken under a registration permit in Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A need not be sealed unless removed from the area.

(3) You must keep a bear skin and skull together until a representative of the ADF&G has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin; however, this provision does not apply to brown bears taken within Units 5, 9B, 9E, 17, 18, 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A and which are not removed from the Unit.

(i) In areas where sealing is required by Federal regulations, you may not possess or transport the hide of a bear that does not have the penis sheath or vaginal orifice naturally attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the bear.

(ii) If the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage is removed from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Bethel, Dillingham, or McGrath; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iii) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A from the area or present it for commercial tanning within the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Barrow, Galena, Nome, or Kotzebue; at the time of sealing, the ADF&G representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

(iv) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 5 from the area, you must first have it sealed by an ADF&G representative in Yakutat.

(v) If you remove the skin or skull of a bear taken in Unit 9E from Unit 9, you must first have it sealed by an authorized sealing representative. At the time of sealing, the representative must remove and retain the skin of the skull and front claws of the bear.

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

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

Rationale: Information collected from skull measurements, examination of the hide and in some cases the pulling of a premolar for age analysis, during the sealing process, provides important data which aids in the management of bear populations in some areas. The Office of Subsistence Management supports the consistent and accurate collection of data, which is currently collected by Department staff trained in Department protocols. The collection, analysis and archiving of data is best accomplished by one entity. On the other hand, it is recognized that in some cases, sealing presents a burden to remote hunters. The Department has tried to ameliorate this burden by allowing the use of a temporary certificate that allows a second party to bring the bear in for sealing if the hunter is unable to do it themselves.

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 92.170 Sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf and wolverine

Eliminate the sealing requirements for certain furbearers.

Eliminate sealing requirements for marten, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine statewide except when specific biological data is needed by the Department of Fish and Game that cannot be collected by the trapper for the department.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(k) Sealing of beaver, lynx, marten, otter, wolf, and wolverine. You may not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin of a marten taken in Units 1-5, 7, 13E, or 14-16 or the untanned skin of a beaver, lynx, otter, wolf, or wolverine, whether taken inside or outside the State, unless the skin has been sealed by an authorized representative in accordance with State or Federal regulations.

(1) In Unit 18, you must obtain an ADF&G seal for beaver skins only if they are to be sold or commercially tanned. (2) In Unit 2, you must seal any wolf taken on or before the 30th day after the date of taking.

(l) If you take a species listed in paragraph (k) of this section but are unable to present the skin in person, you must complete and sign a temporary sealing form and ensure that the completed temporary sealing form and skin are presented to an authorized representative of ADF&G for sealing consistent with requirements listed in paragraph (k) of this section.

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

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

Rationale: The data gathered through the sealing process is often the only information that Alaska Department of Fish and Game is able to obtain to assess furbearer population trends and to address management questions. The Office of Subsistence Management supports the consistent and accurate collection of data, which is currently collected by Department staff trained in Department protocols. The collection, analysis and archiving of data is best accomplished by one entity.

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 92.171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns. Modify the sheep sealing requirement as follows:

A person may not possess, transport, or export from the state the horns **and skull (naturally attached)** of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit, **or the skull and horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in Units 6-11 and Units 13-17, unless the skull has been sealed** by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department.

- A. Horns must be naturally attached to skull;
- B. Head must be skinned out for sealing;
- C. Marker must stay attached until the start of taxidermy, as defined in AS 16.05.940(35).

Current Federal Regulation:

§ .14 Relationship to State procedures and regulations.

(a) State fish and game regulations apply to public lands and such laws are hereby adopted and made a part of the regulations in this part to the extent they are not inconsistent with, or superseded by, the regulations in this part.

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(g) Evidence of sex and identity. (1) If subsistence take of Dall sheep is restricted to a ram, you may not possess or transport a harvested sheep unless both horns accompany the animal.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal to clarify the requirements for harvest salvage, reporting and sealing for Dall sheep in Units 11 and 12 has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would modify the sheep sealing requirements in Units 6-11 and 13-17 so the seal would be nonpermanent. Information collected during the sealing process, provides important data which aids in the management of sheep populations in some areas. The Office of Subsistence Management supports the consistent and accurate collection of data, which is currently collected by Department staff trained in Department protocols. The way sheep are sealed, either by a permanent or nonpermanent method is of less importance.

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 92.031 Permit for selling skins, skulls and trophies. Allow the sale of black bear gall bladders by non-profit organizations.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall at its discretion issue permits to non-profit conservation organizations to sell black bear gall bladders that have been removed from legally harvested bears and donated to such organizations.

Current Federal Regulation:

§ 100.7 Restriction on use.

(a) You may not use fish or wildlife or their parts, taken pursuant to the regulations in this part, unless provided for in this part.

Note: There is no Federal regulation authorizing the sale of black bear gall bladders.

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would allow the sale of black bear gall bladders by non-profit organizations. Commercialization of black bear parts such as gall bladders is a nationwide and worldwide conservation and law enforcement problem. The sale of gallbladders has been implicated as an incentive to poaching in Alaska and other states.

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 92.200(b)(1) Purchase and sale of game. Allow the sale or barter of tanned bear hides.

The sale of tanned bear hide can be bought, sold, traded, or bartered. Or the sale of tanned bear hides without face or claws attached can be bought, sold, traded, or bartered.

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .25 Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations.

(j) Utilization of fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

(8) If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user, you may sell the raw fur or tanned pelt with or without claws attached from legally harvested furbearers.

(13) You may sell the raw/untanned and tanned hide or cape from a legally harvested caribou, deer, elk, goat, moose, musk ox, and sheep.

Is a similar issue being addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board? Yes, a similar proposal to reclassify black bears as furbearers in Units 12, 20 and 25, would allow the sale of the raw fur or tanned pelt from black bear legally harvested under Federal wildlife regulations, has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board.

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would allow the general sale of bear hides and could lead large scale commercial sales. Bears have low reproductive rates and a moderate increase in harvest could lead to long-term population declines in some areas. The Federal Subsistence

Board has provided for the sale of handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls of bears by Federally qualified subsistence users where appropriate. The intent of the Board in passing these regulations was to provide for the customary and traditional use, by Federally qualified subsistence users the opportunity to fully utilize the above-listed parts of bears legally harvested under Federal subsistence regulations.

PROPOSAL 44 - 5AAC 92.450. Description of Game Management Units. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 20 as follows:

Create new boundary language for Unit 18 to read: That area draining into the Yukon River downstream from the 'down river' boundary of; and that area draining into the Kuskokwim River downstream from the 'down river' boundary of Dick Nash's fish camp, on the South bank of the river and the 'down river' boundary of Sam Savage's fish camp on the North side of the river (both located five miles downriver of Lower Kalskag); and that area draining into Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) downstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) tramway (also known as Mud Creek to Johnson River Portage).

Create new boundary language for Unit 19 to read: That area draining into the Kuskokwim River upstream from the 'down river boundary of Dick Nash's fish camp, on the South bank of the river and the 'down river' boundary of Sam Savage's fish camp, on the North bank of the river; and that area draining into Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) upstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) tramway (also known as Mud Creek to Johnson River Portage).

Create new boundary language for Unit 21 to read: That area draining into the Yukon River upstream from the "down river" boundary of...

(Note: All of the above-mentioned land marks are well known to all hunters in Units 18, 19, and 21. They are also very easy to locate on "up-to-date" maps. It would also make it easier for the "map makers" to draw in the affected drainages.)

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(n) Unit regulations.

(18) Unit 18 consists of that area draining into the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers downstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut and the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea from Cape Newenham on the south to and including the Pastolik River drainage on the north; Nunivak, St. Matthew, and adjacent islands between Cape Newenham and the Pastolik River.

(19) Unit 19 consists of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from a straight line drawn between Lower Kalskag and Paimiut:

(21) Unit 21 consists of drainages into the Yukon River upstream from Paimiut to, but not

including, the Tozitna River drainage on the north bank, and to, but not including, the Tanana River drainage on the south bank; and excluding the Koyukuk River drainage upstream from the Dulbi River drainage:

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted, the geographic descriptions for Units 18, 19 and 21 would differ between the State and Federal regulations. Note: if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions to correspond.

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 92.450 Game Management Units. Housekeeping modifications to game management unit and subunit boundaries in Units 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 25.

(6) Game Management Unit 6 consists of all Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound drainages from the center line of Icy Bay (excluding the Guyot Hills) to Cape Fairfield, including Kayak, Hinchinbrook, Montague, and adjacent islands, and Middleton Island, but excluding the Copper River drainage upstream from Miles Glacier **and those drainages on the north side of Miles Glacier,** and excluding the Nellie Juan and Kings River drainages;

(11) Game Management Unit 11 consists of that area draining into [THE HEADWATERS OF] the Copper River [SOUTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK AND THE AREA DRAINED BY ALL TRIBUTARIES INTO THE EAST BANK OF THE COPPER RIVER BETWEEN THE CONFLUENCE OF SUSLOTA CREEK WITH THE SLANA RIVER AND MILES GLACIER] **from the north side of Miles Glacier, and east of the eastern most bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier north to the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, then south of the south bank of Suslota Creek to Noyes Mountain,**

(13) Game Management Unit 13 consists of that area westerly of the **eastern most [EAST] bank** of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier **north to the confluence with the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, and that area of the Slana River drainage north of Suslota Creek [AND INCLUDING THE SLANA RIVER DRAINAGES NORTH OF SUSLOTA CREEK];** the drainages into the Delta River...

(A) Unit 13(A) consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the Chickaloon River bridge at Mile 77.7 on the Glenn Highway, then along the Glenn Highway to its junction with the Richardson Highway, [THEN SOUTH ALONG THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY TO THE FOOT OF SIMPSON HILL AT MILE 111.5,] then east to the east bank of the Copper River, then northerly along the east bank of the Copper to its junction with the Gulkana River, ...

(B) Unit 13(B) consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of the Copper River and the Gulkana River, then up the east bank of the Copper River to the Gakona River, then up the **east bank of the** Gakona River and Gakona Glacier to the boundary of Unit 13, then westerly...

(C) Unit 13(C) consists of that portion of Unit 13 east of the east bank of the Gakona River and Gakona Glacier;

(14) (A) Unit 14(A) consists of drainages in Unit 14 bounded on the west [BY] beginning at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary along longitude line 150°30'00" to the mouth of the Susitna River, then north along the east bank of the Susitna River, on the north by the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to its headwaters, then east along the hydrologic divide separating the Susitna River and Knik Arm drainages to the outlet creek at lake 4408, on the east by the eastern boundary of Unit 14, and on the south by Cook Inlet, Knik Arm, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary to the Glenn Highway bridge, then to the south bank of Knik Arm, then to the south bank of the Knik River from its mouth to its junction with Knik Glacier, across the face of Knik Glacier and along the north side of Knik Glacier to the Unit 6 boundary;

(16) Game Management Unit 16 consists of the drainages into Cook Inlet between Redoubt Creek and the Susitna River, including Redoubt Creek drainage, Kalgin Island, and the drainages on the west side of the Susitna River (including the Susitna River) upstream to its junction with the Chulitna River; the drainages into the west side of the Chulitna River (including the Chulitna River) upstream to the Tokositna River (including the Tokositna River), and drainages into the south side of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier, including the drainage of the Kanitula Glacier;

(25) (B) Unit 25(B) consists of the Little Black River drainage upstream from but not including the Big Creek drainage, the Black River drainage upstream from and including the Salmon Fork drainage, the Porcupine River drainage upstream from the confluence of the Coleen and Porcupine Rivers, and drainages into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle, including the Yukon River and islands in the Yukon River upstream from Circle;

Current Federal Regulations:

§ .26 Subsistence taking of wildlife.

(n) Unit regulations.

(6) Unit 6 consists of all Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound drainages from the center line of Icy Bay (excluding the Guyot Hills) to Cape Fairfield including Kayak, Hinchinbrook, Montague, and adjacent islands, and Middleton Island, but excluding the Copper River drainage upstream from Miles Glacier, and excluding the Nellie Juan and Kings River drainages:

(11) Unit 11 consists of that area draining into the headwaters of the Copper River south of Suslota Creek and the area drained by all tributaries into the east bank of the Copper River between the confluence of Suslota Creek with the Slana River and Miles Glacier.

(13) Unit 13 consists of that area westerly of the east bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier and including the Slana River drainages north of Suslota Creek; the drainages into the Delta River upstream from Falls Creek and Black Rapids Glacier; the drainages into the Nenana River upstream from the southeast corner of Denali National Park at Windy; the drainage into the Susitna River upstream from its junction with the Chulitna River; the drainage into the east bank of the Chulitna River upstream to its confluence with Tokositna River; the drainages of the Chulitna River (south of

Denali National Park) upstream from its confluence with the Tokositna River; the drainages into the north bank of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier; the drainages into the Tokositna Glacier; the drainages into the east bank of the Susitna River between its confluences with the Talkeetna and Chulitna Rivers; the drainages into the north and east bank of the Talkeetna River including the Talkeetna River to its confluence with Clear Creek, the eastside drainages of a line going up the south bank of Clear Creek to the first unnamed creek on the south, then up that creek to lake 4408, along the northeast shore of lake 4408, then southeast in a straight line to the northern most fork of the Chickaloon River; the drainages into the east bank of the Chickaloon River below the line from lake 4408; the drainages of the Matanuska River above its confluence with the Chickaloon River:

(13)(A) Unit 13A consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the Chickaloon River bridge at Mile 77.7 on the Glenn Highway, then along the Glenn Highway to its junction with the Richardson Highway, then south along the Richardson Highway to the foot of Simpson Hill at Mile 111.5, then east to the east bank of the Copper River, then northerly along the east bank of the Copper River to its junction with the Gulkana River, then northerly along the west bank of the Gulkana River to its junction with the West Fork of the Gulkana River, then westerly along the west bank of the West Fork of the Gulkana River to its source, an unnamed lake, then across the divide into the Tyone River drainage, down an unnamed stream into the Tyone River, then down the Tyone River to the Susitna River, then down the southern bank of the Susitna River to the mouth of Kosina Creek, then up Kosina Creek to its headwaters, then across the divide and down Aspen Creek to the Talkeetna River, then southerly along the boundary of Unit 13 to the Chickaloon River bridge, the point of beginning;

(13)(B) Unit 13B consists of that portion of Unit 13 bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of the Copper River and the Gulkana River, then up the east bank of the Copper River to the Gakona River, then up the Gakona River and Gakona Glacier to the boundary of Unit 13, then westerly along the boundary of Unit 13 to the Susitna Glacier, then southerly along the west bank of the Susitna Glacier and the Susitna River to the Tyone River, then up the Tyone River and across the divide to the headwaters of the West Fork of the Gulkana River, then down the West Fork of the Gulkana River to the confluence of the Gulkana River and the Copper River, the point of beginning;

(13)(C) Unit 13C consists of that portion of Unit 13 east of the Gakona River and Gakona Glacier;

(14)(A) Unit 14A consists of drainages in Unit 14 bounded on the west by the east bank of the Susitna River, on the north by the north bank of Willow Creek and Peters Creek to its headwaters, then east along the hydrologic divide separating the Susitna River and Knik Arm drainages to the outlet creek at lake 4408, on the east by the eastern boundary of Unit 14, and on the south by Cook Inlet, Knik Arm, the south bank of the Knik River from its mouth to its junction with Knik Glacier, across the face of Knik Glacier and along the north side of Knik Glacier to the Unit 6 boundary;

(16) Unit 16 consists of the drainages into Cook Inlet between Redoubt Creek and the Susitna River, including Redoubt Creek drainage, Kalgin Island, and the drainages on the west side of the Susitna River (including the Susitna River) upstream to its confluence with the Chulitna River; the drainages into the west side of the Chulitna River (including the Chulitna River) upstream to the Tokositna River, and drainages into the south side of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier, including the drainage of the Kahiltna Glacier:

(25)(B) Unit 25B consists of the Little Black River drainage upstream from but not including the Big Creek drainage, the Black River drainage upstream from and including the Salmon Fork drainage, the Porcupine River drainage upstream from the confluence of the Coleen and Porcupine Rivers, and drainages into the north bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle, including the islands in the Yukon River;

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted, the geographic descriptions for Units 6, 11, 13, 13A, 13B, 13C, 14A 16 and 25B would differ between the State and Federal regulations. Note: if the Board adopts these changes, the Federal Subsistence Board would need to take parallel action in order for boundary descriptions to align.

Proposal 51 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend all trapping season dates ending on February 28 to incorporate leap year, February. 29.

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(2) Coyote		
Unit 14(C)	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(3) Fox, arctic, white, or blue		
Units 9 and 10	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 24 and 25	Nov. 1 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(4) Fox, red (including the cross, black, or silver color phases)		
Units 6, 9 - 11, 13, 14, excluding Chugach State Park, and 16	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 7, 14(C) within Chugach State Park, and 15	Nov. 10 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	One per season.
Unit 8	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	No limit.
Units 20, except 20(E), 21, 24, and 25	Nov. 1 - Feb. 29 [FEB. 28]	No limit.

(5) Lynx		
Units 7, 11, and 13 - 16	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.
Units 8 and 10	No open season.	
Units 6 and 9	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 20(A), 20(B), 20(C) east of the Teklanika River, 20(D), and 25(C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30 Dec. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	2 lynx No limit
Unit 20(F) and remainder of Unit 20(C)	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 19	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 21	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 22, 23, and 26	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	No limit.
Unit 24	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Remainder of Unit 25	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(6) Marten		
Units 6, 9, 11, 13, and 17	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 12, 19 - 21, 24, and 25	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(7) Mink and weasel		
Units 6, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 17	Nov. 10 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 18	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	No limit.
Units 12, 19 - 21, 24, and 25	Nov. 1 - <u>Feb. 29</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
(9) Otter, land		

<i>Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 1 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Mink and Weasel</i>		
<i>Units 9, 10, 11, 13 and 17</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 1 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Muskrat</i>		
<i>Unit 17</i>	<i>2 muskrat</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>River Otter</i>		
<i>Units 7, 14C and 15</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Wolf</i>		
<i>Unit 14C</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Wolverine</i>		
<i>Units 6, 7, 9, 10, 14C, 15B, 15C, 16 and 17</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Unit 11</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 10 – Feb 28</i>
<i>Units 12, 20 and 25C</i>	<i>No limit</i>	<i>Nov 1 – Feb 28</i>

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

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

Rationale: If this proposal is adopted it would provide trappers an additional day to harvest during leap years. There should be minimal impacts the wildlife populations being trapped by adding an additional day to the harvest season every four years. If this proposal is adopted the Federal Subsistence Board should consider taking parallel action in order for the seasons to be in alignment.

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4190
FAX: (907) 465-8142

May 1, 2006

Kathy Simpson
P.O. Box 856
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Dear Ms. Simpson:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding possession of two-humped camels in Alaska. As I mentioned on the phone the other day, two-humped camels are not on the "clean list" of species that may be possessed as a pet in Alaska. I have enclosed a copy of the "clean list" as well as the text of the regulation. Section (h) describes the conditions that must be met before a species can be added to the clean list. The Board of Game will not consider requests to add new species until the statewide meeting in 2010.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 907-465-4148 or by email at karen_blejwas@fishgame.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Karen Blejwas
Wildlife Biologist, Permits Section

Document compiled by
Edith Wilson
Anchorage Alaska
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Comments:

Regarding proposal 20-22

Board Members:

I wish to respond to the recommendation by the State of Alaska to deny the adoption of our proposal to de-list Bengal and Savannah cats. I will argue that the author of the States proposal did insufficient research to justify his recommendation.

The author of the States Recommendation argues;

“The proponents contend the hybrids are recognized breeds of domestic cat rather than hybrids of wild cats. The Department vigorously disagrees with this assertion. Similar to wolf hybrids, simply because a hybrid animal shares some characteristics of appearance and behavior of a domestic animal, does not make it a domestic animal.” **This statement is inaccurate.**

The author could not have been given the time to properly research these new cat breeds. The author also fails to recognize that the **majority of the United States, Europe and much of the World recognize the domestic nature of these cats and list them as a domestic breed.** By the 3rd generation, very little of the wild gene remains, and since the “wild” progenitors are widely recognized as the ancestors of the domestic cat, no aberrant or “wild behavior” has been identified. **Please keep in mind, by the 3rd generation, a savannah male generally weighs around 14-15 lbs; the females much less. Contrast that if you will, with my male ragdoll cat, which weighs 20 lbs or a Maine Coon, which may weigh 30 lbs.**

Please also keep in mind that even the common house cat is considered “tame” and not truly “domestic”. Any feline left to its own devices readily returns to a feral state. Who has not heard of a house cat which, having delivered in some secret place, reared a feral brood?

As you consider our requests to amend state regulations and allow these new breeds to be owned in Alaska, please review the regulations of states listed as a guide of how the Board might proceed. (This is a partial list given the limit of research time and the problematic issue of finding regulatory information for a breed classified as domestic by most states)

California - no restrictions in CA on *any* generation hybrid.

CT- No hybrids other than Bengals registered with an International cat registry up to the 4th generation; after that no restrictions.

D.C. - No cats descended from ocelots or margays.

GA - No restrictions on cats recognized by registration in a National or International cat registry, no restrictions of any kind after 4th generation.

ID - Only 1st generation hybrids are prohibited.

IN - Only 1st and 2nd generations prohibited.

KS - Small domestic hybrid cats are not prohibited.

MASS - No prohibition after 3rd generation.

MD - No hybrids over 30#.

NH - No prohibition on 4th generation and beyond.

NY - Any cat breed registered by T.I.C.A., A.F.C. or C.F.A. are not prohibited.

UT - Bans any hybrid **not** recognized by T.I.C.A.

VT - Cats F4 and beyond are considered domestic.

Please also consider the following information which was collected from the International Bengal Cat Society (TIBCS) when considering that the countries below do not prohibit cat breeds recognized by national and international registries. (TICA, TIBS, AFC, CFA)

Those with a star (*) are rabies free countries.

*Australia	Canada	Mexico
*Denmark	Colombia	Netherlands
*Finland	Czech Republic	Oman
*Iceland	Estonia	Poland
*Norway	France	Portugal
*New Zealand	Germany	Russia
*United Kingdom	Indonesia	Singapore
*Sweden	Italy	South Africa
Austria	Japan	Spain
Belgium	Malaysia	Switzerland
Brazil	Malta	
Thailand	America	
United States of America		

I would agree that the State of Alaska should consider carefully how to proceed. I agree that hybrids of the large panthera species, and certainly endangered felines, should be carefully regulated. You may also wish to follow others by requiring license to own the first generation (F1) hybrid; however, I feel a **wise compromise regarding the f2 and lower generations, would best serve the State without alienating the general public.** Rather than giving into the misunderstandings of, and the misinformation unwittingly supplied by the author of The Department of F&G's recommendation; I implore you to read the articles and review the expert testimony provided with an open mind. It would be a shame to needlessly burden the department of Fish and Game with unnecessary action; as these hard working individuals are pressed enough keeping us safe from threat and fulfilling their mandate.

Please allow me to add at this point that the author of the State recommendation states, "...the department does not condone violation of regulations nor do we believe those who have knowingly done so should be rewarded by the state."

Let me bear witness; when I researched buying a savannah cat and, at the request of the breeder, notified the department of fish and game about my interest in buying a new domestic breed with intent to import to Alaska; I was told that there are no regulations against owning a domestic cat. Therein lies the rub; what is recognized by my home state and much of the world as a domestic cat, Alaska does not. So please understand, none of us intended to do wrong, we were misinformed and misled by a confusion in terminology and inconsistent regulation. **It is my hope that the Board with understand the problem we face is more about semantics than science.**

Allow me address the States arguments point by point:

1) Is the species capable of surviving the wild in Alaska?

The states position is YES and gives the example of a “feral” Savannah cat which survived a winter in Alaska. **This statement is inaccurate.** The cat referred to was new to the owner, bolted through the legs of a visitor and became lost in a new environment. It was lost in the **summer**, and was nearly dead when captured in the fall; having lost approximately 50% of its body mass, the treating Veterinarian stated (as relayed by the owner) it was very near death and would surely have died before winter arrived. Please know; this cat is an earlier generation, had probably been bottle reared and would have had to teach it’s self to hunt. Far from being feral, it was a lost and frightened adolescent. Also bear in mind; as a “new” breed, these cats are extremely expensive and no owner would intentionally risk their investment by allowing one outside without restraint. The point is then made, by the author that cross breeding with native lynx may result in more capable predators.

The author fails to take into consideration that **hybrid males are infertile to the 4th generation** and would be **unable to breed anything. All male and female pets must be spayed or neutered before ownership is approved. Crossbreeding therefore is not an issue.** Breeding males and females are extremely expensive and once again, very unlikely to be allowed out of doors without restraint. You should also be made aware that this breed is most often the result of pairing with oriental short hair breeds, and have very fine, thin, short coats; **coats completely inadequate to protect them during an Alaskan winter.**

2) Is the species capable of causing genetic alteration of a species indigenous to Alaska?

The author states: Unknown. **It is Known; No.** Once again; because males are heterogametic, they are sterile to the 4th generation. Please take a moment to familiarize yourselves with Haldane’s Rule of gamete inheritance. An explanation of this effect is readily available on the web.

Because the males are infertile they are most often offered up as pets, and the breeding quality females are withheld by TICA breeders to further the breed. It is also important That you realize only the first generation (F1) females inherit increased size. Size diminishes rapidly with each succeeding generation until by the 2nd generation; they are no larger than the common house cat. Please, again note; **all pet quality savannah, bengal and chausie cats must be spayed or neutered before ownership is approved.** Because breeding quality females are still rare and expensive, it is unlikely anyone would offer one up to a lynx. There is no documentation that it has even been attempted. However it is known that Lynx have taken domestic cats as prey. It’s no stretch to conclude that if a female “hybrid” found herself confronted by a lynx, she would more likely be **“dinner than date.”**

3) Is the species capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species indigenous to Alaska? The author states; Unknown.

Again, **it is known; No.** Once again the author did not thoroughly research the breeds and the requirements of ownership. One condition of ownership, and an article of a contract each potential owner must sign, is that the pet will be an indoor cat only;

allowed out of doors only under restraint and subject to confiscation by the breeder if the contract is not honored. I cannot stress enough that these new breeds are still rare and quite costly. One must contrast this with the common domestic cat, which can be seen on any given day wondering freely about town; then **conclude that the common domestic cat is the greater threat.**

The author then goes so far as to suggest these cats, if loosed, would hunt other cats for food. This is completely spurious. With the exception of the F1 there is no significant size difference. In the wild, the progenitor occupies the same ecological niche as any other small feline. It preys on small rodents and birds; they **do not prey on each other.** All my research indicates that far from being aggressive with other cats, an escaped early generation savannah would likely revert to the reclusive and nocturnal habits of the progenitor species until death from exposure to this harsh climate.

- 4) **Is the species capable of transmitting a disease to species indigenous to Alaska?** The Author states: Yes. He then adds it is quite worrisome. **Again, I must disagree with this author. It is clear that these cats present no greater, and perhaps even less danger, than the common house cat. Not only do these breeds exhibit hybrid vigor, they are thoroughly vetted from birth.** As to the threat of rabies, I will provide research to indicate the state need not be any more concerned than with any other domestic pet.

Please consider carefully the arguments below.

Addressing Rabies Fears:

The author quotes the CDC as saying; because of rabies fears no hybrid animal should be owned. This statement is too general to use in this context. Which hybrid animals? The author chose to focus on the term hybrid rather than do further research.

According to Ron Hines DVM PhD; The **“Grand Masters” of wildlife disease, Drs. Richard J. Montali of Johns Hopkins University, Murry E. Fowler, The College of Veterinary Medicine, Davis CA and Mitch Bush of the Smithsonian National Zoo reported being able to produce antibody titers in large wild cats equal to those expected in domestic cats.**

Dr. Hines reports; “I use Emrab-3 by Merial (888 637-4251) (<http://www.merial.com>), at 12-18 weeks of age and then yearly. In some countries, Emrab-3 is marketed under the name, RABISIN. Others use Ft. Dodge’s Rabvac-3 (800 447-1365)

(http://abbott.com/animal_health/animal_health.html). Both products are killed virus.

Dr. Mitch Bush of the National Zoo, Washington, found that the 1 ml vial prepared for domestic cats produced serum titers (immunity) in tigers equal to those that protect house cats.

The Alaska State Veterinarian has related that no vaccines are approved by the FDA for use in wild animals. Dr. Hines article contradicts that information by reporting; “however no vaccines are approved by the United States F.D.A. for use in wild animals - **with the exception of Merial’s Raboral V-RG oral rabies vaccine (raboral@merial.com)**”.

So; having established that;

1) Large wild cats will seroconvert with rabies vaccine

2) An approved vaccine exists; let's revisit the so called threat of our small hybrid domestic cats. Bear in mind, after the first one or two generations, there is no difference in body mass from the common house cat, and that the felis species used in these programs are **not large wild cats**, but are referred to by taxonomists as **small wild cats or "the lesser wild cat"**.

Where do breeders procure the "wild" progenitors? The author seems to fear that these animals are being snatched from the wild; far from it. Breeding animals are from captive breeding programs already in place in the United States and Europe, or, they are zoo surplus animals needing to be re-homed. As such they have been; 1) Subject to the stringent laws and regulations governing such programs. 2) Never run free or been placed in danger of encountering another rabid animal. **All kittens are given the full complement of vaccines and are under veterinary care. Remember, these kittens command a high price, the breeders are very careful to fully vet all animals as per TICA mandate.** Please note that after reading the States Recommendation, I checked with my own Veterinarian of many years, and she was shocked that Pfizer Pharmaceuticals' research and claims of protection would be challenged by the state of Alaska.

The United states Department of Agriculture classifies our cats as domestic animals. As such, it is apparent they would fall under the same protection as any other domestic animal. The author of the States proposal invoked the name of the CDC; let us take a look as what the CDC has to say about rabies protection in small animals such as these cats.

'Within 28 days after initial vaccination, a peak rabies virus antibody titer is reached, and the animal can be considered immunized. An animal is considered currently vaccinated and immunized if the initial vaccination was administered at least 28 days previously or booster vaccinations have been administered in accordance with this compendium. Regardless of the age of the animal at initial vaccination, a booster vaccination should be administered 1 year later (see Parts II and III for vaccines and procedures). No laboratory or epidemiologic data exist to support the annual or biennial administration of 3 or 4 year vaccines following the initial series. Because a rapid anamnestic response is expected, an animal is considered currently vaccinated immediately after a booster vaccination.

a. Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets. All dogs, cats, and ferret should be vaccinated and revaccinated against rabies in accordance with Part III of this compendium. If a previously vaccinated animal is overdue for a booster, it should be revaccinated. Immediately following the booster, the animal is considered currently vaccinated and should be placed on a vaccination schedule according to the labeled duration of the vaccine used.

Finally, the members of the Board must be made aware the state Veterinarian failed to report; **testing exists to verify seroconversion** (the development of antibodies) after the administration of the rabies vaccine. These tests are known as: **RFFIT** or Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test and **FAVN**, Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization. Both these tests measure rabies virus neutralizing antibody titers. **In short: these tests are widely used to screen animals for import and export to rabies free zones such as Hawaii and Australia.** These tests are readily available. Please see the laboratory testing menu of Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories at: <http://www.vet.ksu.edu/edu/depts/dmp/service/rabies/rabfaq.htm>

Please also consider the following; **Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the Scandinavian countries, which are all rabies free zones, accept these breeds of cats under the same inoculation and quarantine restrictions as any other domestic cat.**

There have been **NO reported vaccine failures in these cats** in the decades these breeds have been in existence, and **NO reports of rabies in any of these breeds.**

In conclusion, members of the Board Review I believe, having read this research, you now realize

- Most of the nation, Europe and many other countries have awarded **domestic status** to these new breeds, some choosing only to regulate the F1-F2 generations.
- They pose no greater threat to wildlife or domestic animals than the common house cat.
- They cannot influence the genetic integrity of indigenous species.
- They are not, intentionally, allowed to roam unrestrained therefore pose no threat to indigenous small animals.
- They can easily be tested to confirm seroconversion after receiving rabies vaccination

Finally Board Members, I must ask you; why is the department of Fish and Game refusing to consider the mountains of empirical data regarding the lack of rabies in these breeds? Let's forget the lower 48 and the rest of the world for a moment. Let's forget the 20 plus years of empirical data gleaned by those governments. Let's assume at the borders of Alaska the virus mutates in some mysterious way and overcomes the immune system. Let's assume the vaccine which protects without question in the rest of the civilized world fails as the animal crosses the 49th parallel. By some miracle, in spite of the hundreds of plague ridden bengal and savannah cats in the state; some of which have lived here almost a decade, not one case of rabies has been identified and not a single one of the owners is frothing at the mouth. Now I must ask; why is the state refusing to consider the irrefutable value of the immune mediated response in evaluating the effectiveness of the rabies vaccines? It's the accepted standard of care when humans are tested. It's the same test, measuring the same response by the same pathways.

Now, I am confident; after reading this document and taking time to verify the information provided, your concerns will be put to rest and you will; you must, grant our request to add these beloved pets to the list of domestic animals we may own in Alaska.

Please realize that the arguments made by the author of the States recommendation were inadequately researched and perhaps prejudiced due to the term "hybrid".

Respectfully, hopefully yours,



Edith L. Wilson
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(907) 771-9808

Appendix

Jan. 27, 2010

Recent TICA news letter sent to “Save Alaska’s Cats” reports;

“It’s time to announce the top three favorite breed based on registrations”.

The Bengal is the most popular breed for 2009. After steady registrations of cats and litters, the **Bengal was crowned TICA’s most popular cat during 2009 with 6,264 cats and 2,974 litters registered; followed by**

Sphynx - 1,107 cats, 681 litters

Siberian- 819 cats, 563 litters

NFoundation Savannah – 580 cats, 454 litters.....

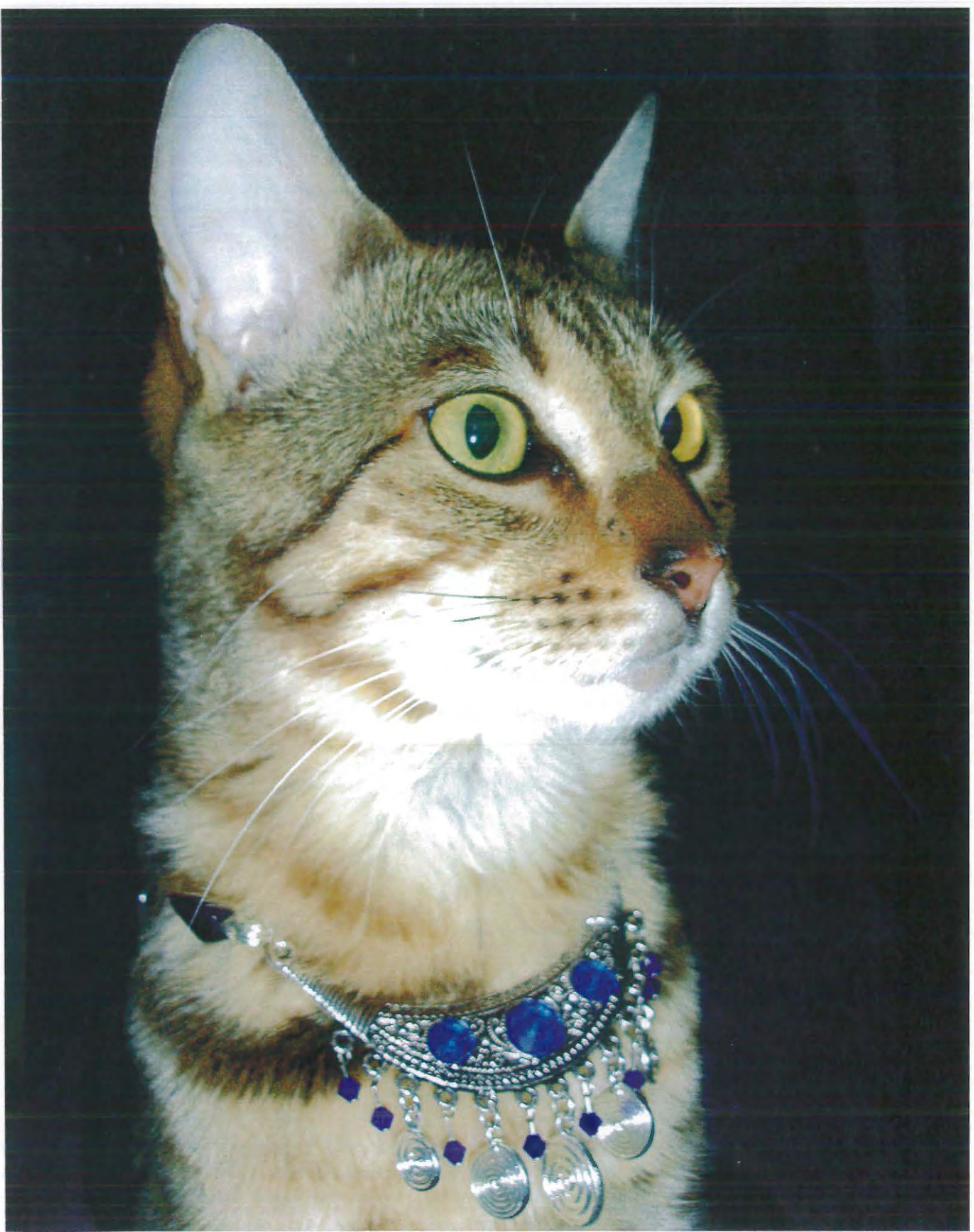
Board Members, 2 of the cat species currently illegal to own in Alaska are;

Among the top ten most popular cats in the nation; and yet, not a single case of rabies has been reported.

Comparative filial generation size as compared to common house cat

Filial Group	Breed	Average weight	Compare to
F1)	savannah	approx 25 lbs	maine coon breed
F2	savannah	approx 17 lbs	ragdoll breed
F3	savannah	approx 15 lbs	domestic short hair

Larger sizes are reported for each generation, but for the most part; sizes provided on Breeder’s pages tend to stress the largest male known of each filial group.





Alaska Native Funerary Ceremonies And Hunting Regulations

1

Proposals

- Proposal 11 and 13 would remove reference to customary and traditional use findings in 5AAC 92.019
- Proposal 12 only allow taking of moose for ceremonial purposes from game populations with positive C&T findings

2

Proposals II

- Proposal 14 would establish Ahtna criteria (tribal rules) for the ceremonial harvest of game in GMUs 13, 11, 12, and 20A.

3

Current Regulations

1. 5AAC 92.019 Taking big game for certain religious ceremonies, no permit required but pre-notification required
1. 5 AAC 92.017 Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony, no permit required and no pre-notification required
2. 5 AAC 92.053 Permit to take moose for Nuchalawoyya Potlatch, permit required
3. 5AAC 92.055 Stickdance, permit required

4

Administrative background I

Frank Decision, 1979

- Carlos Frank arrested 1975
- Convicted in district court, and conviction upheld by appeals court: although moose was desirable, not specifically required for a potlatch.
- In 1979 Alaska Supreme Court reversed the conviction, concluding that Frank's conduct was protected by the first amendment to the United States Constitution, and article I section 4 of the Alaska State Constitution.

5

Administrative background II

1980 Board of Game Finding 80-27-GB

Following the Frank decision the Board issued a letter of intent stating:

- It was preferable not to adopt regulations governing the taking of game for religious ceremonies
- An authoritative study religious ceremonies should be undertaken
- Taking of game for religious ceremonies should be informally administered by division of fish and wildlife protection.

6

Administrative background III 1987 Funeral Potlatch Report

Regulation 5 AAC 92.015 Funeral Potlatch report

- Submit a report not later than 15 days after the potlatch specifying
- Name and address of person taking the moose
- Location of take
- Name of decedent for whom the potlatch was held

7

Administrative background IV **5AAC 92.019 Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies**

- In 1996 the Board adopted regulations governing the taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. The result was 5AAC 92.019 which included a provision for reporting the harvest after the ceremony, but no prior notification.

8

Administrative Background V 2002 - 5 AAC 92.019 amended

The Board clarified which game populations were allowed for use in religious ceremonies by adding language requiring a positive customary and traditional finding before a species could be taken for religious ceremonies.

9

Administrative Background VI 2002 Further Board Actions

- Board amended 5AAC 92.019 again by requiring prior notification by a tribal chief, village council president, or their designee, or a hunter outside a village or tribal organization and reporting within 15 days of completion of hunt.
- The Board also established the Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony regulation 5 AAC 92.017, which does not require prior notification.

10

Definitions

Ceremony – A formal act performed as prescribed by ritual or custom.

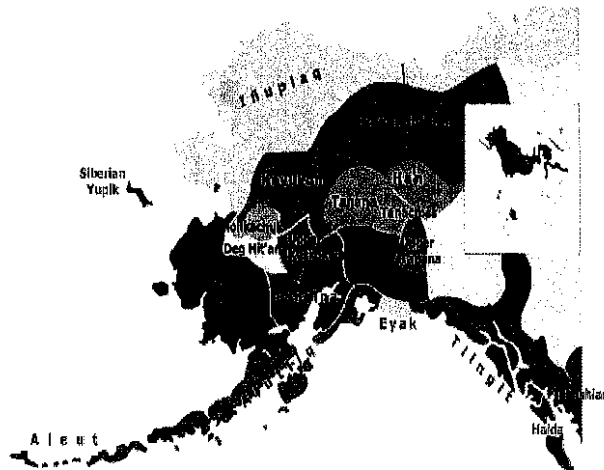
Rite – The prescribed form for a religious or other solemn ceremony (as in burial rites).

Ritual – The prescribed form of a ceremony, or customary or regular procedure.

Religion – Belief in and reverence for a supernatural power or powers regarded as a creator or governor of the universe (American Heritage Dictionary 4th ed.).

11

Alaska Native groups with known funerary ceremonies



- Ahtna
- Dena'ina or Tanaina
- Gwitch'in
- Deg Hit'an/Holikachuk
- Han
- Koyukon
- Tanana
- Upper Kuskokwim
- Upper Tanana
- Tanacross
- Eyak
- Tlingit
- Haida
- Tsimshian
- Yup'ik

12

Alaska Native Mortuary Rituals I

- Rituals spread over a period of time
- Include a funeral, funeral potlatch, and follow-up ceremony
- Funerals generally unanticipated events
- Concerned with immediate and proper treatment of deceased

13

Alaska Native Mortuary Rituals II

- Secondary ceremonies complete funeral cycle
- Are held after a specific length of time – 20, 40 days, or a year after funeral
- Timing depends on a number of variables
- Length of time to grieve
- Length of time to prepare
- Status of deceased

14

Alaska Native Mortuary Rituals III

- Potlatch is not to be confused with potluck
- Potlatch is formal distribution of food and goods
- Ritual distribution of food and goods associated with death of individual and has been practiced for generations.

15



Contemporary Athabascan Potlatch

- Potlatch is the ceremonial distribution of gifts and food in honor of the dead

16

One reason to hold a funeral is to commemorate a life change such as the death of individual.

A Funeral Potlatch is a part of the funeral.

A Memorial Potlatch is to commemorate the deceased a year or more after the funeral.



17

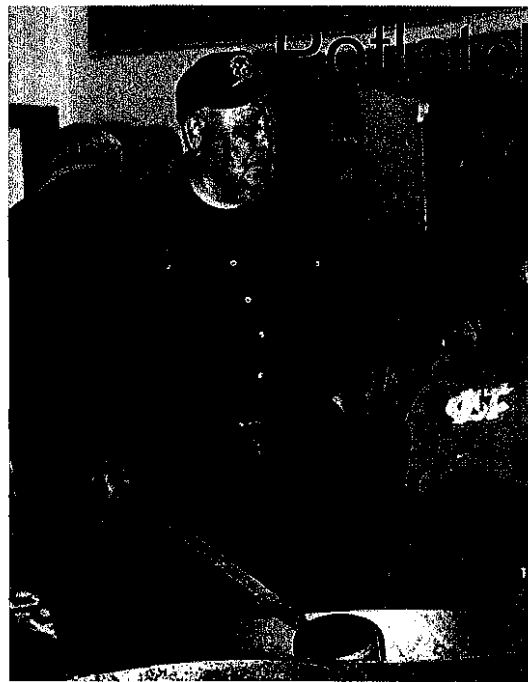


Sequence of events

- Preparation
- Invitation
- Feasting
- Dancing and Singing
- Distribution of gifts

18

Sharing of food is integral to the Athabaskan Potlatch



Potlatch Food

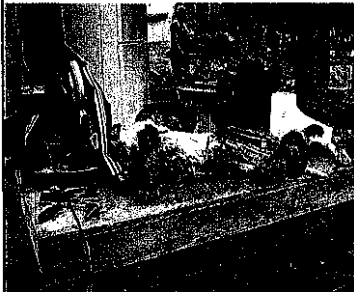
- Food served at potlatch is not everyday food
- It is obtained and consumed for the occasion

20

Wild meat is
cooked and served
by men



Moose Head Soup

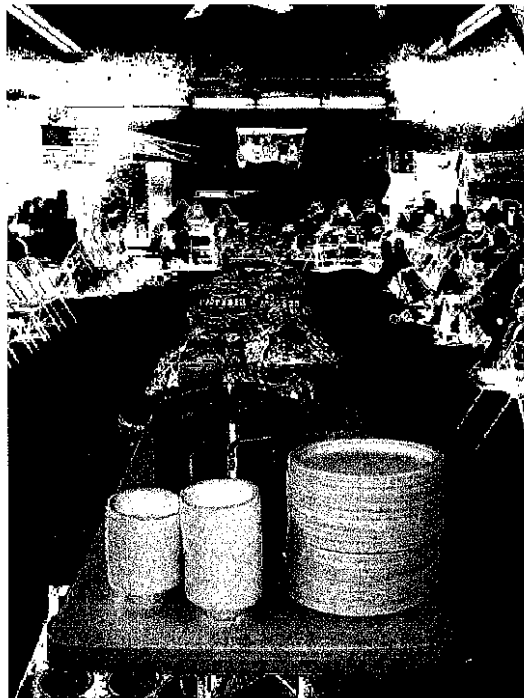


22

Moose soup and moose nose



23



- Food left over has to be given away to guests.
- No food obtained for the potlatch is to be retained by hosts.
- Wild food generally reserved for adults, special pieces served only to elders.

24

Dancing and Singing





THE END

January 27, 2010

Alaska Board of Game
Winter 2010 Meeting
Statewide Regulations, Cycle A
January 29 – February 1, 2010
Anchorage, Alaska

RC #
20

Mr Chairman

My name is Charlie Gregg, I am the Land Specialist at Northwest Arctic Borough and one of my duties is to work with the Guide/Transporter issue in Unit 23.

I will speak on Proposal 41, definition of edible meat. The proposal is to modify the definition of edible meat under the salvage requirement.

Northwest Arctic Borough oppose the proposal. In unit 23 we have a lot of drop hunters that stay in the field at least 4 to 5 days and there are times when the weather is warm in August and September. The hunters put their meat in black plastic bags and being in the bag for 4 or 5 days in the warm weather tends to spoil the meat and become inedible. To me this may lead to wanton waste by the hunters so they do not have to bring the meat back to their departing village. In the event a hunter claims the meat is inedible due to disease or spoilage the entire carcass including horns should remain in the field.

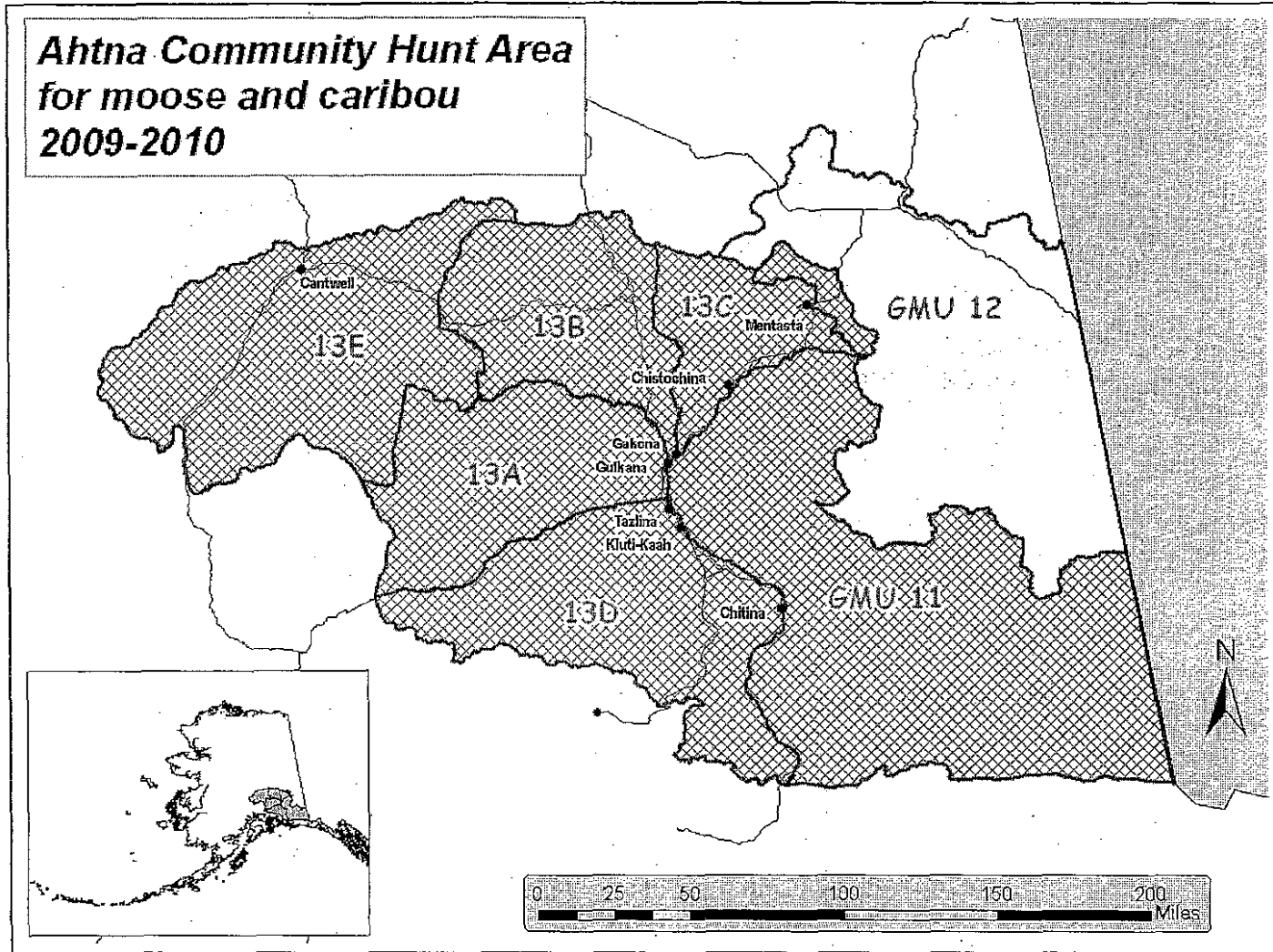
The transporter also has to decide what he can take back to a departing village from the field. He is limited on how much he can take because of FAA reg. The transporters will take the hunters, hunter's gear, antlers and because of the weight limit how much meat will be taken. Right now the state regulations state you must take hind quarters, front quarters, ribs, back bone, and back strap.

We have eleven villages in Unit 23 and the majority of the village residents are very dependent on subsistence resources such as caribou and moose for their food. The transporters drop off their hunters on the migration route of the caribou, which will deter caribou if you have a large number of hunters on the migration route of the caribou. When the caribou are deterred from their migration routes the local hunters have to travel further away from their village to harvest caribou and gas is very expensive in Unit 23. Having to buy more gas to harvest caribou is very burdensome because heating fuel, store bought goods, electricity, water & sewer and telephone are very expensive in the villages. If you have drop off hunters wasting meat so they don't have to take the meat back to their departing villages, then are they not guilty of wanton waste, where do you draw the line?

Charlie
Charlie R. Gregg
Northwest Arctic Borough
P.O. Box 1110
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Ahtna Community Harvest Hunt

Update – January 2010 Board of Game Meeting



RC2)

Becky Schwanke and Bob Tobey
Glennallen, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G

2009 Nelchina Caribou Preliminary Harvest

Annual Quota for 2009-2010: 1000 bulls (all hunts)

	<u># Permits Issued</u>	<u>Prelim. # Caribou Harvested</u>
Tier I State 'Registration' Hunt	500	257
Ahtna Community Hunt	413	81
Ahtna Sharing Hunters	59	20
BLM (Local) Federal Hunt FM513	1438	120
BLM (Nonlocal) Federal Hunt FM514	1094	112
Tetlin Refuge Federal Hunt	95	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3599	592

The BLM (Nonlocal) hunt refers to hunters from GMU 20D, the Delta Area

Preliminary as of 26 January 2010

2009 Moose Preliminary Harvest

GMU 13:

State

General Hunt	605
Resident Drawing Hunts	64
Nonres Drawing Hunts	12
BLM Local Federal Hunt FC513	44
BLM Nonlocal Federal Hunt FC514	17
Ahtna Community Hunt	
Any Bull Moose (85 total quota)	66
General Antler Rest. Moose	26

Prelim. # Moose Harvested (Total = 834)

Ahtna Any Bull Moose harvest	
<u>Subunit</u>	<u>Any Bull take (allocation)</u>
13A	15 (20)
13B	22 (25)
13C	10 (15)
13D	7 (10)
13E	12 (15)

GMU 11:

Ahtna Community Hunt

Any Bull Moose (15 quota)	0
General Antler Rest. Moose	1

Prelim. # Moose Harvested (Total = 52)

GMU 12:

Ahtna Community Hunt

Any Bull Moose (0 quota)	1
General Antler Rest. Moose	0

Prelim. # Moose Harvested (Total = 132)

*Preliminary as of 26 January 2010

Effect on Local Communities
Preliminary Caribou Data

	Tier II Caribou Hunt 2008-2009		Community Caribou Hunt 2009-2010 *preliminary as of 26 January 2010			
	successful	tot hunted	participants	successful	tot hunted	did not hunt
RESCOMM						
CANTWELL	10	31	60	16	21	4
CHISTOCHINA	1	9	15	0	0	1
CHITINA	2	5	6	2	4	2
KLUTI-KAAH	10	50	73	19	25	0
GAKONA	3	11	32	4	6	4
GULKANA	1	7	38	7	8	2
MENTASTA LAKE		1	25	0	1	1
TAZLINA	7	30	68	13	17	2
Unk Community			31	6	8	1
Cont. Comm. members			65	14	18	4
	34	144	413	81	108	21
Federal Caribou Taken: (Bag limit of 2/person) FC513	191			120		
Other State Take:	(38 Tier II by other locals)			10 (1 by other locals)	Tier I	
Total Caribou Taken:	225 (38 by other locals)			197 (15 by other locals*)		
				*incl. cont. comm. members		

Effect on Local Communities
Preliminary Moose Data

GMU 11 and 13 Moose hunting
Tier II and General Hunts
2008-2009

Community Moose Hunt **2009-2010**
*preliminary as of 26 January 2010

RESCOMM	2008-2009		2009-2010				
	successful	tot hunted	participants	successful	tot hunted	no report	didn't hunt
CANTWELL	19	45	59	22	38	14	7
CHISTOCHINA	2	11	15	3	6	7	2
CHITINA	2	21	6	1	5	1	0
KLUTI-KAAH	11	87	70	17	39	23	8
GAKONA	7	41	30	5	22	6	2
GULKANA	1	3	37	5	16	13	8
MENTASTA LAKE	0	4	25	2	5	15	5
TAZLINA	6	33	66	19	43	18	5
Unk Community			28	2	15	12	1
Cont. Comm. members			58	18	40	14	4
	48	245	394	94	229	123 (31%)	42

Federal Moose Taken:
FM313

46

44

State General
Moose Taken:

21 (27 by other locals)

16 (29 by other locals)

Total Moose Taken:

115 (27 by other locals)

136 (47 by other locals*)

*incl. cont. comm. members

Ahtna community hunt summary (1 of 2)

- Compared to 2008-2009, a similar number of state caribou permits were issued to Copper Basin residents this year, however the permit distribution shifted from those individuals with the longest recent history hunting the herd to the individual eight Ahtna villages, leaving many local residents at odds with one another
- Those who qualified, appreciated the hunt. They were given substantial allocations, long seasons and liberal bag limits for moose and caribou
- Some of the moose and caribou harvest by locals has shifted from the federal subsistence hunt to the Ahtna community hunt, given the additional lands open to hunting
- The total preliminary harvest numbers for both moose and caribou by local Copper Basin residents are very similar to last year, despite incredibly relaxed hunting seasons and bag limits under the Ahtna community hunt
- Some opportunity to participate in the hunt was provided for non-village residents, although the options were limited and temporary. The final court ruling may further alter these opportunities
- Several moose (35) and caribou (25) were harvested by designated hunters, which was very helpful for those who would have otherwise not had that opportunity under current state proxy regulations

Ahtna community hunt summary 2

- The Ahtna community hunt is complex and many community hunt participants are confused and unsure about multiple aspects of this hunt
 - Documented violations thus far include: taking any-bull moose where no allocations were made, taking caribou or moose during a closed season, not validating one's harvest ticket, failure to report, and probably the most common violation was holding another moose or caribou permit or harvest ticket for the same regulatory year
- The hunt administrator had a difficult time adhering to the Community Harvest Permit conditions, largely due to poor hunter compliance. The final moose report received 7 January 2010 from Ahtna was incomplete (due date 15 October 2009) and there are outstanding data requests by ADF&G that have not been met
 - Application information is still missing for approximately 70 hunters. Additionally, almost 60 moose harvest ticket numbers are missing, as well as 160 caribou harvest ticket numbers
 - Unissued harvest tickets have yet to be accounted for
 - Of 394 moose hunters, 123 moose reports are outstanding; a 31% non-reporting rate
- Once the caribou hunt ends, Ahtna will be required to submit a final caribou hunt report by 15 April 2010
- Given the length and complexity of this hunt, as well as the high number of participants, we recommend some changes in how this hunt is administered, if permitted again in 2010-2011

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RC22

**Report to the Board of Game on the first year of the Gulkana, Cantwell,
Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah
Community Harvest Hunt Area**

29 January – 1 February 2010
Winter 2010 Board of Game Meeting
Anchorage, AK
Statewide Regulations, Cycle A

Becky Schwanke and Bob Tobey
Area Management Staff
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bob.tobey@alaska.gov
P.O. Box 47
Glennallen, AK 99588
907-822-3461

Summary

The State Tier II Nelchina Caribou hunt was eliminated in 2009 and replaced with a Tier I hunt and a community hunt. The Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah Community Hunt for moose and caribou was implemented August 2009. Since these are the eight Ahtna villages in the region, this hunt is referred to as the Ahtna community hunt. While the State is the hunt manager, Ahtna Inc. is the hunt administrator. This is a complex hunt, with over 400 current participants. There are four types of Ahtna community hunt participants: community hunters, continuous community membership hunters, sharing hunters, and designated hunters. The hunt area includes all of Game Management Unit (GMU) 11, 13, and a portion of 12 south of the Tok River drainage. Moose can be taken in all 3 units, though Nelchina caribou may be taken only in GMU 13. The moose hunt has ended, however the caribou hunt remains open at this time and is expected to run through 31 March. Both historic and current hunting traditions for locals show they will hunt moose and/or caribou in the local area each year through whichever federal or state regulation applies at the time. The total take of moose and caribou by local area residents this year appears very similar to 2008-2009. A preliminary total of 94 moose were taken in the community hunt. Of those, 67 were considered any-bull moose and did not meet general antler restrictions. A preliminary total of 101 caribou have also been taken. Many community hunters have failed to abide by hunt conditions. Hunt administration was difficult for Ahtna, and they failed to meet several Community Harvest Area permit conditions as a result. If the community hunt is continued in 2010-2011, there must be substantial changes to the administration of this hunt to ensure hunter understanding and compliance both for harvest control and to ensure conservation concerns are met.

5509

Background

In 2007, the Nelchina Community Hunt Area was established for GMU 13 based Caribou and Moose Subsistence Use Findings (#2006 – 170 – BOG). No community hunt administrator applications were received, and no community hunt took place in 2007 or 2008. In March 2009, the Ahtna Tene Nene' Subsistence and Traditional Use Committee applied to the Board of Game to be a community hunt administrator, although they requested some specific changes to the hunt area and hunt details. The result was the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah (Ahtna) Community Harvest Area for moose and caribou.

Location

The hunt area consists of Game Management Unit (GMU) 11 and 13, and a portion of GMU 12 south of the Tok River and Little Tok River (Figure 1).

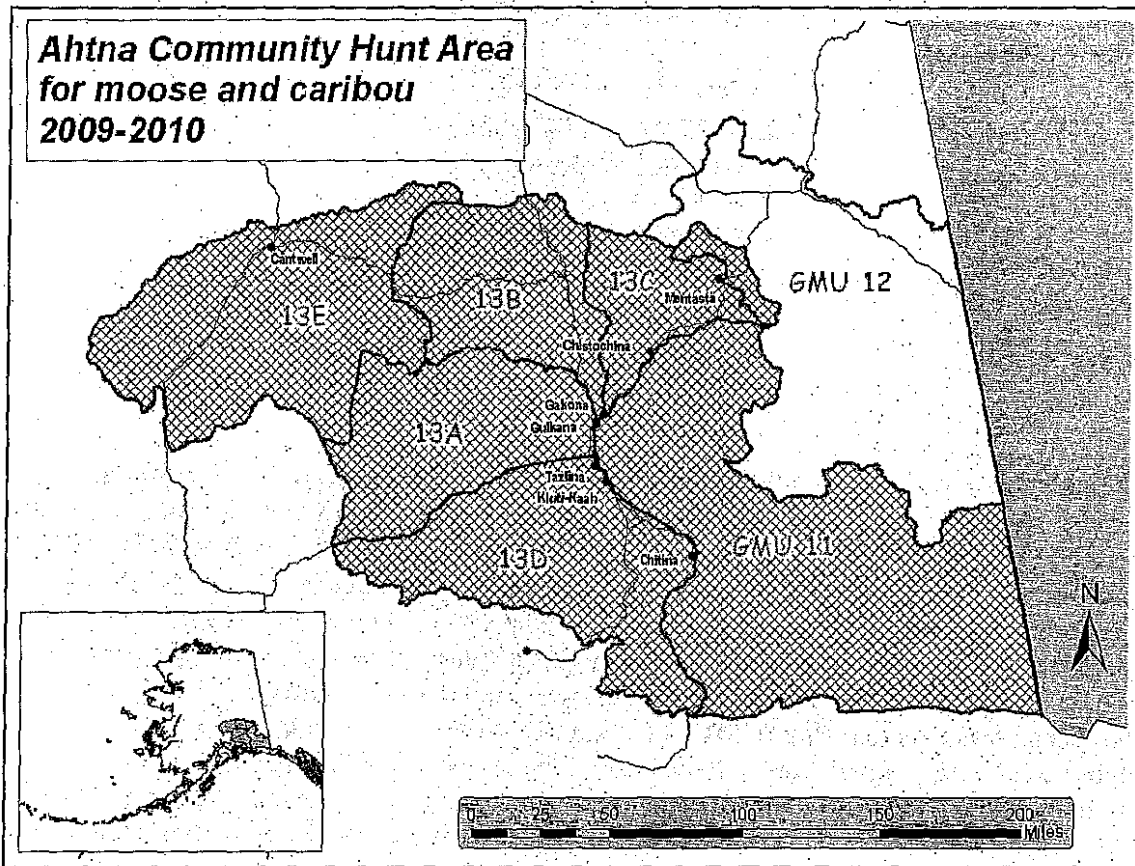


Figure 1. Ahtna Community Hunt Area map 2009-2010.

Eligibility

All residents of the eight Ahtna villages (as described in the Ahtna Community Hunt Plan) are able to participate as full community hunters. These hunters are each issued a moose and a caribou harvest ticket. All other Alaska residents are eligible to participate as designated hunters; they are not issued harvest tickets but can hunt on behalf of ticket holders. All hunt participants were required to apply, regardless of hunter status.

Additional options for participation were added following a court order issued 29 June 2009 by the Honorable Carl Bauman, Superior Court Judge in Kenai. He ordered the residency requirements of the Community Harvest Permit be removed specifically for the 2009 Unit 13 caribou hunt. He also ordered that at least one sharing opportunity for non-Ahtna village residents must be provided, at a location to be determined by the community hunt administrator. A sharing potlatch was held at the Kluti-Kaah memorial hall in Copper Center 3 October 2009 with an open invitation for anyone to attend.

In response to the court order a Continuous Community Membership Support form was developed for "continuous community hunters". This form allows any Alaska resident to fully participate in the community hunt, as long as they have an Ahtna village sponsor. The form states that the applicant has continuous community membership through a pattern of participation over at least one year with one of the eight Ahtna villages, including participation in the community's customary and traditional subsistence patterns and practices. These hunters are each issued a moose and a caribou harvest ticket.

Also in response to the court order, a Sharing Hunt application was developed for the caribou portion of the hunt. All Alaska residents were eligible to become "sharing hunters" for a community caribou harvest ticket through this option, with the caveat they share at least two quarters, including one hind quarter, with Ahtna. The meat was to be distributed as needed.

Bag Limit and Season Dates

The Ahtna Community Hunt was implemented in 2009-2010. For this regulatory year, the BOG established an upper limit of 300 caribou, and 100 any-bull moose for this hunt. The BOG allowed ADF&G to specify where the any-bull moose could be taken to be consistent with the sustained yield principle. An unlimited number of general antler restricted moose could also be taken (in accordance with the GMU specific general season bag limit; BT = brow tines).

The moose and caribou allocations and community hunt season dates by subunit are listed below:

<u>GMU</u>	<u>'Any-bull' moose</u>	<u>spike/fork, 50", 4BT moose</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
12*	0	Unlimited	8/24-8/28; 9/8-9/17
13A	20	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13B	25	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13C	15	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13D	10	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13E	15	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept

<u>GMU</u>	<u>'Any-bull' moose</u>	<u>spike/fork, 5", 3BT moose</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
11	15	Unlimited	10 Aug - 20 Sept

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Caribou</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
11	0	None
12	0	None
13	300 in Unit 13 total	10 Aug – 20 Sept/21 Oct – 31 March

* To hunt moose in the open portion of GMU 12, community hunters must follow the general season bag limit and season dates. Additional opportunity was deemed inconsistent with sustained yield.

The community hunt season and bag limits for moose are the same or more liberal than the State general season, and similar to the federal subsistence season. The season dates and bag limits are as follows:

GMU	State Season	State Bag Limit	Federal Season	Federal Bag Limit
12	8/24-8/28; 9/8-9/17	spike/fork, 50", 4BT moose	<i>no federal season in this hunt area</i>	
13	1 Sept – 20 Sept.	spike/fork, 50", 4BT moose	1 Aug – 20 Sept	1 antlered bull
11	20 Aug – 20 Sept	spike/fork, 50", 3BT moose	20 Aug – 20 Sept	1 antlered bull

The season dates for the community caribou hunt in GMU 13 are the same as the State Tier I hunt as well as the federal subsistence hunt. All GMU 13 caribou hunts were limited to bulls only for 2009-2010. There are no caribou hunts in GMU 11 or the community hunt portion of GMU 12.

Hunt Administration

The Ahtna Tene Nene' Subsistence Committee, with assistance from ADF&G, developed a Community Hunt Plan prior to the start of the hunt, as well as an informative Frequently Asked Questions document. These documents, as well as applications and pertinent press releases are available on the Ahtna Inc. website (<http://www.ahtna-inc.com>) as well as at the individual Ahtna tribal offices.

Official numbered moose and caribou harvest tickets/reports were printed by ADF&G. Ahtna received 200 antler restricted and 300 any-bull moose harvest tickets, and 500 caribou harvest tickets. Harvest tickets were complete with season dates and bag limit for each GMU. Applications were collected and hunters were approved or denied by the hunt administrator. Each qualified hunter was then issued a moose and a caribou harvest ticket.

Initially, due to a concern for overharvest, two different moose harvest tickets were issued. Those hunters who were over 65 years of age, disabled, single parents, or widows were issued any-bull moose harvest tickets, all others received antler-restricted moose harvest tickets. Both harvest tickets allowed hunting prior to the general season in GMU 11 and 13 (the general season had to be followed in the open portion of GMU 12). During the first 3 weeks of the season (10 Aug – 31 Aug), only 15 any-bull moose had been harvested. Beginning 3 Sept. Ahtna began issuing any-bull moose harvest tickets to all new applicants, and replaced previously issued antler-restricted harvest tickets with any-bull harvest tickets upon request.

Copies of applications and received hunt reports were given to ADF&G for data entering and coding. Due to the stringent any-bull moose limits for each subunit, weekly reports were required from the hunt administrator (some of these were partial reports from hunters that called in).

On 17 September, Ahtna issued a closure to the any-bull portion of the moose hunt in GMU 13A and 13E to avoid going over the subunit allocations.

At some point after the moose hunt ended, Ahtna sent a reminder letter to community moose hunters who had not reported. Specifics of this reminder system were not provided to the Department.

Moose Harvest

A preliminary total of 394 hunters signed up for the community moose hunt. Of those hunters, 58 reside outside the eight Ahtna villages, and participated through the continuous community membership option. An additional 26 hunters signed up only as designated hunters. A preliminary total of 94 bull moose were harvested. Of those, 67 (71%) were 'any-bulls', meaning they did not meet general hunt antler restrictions. Of the moose taken, 35 (37%) were harvested by designated hunters (not all of whom applied). Of the successful hunters, 75 (80%) indicated sharing with family and friends; 17 (18%) were shared with communities outside the Copper Basin.

As of 20 January, only 271 (69%) of the moose hunters had reported. Of the reports received, 229 (85%) reported hunting and 41% were successful. Of all the moose harvest tickets issued (394), only 58% reported hunting and 24% were successful.

Figure 2 shows the harvest by minor coded unit within GMU 13. Two additional moose were taken, one each in GMU 11 and 12. The complete harvest details are listed below.

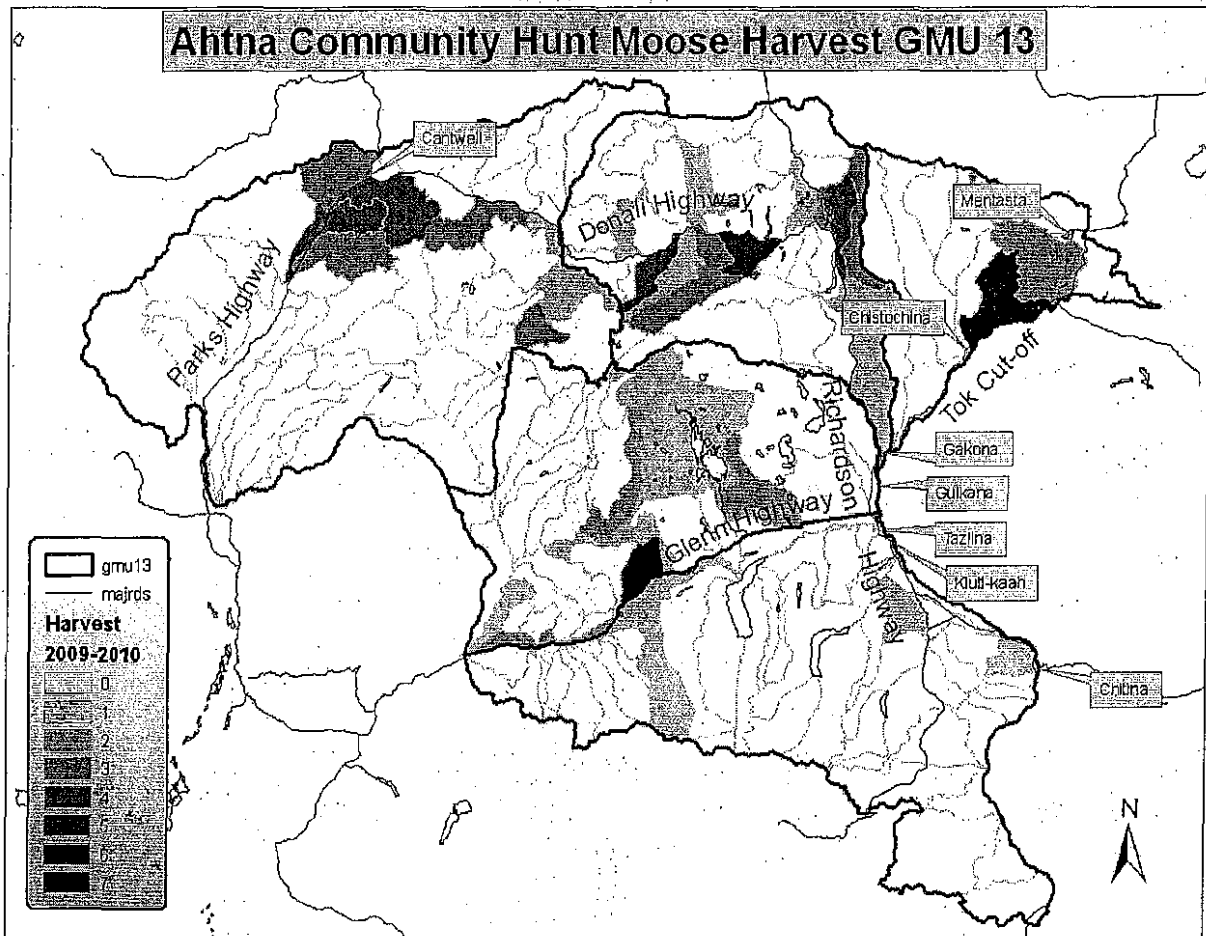


Figure 2. Ahtna community moose harvest within GMU 13 by minor code unit for 2009-2010. The majority of moose taken were in coded units adjacent to a highway.

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Total moose harvested</u>	<u># of 'any-bulls'</u>	<u>'any-bull' allocation</u>
11	1	0	15
12	1	1*	0
13A	19	15	20
13B	26	22	25
13C	12	10	15
13D	8	7	10
13E	27	12	15

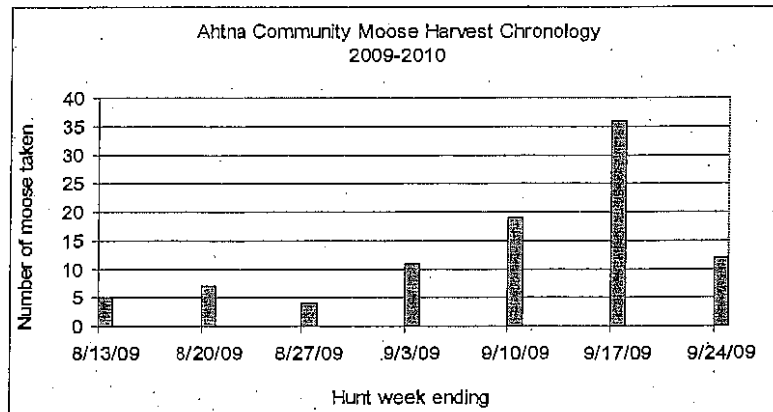
* the any-bull taken in GMU 12 was not legal and the hunter was cited

<u>Resident Community</u>	<u>Total moose harvested</u>	<u># of 'any-bulls'</u>
Anchorage	1	1
Cantwell	22	11
Chistochina	3	2
Chitina	1	1
Eagle River	1	1
Gakona	5	4
Glennallen	2	2
Gulkana	5	5
Hurricane	1	0
Kenny Lake	2	2
Kluti-kaah	18	12
Mentasta	2	2
Richardson Hwy	4	3
Nelchina	5	4
Palmer	1	1
Tazlina	18	15
Unk	3	2

<u>Transportation</u>	<u># of successful hunters</u>
Aircraft	5 (5%)
Horse/Dog team	2 (2%)
Boat	1 (1%)
4 Wheeler	36 (38%)
ORV	14 (15%)
Highway Vehicle	33 (35%)
Walked from home	3 (3%)

Harvest Chronology

Hunt Week	Take
8/10/09-8/13/09	5
8/14/09-8/20/09	7
8/21/09-8/27/09	4
8/28/09-9/3/09	11
9/4/09-9/10/09	19
9/11/09-9/17/09	36
9/18/09-9/20/09	12



Moose harvest in relation to established Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)

At the March 2009 Board of Game meeting, the ANS or Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence, were re-evaluated for moose and caribou in GMU 13. The moose ANS was changed from 600 to a range of 300-600. The final moose harvest in 2008-2009 for GMU 13 was 735, well above the ANS range. Of those, 142 were taken by local GMU 13 residents (including 46 taken in State hunts by residents of the eight Ahtna villages). An additional 54 moose were harvested in GMU 11 (including 2 by village residents) and 159 were taken in GMU 12. The ANS for moose in GMU 11 is 30-40, and in GMU 12 the ANS is 60-70.

In 2009-2010, given an increasing moose population, the GMU 13 Tier II moose hunt was discontinued; five small any-bull drawing hunts were created in remote areas, and limited nonresident drawing hunts were reinstated. All these hunts have conventional season dates of 1 Sept – 20 Sept. The Ahtna Community Hunt was also established, with an extended season (10 Aug – 20 Sept) and an allocation of up to 85 any-bulls for GMU 13 (15 were allocated for GMU 11). The 2009-2010 harvest goal given to the BOG in March 2009 was 850 bulls.

To date, the preliminary 2009-2010 GMU 13 total moose harvest is 834 bulls, again well above the ANS. The preliminary take by local GMU 13 residents is 183 (including 72 in State hunts by village residents). Three additional bulls were taken in GMU 11 and one in GMU 12 by village residents. A preliminary total of 52 moose have been taken in GMU 11, and 132 in GMU 12.

Caribou Harvest

A preliminary total of 413 hunters have signed up for the community caribou hunt, with an additional 59 hunters signing up as sharing hunters. While the hunt runs through 31 March, to date, 101 caribou have been reported taken in the community hunt. Of those, 20 were taken by sharing hunters. Of the 81 caribou taken by community hunters, 25 were harvested by designated hunters. Of the successful local hunters, 63 (78%) indicated sharing with family and friends; 9 (11%) were shared with communities outside the Copper Basin. The harvest details are very similar to the moose.

Caribou harvest in relation to established Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)

At the March 2009 Board of Game meeting, the ANS or Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence, were re-evaluated for moose and caribou in GMU 13. The Nelchina caribou ANS was changed from '100% of allowable harvest' to 600-1,000. The final Nelchina caribou harvest in 2008-

2009 was 1,372 (Tier II and federal hunts), well above the ANS range. Of those, 263 were taken by local (GMU 13) residents, including 34 taken in State hunts by residents of the eight Ahtna villages.

In 2009-2010, the GMU 13 Tier II Nelchina caribou hunt was replaced with a Tier I hunt and the Ahtna Community Hunt. All GMU 13 hunts have the same conventional season dates, and are not scheduled to end until 31 March. The harvest quota set for 2009-2010 was 1,000 bulls due to low overwinter survival and subsequent reduced calf production. As of 20 January, the preliminary 2009-2010 GMU 13 total caribou harvest is 592. The preliminary take by local (GMU 13) residents is 212, including 77 taken in State hunts by village residents.

Issues and Concerns

Conservation concerns

The 2009 moose harvest under the Ahtna community hunt occurred almost entirely in GMU 13 (92 of 94 bulls), and was substantially higher than the take from the eliminated tier II hunt (ave = 43 bulls from 1995-2008; TM300). While currently sustainable, the community hunt is much more liberal than the tier II moose hunt, which was limited to 150 permits, with season dates 15 Aug – 31 Aug. The harvest locations between the two hunts are very similar; occurring along the road system and in the easily accessible areas.

The 100 any-bull allocation for the community hunt was set by the Board of Game. Prior to the hunt, ADF&G allocated the any-bulls by subunit based on the population trends and expected harvest in each area. Due to a concern about exceeding the subunit allocations, Ahtna issued a closure for the any-bull portion of the hunt on 17 September in subunits 13A and 13E. Ahtna informed ADF&G of the closure the day before. It was announced on the local radio, and ADF&G put signs up around Glennallen. The closure however was not very effective given the timing and other circumstances, and two additional any-bull moose were harvested in 13E. Fortunately, once ADF&G staff reviewed all the harvest reports, it was evident that many of the reported 13E moose were actually from the Denali Highway east of the Susitna River, which is 13B. None of the subunit allocations were exceeded.

It should be noted that without the current successful active wolf management program, the current take of any-bull moose through this hunt would not be sustainable. Continued increases in the moose population are expected, which will help increase harvest unit-wide. However, if this moose hunt is continued, the localized overharvest of bulls is likely in certain highly accessible areas such as Eureka and the eastern Denali Highway.

Any time there is a long season and an any-bull bag limit, moose hunters tend to utilize highly accessible hunt areas. Hunters may make many short trips, with the knowledge they will have another opportunity should they be unsuccessful. This is much different than the three week any-bull moose drawing hunts offered in remote locations of GMU 13 this year. These hunts were developed specifically to put hunters in areas with the highest moose numbers and lowest hunting pressure.

Given the length of the community hunt (20 Aug – 20 Sept) and the high number of hunt participants already this first year (394), we believe the GMU 13 any-bull upper limit of the community hunt will be attained next year. To avoid exceeding subunit allocations, subunit closures will likely be necessary next year at some point during the season. If a subunit allocation is exceeded, the additional take will come from the following year's allocation. Units 11 and 12 did not receive much hunting pressure this

year through the community hunt. The any-bull allocation for GMU 11 is not expected to be reached or exceeded.

The caribou portion of this hunt raises no conservation concerns as the Nelchina herd is migratory, and the location of harvest is not as important as the number taken. The herd harvest objective for 2009-2010 for all hunts is 1,000 bulls. Caribou have been very accessible throughout the hunt compared to previous years. To date, 101 caribou have been taken through the community hunt (up to 300 may be taken). Many local hunters have shifted from the federal subsistence caribou hunt to the Ahtna community hunt because of the large hunt area offered by the Ahtna hunt (all of GMU 13 versus < 2% of GMU 13 in the federal hunt). All of the community hunters, and most of the continuous community members qualify for the federal subsistence caribou hunt, for which the bag limit is 2 caribou. To date, 13 community hunters have reported taking a second caribou through the federal subsistence hunt.

Administrative concerns

We have quite a few concerns pertaining to the administration of this hunt. There are three community hunt areas in Alaska. The original two are very small remote community hunts: the Chalkyitsik Community Harvest Area for moose in a portion of GMU 25D, and the Yukon Flats Community Harvest Area for black bears in all of GMU 25D. Neither hunt has had any participants in recent years, one reason has been the lack of interest in taking on the administrative duties.

Comparatively, the Ahtna community hunt has over 400 participants and a 19 page hunt plan. While this is technically a State hunt, the burden of the hunt administration legally falls on Ahtna, an organization with no experience administering this type of program. ADF&G has helped each step of the way from helping draft the hunt plan, to drafting and printing the harvest tickets, to making GIS maps, entering all the applicant information, checking the Failure to Report (FTR) list, entering all the harvest report data, calling hunters when harvest reports are not completely filled out or filled out wrong, as well as many other hunt administration tasks. Without our active participation we believe we would not be able to provide a report of activities or evaluate the success of the program. Still, because the hunt is not administered by the State, the standard protocols ADF&G has developed over many years of administering hunts are not being followed.

The initial concept for this hunt was to provide a consistent reasonable opportunity for Copper Basin residents to harvest caribou; however the additional any-bull moose allocation added complexity to this hunt. The initial court order from 29 June 2009 specifically stated the residency requirements for the community caribou hunt were to be dropped. The result was a Sharing Hunt application which allowed out-of-village residents to harvest a caribou, although ½ had to be turned in to Ahtna Inc. for distribution. The other option that was added was a Continuous Community Membership form, which allowed any out-of-village resident to fully partake in the hunt, each being able to take a moose and a caribou. These additional opportunities to participate in the hunt were very confusing to the public. We heard concerns from potential hunt participants early on who felt their applications were denied unfairly. One indicated clearly his application was denied because he was told only shareholders could participate in the hunt. We immediately expressed our concern to the hunt administrator, and the harvest tickets were issued. At some point during the hunt, Ahtna stopped requiring the Continuous Community Membership form, and started issuing moose and caribou harvest tickets to out-of-village residents simply upon name recognition. We have conveyed our concerns regarding the lack of consistency in this process.

As a State hunt, the community hunt was subject to FTR restrictions, meaning FTR listed individuals were ineligible to participate in the hunt. The hunt plan also indicated that hunters could be placed on the FTR list for not reporting as well. Ahtna approved of this process as they felt it would help in getting reports turned in. Sharing the entire FTR list with Ahtna did not seem appropriate, so Ahtna would wait for ADF&G to check the FTR list prior to issuing harvest tickets. This worked fairly well for the first few weeks. As the hunt progressed, Ahtna started issuing harvest tickets without checking on the FTR status, and five hunters on the FTR list were erroneously issued harvest tickets.

Hunter responsibility

In the previously developed community hunts, hunters would pool their State general harvest tickets and permits. The concept was simple and the main benefit was to allow anyone in the community to harvest the game. The Ahtna community hunt, however, is considerably more complex. An unlimited number of hunters can sign up, and they are allowed to harvest up to 300 caribou, 100 any-bull moose, and an unlimited number of general antler restricted moose. With such a large hunt area and high harvest potential, there had to be a set of rules for hunters to follow. Hunt conditions were printed on the application, in the Community Hunt Plan, and in the Frequently Asked Questions handout.

While hunters are generally held responsible for their own actions in terms of hunting violations, many of the issues we dealt with this year were a direct result of hunters not being informed of the hunt conditions. In addition to the main Ahtna Inc. office in Glennallen, there were tribal representatives in each of the eight villages that handed out applications, as well as delivered harvest tickets to hunters. This likely led to confusion, as each had different levels of knowledge pertaining to the hunt. When hunters are issued registration permits in State offices, they are required to read the hunt conditions before signing, and their questions are answered prior to receiving harvest tickets. As a secondary precaution, ADF&G printed the seasons and bag limits on the harvest punch tags. Harvest tags were supposed to be signed by the hunt administrator as well as the hunter to be valid, although most were not signed by either party. Community hunters failed to abide by the hunt conditions on a regular basis.

Some hunters were issued antler-restricted moose harvest tickets, meaning they were allowed to hunt during the extended community season, but they were only to take a general bag limit moose. Others were issued any-bull moose harvest tickets, which allowed any-bulls to be taken in GMU 11 and 13, but still required general season dates and bag limits to be followed in the open portion of GMU 12. On 10 August, the first day of the hunt in GMU 11 and 13, a paddle bull was taken in GMU 12 under the community hunt, although the season was closed and the bag limit was SF/50" or 4 brow tines. The hunter was cited.

Another hunt condition commonly violated was the rule that a community hunter (as well as designated hunters and other household members) could not hold other moose or caribou harvest tickets or permits during the same regulatory year. Since this was the first year of the hunt, many people had already applied for drawing permits, and had picked up harvest tickets prior to the conditions of the community hunt being released. Of the moose hunters, 83 hunters held at least one harvest ticket or permit they were not supposed to. Of those, 26 turned in their harvest ticket or report to ADF&G prior to signing up for the community hunt. Of the 57 remaining hunters, 21 reported hunting on those harvest tickets/permits. Of those, five reported hunting outside the community hunt area. One caribou was harvested, and the hunter was cited. ADF&G will consult with State troopers and warning letters will likely be mailed to the hunters who reported hunting unsuccessfully on these hunt reports.

Another concern we have relates to designated community hunters. Allowing any State resident to be a designated or proxy-type hunter was a core concept of this community hunt given the stringent State proxy regulations in recent years. By allowing anyone to be a designated hunter, individuals with no family to hunt for them, were able to have friends or neighbors harvest their moose or caribou. This concept was good, however implementation was problematic. One of the hunt conditions was that designated hunters must fill out an application prior to hunting. The rationale for this was to ensure designated hunters were aware of all the hunt conditions, as they were subject to all the same conditions as the original hunter. Of the 30 individual designated hunters who harvested moose, 11 were qualified community hunters, meaning they had seen and signed the hunt conditions. Only 3 of the successful individuals had applied as designated hunters. Of the remaining 16, one was on the FTR list and 2 were cited for failing to follow hunt conditions. An additional 23 individuals applied as designated hunters, though did not hunt or hunted unsuccessfully. Many of the designated hunters also held other moose or caribou harvest tickets or permits. ADF&G will likely mail warning letters to the designated hunters who did not apply, to ensure better hunt compliance in the future. The designated hunter process will need to be improved.

For the benefit of the hunters, there must be improved communication between the hunt administrator and ADF&G when hunt changes are made mid-season. With few moose harvested during the August portion of the community hunt, Ahtna felt additional opportunities to take moose should be given to community hunters. The hunt administrator began issuing any-bull moose harvest tickets 3 September to all new applicants (previously issued antler-restricted harvest tickets were replaced with any-bull harvest tickets upon request). No notice was issued to the public or ADF&G – so it was unclear to many hunters this change occurred. After the fact, we expressed our concern that moose hunting always tends to be more successful later in the fall, and with more any-bull harvest tickets being issued, Ahtna would need to watch the any-bull take closely. Had a subunit allocation been met, hunters would have been limited to the general antler restrictions for the remainder of the season. This concept was not well understood by the public.

Helping to explain the details of this hunt to the public after-the-fact was a tremendous additional work load for ADF&G, a situation that is not expected to improve substantially in future years unless there is more direct State involvement with the hunt administration.

Hunt Reporting

Harvest reports were collected by Ahtna, and copies were provided to ADF&G for entering on a weekly basis. At some point after 20 September (moose hunt and caribou rut hunt closure), weekly reporting seemed to stop. After multiple requests by ADF&G, weekly reporting continued in November.

One important hunt condition was the 3 day reporting requirement. While Ahtna did not track when hunt reports were received, it was evident that very few successful hunters reported within the required 3 days.

The final moose report was due 15 October 2009, as stated in the Community Hunt Permit issued to Ahtna. The report was not received until 7 January 2010, after multiple requests. Application information is still missing for approximately 70 hunters. Additionally, almost 60 moose harvest ticket numbers are missing, as well as 160 caribou harvest ticket numbers. It is unclear whether these harvest tickets were issued without applications, as duplicates, lost or destroyed. With missing applicant

information and harvest ticket numbers, it is very difficult for us to know how to enter returned harvest reports.

We recommended at least one reminder letter be sent to the moose hunt non-reporters. One letter was sent by Ahtna, with a deadline of 7 January 2010. As of today, there are still 123 (31%) outstanding moose reports. While the Ahtna letter stated the hunters would be placed on the FTR list if they did not respond by 7 January, we recommended they send a second letter. We have not heard back on this. We have concerns that hunters are not taking the Ahtna letters seriously.

In terms of final harvest numbers, we also have concerns about the hunt stipulation in 5AAC 92.072(c)(E) that states the hunt administrator must provide (ADF&G) federal subsistence harvest data for community hunters. This information is available through the Bureau of Land Management (for GMU 13) and the Office of Subsistence Management (GMU 11), however they will not release hunter names to Ahtna, as a private hunt administrator. When final, this federal data, summarized by resident zone community will be requested by ADF&G, and presented with our final report.

Issues raised by the Ahtna Final Moose report from 7 January 2010

For next year, Ahtna is requesting all hunt applications be turned in one month before the hunt starts, to ensure processing and distribution of harvest tickets is done in a timely manner. This would be different than this first year, where harvest tickets were issued throughout the hunt as applications were turned in.

They would also like an explanation of the Ahtna Community Hunt to be in the State hunting regulations, to help with public outreach.

Additional community concerns

There have been concerns raised by members of the Copper Basin who do not live within any of the Ahtna villages. These individuals have expressed a general belief that the hunt is unfair to local residents living between the villages, as they have many of the same traditional hunting practices. The general response thus far has been that these individuals, generally residents of local communities such as Glennallen, Kenny Lake, Tolsona, Nelchina, Mendeltna, and Chickaloon can apply to be a community hunt administrator, just as Ahtna has. The reality is, however this application process is complicated, and not one individual indicated they have the time or knowledge to be a hunt administrator.

One substantial issue raised is that the current community hunt is named after the eight Ahtna villages, however the hunt area is all of GMU 11, 13, and a portion of GMU 12. It is unclear to the public as well as ADF&G if or how another community hunt for the same general hunt area would be administered, if applied for by another community.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The community hunt concept was initially developed for small remote communities, where the participation would be limited to the local village residents. The Ahtna community hunt in contrast occurs in a very heavily hunted portion of Region II. Of the many communities within the hunt area, only residents of the eight Ahtna villages qualify for the full hunting opportunity. Secondary opportunities were created for other locals, as well as some urban residents, although approval lies

with the regional native corporation, Ahtna Inc. The inherent delineation between community members has had a negative impact on the Copper Basin as a whole.

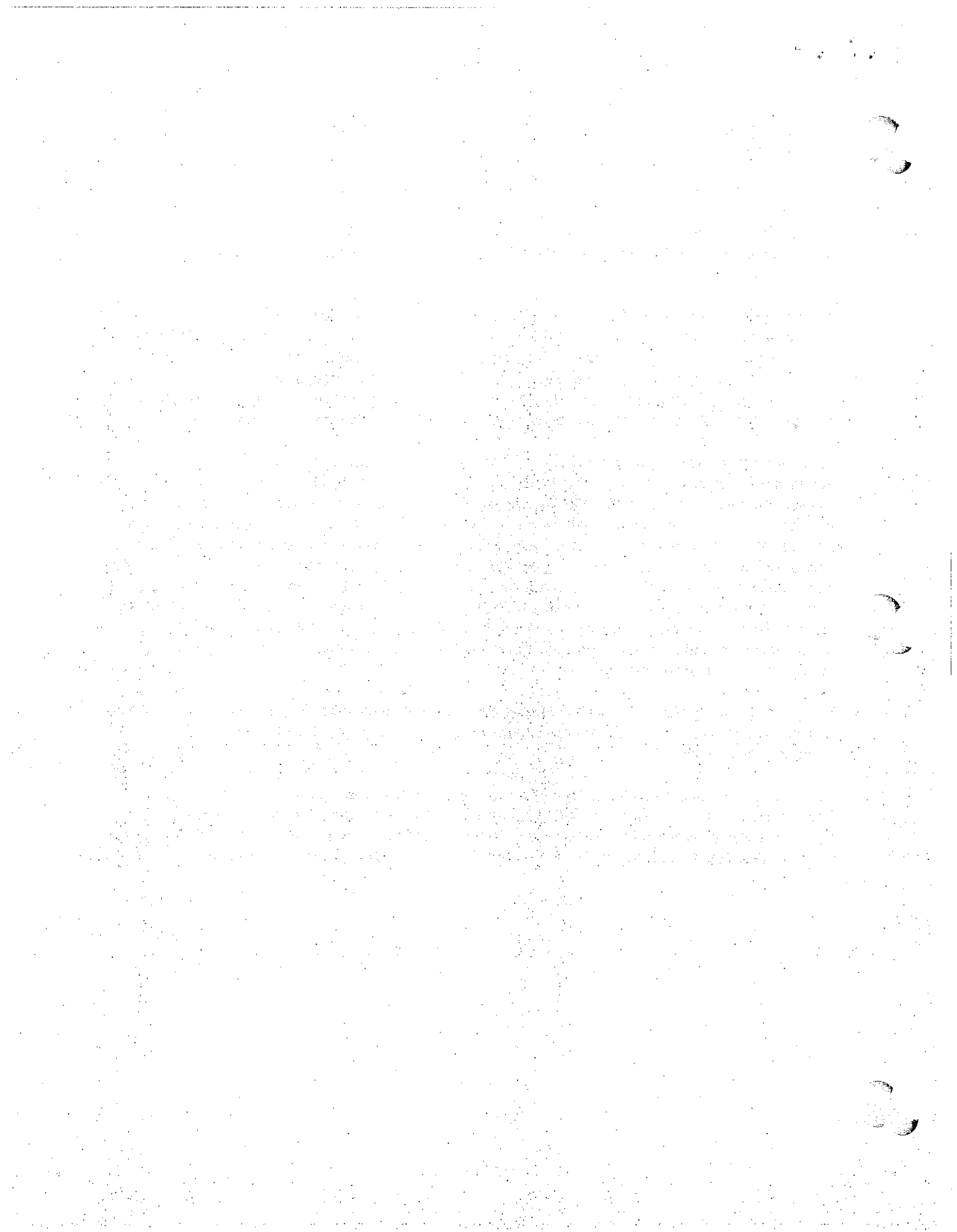
The hunt itself is quite complex. While consistent caribou hunting was the primary focus of this hunt, an additional 100 any-bull moose allocation complicated this hunt tremendously. The number of hunt applicants was over 400, all qualifying for different levels of hunting opportunity. This led to confusion amongst hunters, and many hunt conditions were either ignored or not adhered to for unknown reasons.

We recognize the first year of such a complex hunt would include problems. However, there were a number of permit conditions not adhered to by the hunt administrator in terms of hunt reporting in violation of 5AAC 92.072(f). Given these issues, as the hunt manager we have the option of not issuing the community hunt permit in 2010-2011. There are outstanding requests by ADF&G to Ahtna, as well as an expectation that Ahtna will finalize the caribou hunt report by 15 April. Future actions by the hunt administrator will determine whether this permit is re-issued next year.

If the BOG supports continuing this hunt in 2010-2011, the procedures involved with the administration of this hunt must be modified. The time demands on the Glennallen Wildlife Conservation staff assisting in the administrative part of this hunt were excessive and greatly interfered with other programs. It will be more efficient and the data will be of higher quality if hunt administration procedures are changed. Specifically, Ahtna would continue to determine allocation of harvest tickets and sharing opportunities, but the responsibility of issuing the harvest tickets, ensuring hunter compliance, and collecting hunt data would go to Wildlife Conservation staff. By making these changes, Ahtna will maintain the hunt administration and issues important to them, such as approving hunters, determining traditional methods, dependency of use, and community ties. ADF&G would assume technical and legal administrative duties mandated under our responsibility as the hunt manager for resource conservation.

We also respectfully request the BOG consider current moose and caribou harvests taken under other state and federal hunts within the community hunt area in relation to ANS, and re-evaluate the community hunt need.

[As a procedural note, the Ahtna community hunt area is described in codified regulation 5AAC 92.074 by the actual boundaries of GMU 11, 13, and a portion of GMU 12, however the GMU boundary language is subject to change at this statewide meeting through Proposal 45. If the new boundary language is accepted, it should be changed in the community hunt area regulation as well.]



Anchorage Advisory Committee Recommendations (Statewide) December 29 and January 12 Meetings

Proposal 1: (1-10) Oppose

- Supports hunter education
- More restrictive weapon and feels a class is necessary
- No hunts are just crossbow only. Education hunts are restrictive hunts.
- Singles out crossbow hunters
- Maybe there should be an education requirement for general season hunts?
- How can we promote a class when we don't have crossbow standards?
- Other states have restricted crossbows to wheelchair bound citizens.

Proposal 2: (0-12) Oppose

- Limited ADF&G accurate population estimates for black bears statewide. Harvest tickets are important management tools;
- Harvest tickets give important hunter effort data;
- Harvest tickets are not available online;
- Sealing ticket number must be on the harvest ticket – problematic for guides;

Proposal 3 (15-0) Support

Proposal 4 (15 – 0) Support

- Nothing to be learned on Black Tail Deer. Management revolves around snowfall – not harvest;
- Most harvest reporting is online which is very economical;
- We need baseline data on hunter effort Questionnaires do not collect data on a watershed level

Proposal 5 (6-9) Oppose

- If the kid can pass the hunting class he should be able to get a harvest ticket;
- This will allow a kid to apply for a draw hunt
- It's the right dad that is the most important. This appears to be catered to adults that don't want to give their tag to their kid;
- There are age limits to drink, drive etc. There should be an age limit on your ability to get a harvest ticket;
- This is an allocation issue. Age should not be a restriction to the resource.

Proposal 6 (9-6) Support as amended

(9 – 6) On Amendment to remove "an employee of the department or"

- Most if not all area biologists are peace officers.
- Don't like the part time guy having this right, just the area biologists;
- We have significant lack of enforcement in Alaska. Requiring the department to have an area biologist or higher to check a license is unnecessary. The department would not let a rogue employee abuse this privilege. If we can't increase DPS funding we should enhance the department's ability to enforce regulations;
- The employee is going to forward the information to an area biologist or a trooper. He would not be writing the tickets;
- Parking authority is a good example of why not to go for this;
- this is law enforcement and untrained individuals should not be conducting law enforcement activities;
- without an oath of office nobody should be asking anybody for anything;

Proposal 7: NA

- Some disabilities are not permanent;
- Still have to go down to get the proxy;

Proposal 8: NA

- Proxy regulated by Statute

Proposal 9: (1-11) Oppose

- Regulatory authority may already be vested to the Department;
- Changing bag limits is not a good idea;

Proposal 10: (11-1) Support

- Department may already have the authority;
- Going to pay a price regarding the non hunting community;

Proposal 11 (14-1) support

- The most important comment we want to make is that of respecting Native deference on this issue;
- Proposal 11 takes in all the tribes. It does not leave anybody out or short anybody. The department has extensive experience on this issue. You can't give one tribe special consideration;
- Include all religious Potlatch Practices in one regulation

Proposal 12 (12-1-2) Support

- It is a religious ceremony. Suggest we pass all three of the other potlatch proposal in mass and let the BOG deliberate this issue;
- There is a legal question but the decision still needs to be made whether or not they should be allowed in non-subsistence areas;
- It's important that this committee fully engage the Native community prior to passing any decision on potlatch. The Native community is investing significant effort into addressing the problems associated with potlatch;
- Would the state's list of identified "potlatches" limit future potlatches to only those initially identified. Will the Native community be allowed to in essence "grow"?
- This country was founded on freedom of religion. Anyone has the right to "adopt" a religion. This really isn't about whether one tribe or another can do this, its if that religion can do this.

Proposal 13 (15-0) Support

- this simply clarifies existing language, it is a religious practice, not customary and traditional, and we should support it;
- it is Customary and Traditional
- Potlatch started in the southeast and spread with the Orthodox Church. That's how it got spread statewide. It is strictly religious practice. Some members are fond of saying we need to support the Natives – this is the proposal to do it;

Proposal 14 Take no action due to action taken on proposal 11(15-0)

- ADF&G suggests adopting the general potlatch language and then putting all the potlatches in there. This allows Ahtna to get some of the things they want in their proposal but does not clutter things up too badly;
- Ahtna's proposal is not a statewide solution.
- We can basically put prop. 14 into proposal 11.
- Native representatives testified: if somebody is not from a community and can't get a permit they should simply go back to their traditional area to conduct their potlatch;

Proposal 15: NA

Proposal 16: (0-12) Oppose

Proposal 17: (0-12) Oppose

Proposal 18: (12-0) Support

Proposal 19 (0-12) Oppose

Proposal 20, 21, 22 (0-11-1) Oppose

Proposal 23 (2-9-1) Oppose

- To promote public acceptance we need better transparency;
- Commercial hunting guides have ulterior motives;
- Predator control should not be conducted by a for profit industry;
- Should not prohibit qualified residents – may be unconstitutional;

Proposal 24: (8-2-2) Support as amended.

Amend (9-2-1) the Proposal to Read:

“Permit for a guide to register and maintain bait stations for clients.

(a) The department may issue a permit for a Registered Guide/Outfitter (RGO) to register, establish, and maintain bait stations (under .044 Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures) for contracted clients. Under the permit RGO will become responsible for:

- (1) Providing contracted clients information for acquiring bear bait permit as required under (5aac 92.044).**
- (2) Clean up and maintenance of all bait sites.**
- (3) Guide permit and Hunter/Bait permit number must both be displayed at bait stations.**

ISSUE: Current regulations have hindered the opportunity for baited black bear hunting with a RGO in Alaska. Allowing a ROG to establish and maintain bait stations for clients will remove some of the expenses involved in guided hunting and allow for competitive pricing. Black bears are one Alaska’s most abundant big game resources and are very underutilized in most areas of the state. Guided bait hunts have not been competitively priced in Alaska due to regulations (or lack of) that cause undue expenses to the RGO.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? *Black bears will continue to be harvested far under sustainable yield in much of the state. Alaska RGO’s will not be able to compete with those from other states and Canada.*

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? *The product (guided black bear hunts) will be less expensive for the consumer.*

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? *Black bear hunters that wish to hunt with a guide will need to spend less. Alaskan hunters may have less competition for Moose, sheep, caribou, etc if some guides concentrate efforts on black bears. Ungulate populations that may benefit from slightly increased take of black bears.*

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? *Black bear hunters may have some additional competition.*

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? *Exempt Southeast Alaska from this regulation. This should be discussed with those from southeast that already efficiently hunt black bears by other methods."*

Discussion:

- Proposal to fix the spring meeting proposal;
- ACR failed due to technicality;
- Should be exempted from southeast;
- Some areas of state are under harvested regarding black bears;
- guides cannot be competitive without this;
- Baiting of game is strongly opposed by the general public and opposed by hunters as well;
- We don't need this at this time;
- Guides don't have an incentive to overharvest;

Proposal 25: (12-0) Support

- Some concern is what is "other" development;

Proposal 26 – (2- 12-1) Oppose

(6-6 previous vote as amended to remove the release clause)

- Oppose putting restrictions of this type on the department's predator control efforts.
- This is simply taking tools out of the departments tool box;
- 98% of the preferred snaring methods has been by bucket snares;
- Bucket snares is the preferred method to avoid by catch, especially brown bears;
- The DPS strongly requested that only bucket snares be allowed;
- This will not impact the snaring program in the least;
- Respect for those citizens that are strongly opposed to snaring of bears by doing all we can to limit the negative effects of an experimental program.;
- Many citizens of Anchorage have serious heartburn over snaring of bears. You are losing nothing by making the concession here. You're not giving up a thing. You are trying to get along with the other user groups in this state;

Proposal 27: (3-8-1) Oppose

- DPS had no helicopter to enforce regulations;
- ADF&G contracted its oversight out to a guy from Colorado;

- Only one ADF&G rep (Assistant Commissioner) in the field and there only a small amount of time;
- Snaring camps operated by SFW
- State should pay for experimental snaring operation;
- Should be conducted by ADF&G employees until proven;
- SFW did not run the camps – they were private camps;
- Trying to expand into the fall hunting;

Proposal 28: (1-9-2) Oppose

- Can't support no non residents in these areas;
- If you really look at predator control the guides are making it successful;
- Don't AS regulations require depleted game to be prioritized for Alaskan's
- Remote areas have more game than more accessible areas;
- Allowing nonresident hunting in PC areas is nothing short of throwing a "bone" to the guiding industry for conducting predator control;
- Without predator control nobody wins;
- Oppose since we are supporting proposal 29.

Proposal 29 (13-2) Support

- Resident hunters should get the game when we are below the *minimum* management goals – the lower end of the predator control program;
- If we have the opportunity to liberalize the harvest why not do so for the residents first – those that have been waiting years sometimes to get a moose. Get the resident hunter hanging meat first the bring in nonresidents if there is enough to go around;
- These agreements are in place to keep money and meat coming into the village, like in the Hoholitna. These deals have been hammered out with the populations that live out there and in the BOG subcommittees. Maybe appropriate for an individual area but not statewide. We are going to be hurting the people we are trying to help way out there;
- We represent Anchorage and with the money they are making out there is protecting the people we represent;
- The population of the resource should be the priority. If the numbers are being stressed due to predators Alaska residents should get the first shot at game.
- Virtually all the private predator control is conducted by guides – 90% plus. Guides hunt in areas resident typically don't go.
- In the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control program 10% of our moose and caribou went to non residents. In GMU 13 last year the state said up to 50 moose were too hard for Alaskan's to find so they gave them to non residents, this year it was

liberalized further. The Mat/Su AC sent a letter opposing the expansion of nonresident hunting. If there is the opportunity to liberalize the hunt, do it for residents first.

- This is a predator control area where the prey populations are low so it only stands to reason that we limit the hunting to residents. When we originally passed this proposal several Native representatives, including one from Ahtna, commended us for adopting this proposal. They said this was a great gesture in their view.
- State law already applies. Tier I and Tier II status removes nonresident opportunity.
- ANS has nothing to do with this at all. ANS is for subsistence harvest and its only opportunity. The ADF&G and BOG have allowed harvest by non residents while in a Tier I status because they claim they gave residents the opportunity. It has nothing to do with harvest, they don't care about that. ANS does not do a bit of good for Anchorage hunters. Alaska statute clearly states that in times of low game populations the harvest will be prioritized for residents. That's the law.

Proposal 30 (2-9) Oppose

- Promotes resident first, need clearly is shown that resident need all the harvestable surplus that is available;
- The state claims Predator Control is being conducted for residents first;

Proposal 31 (8-2-1) Support

- Going too close to the fall hunting season. Allows a guy to set up a camp pre hunting season for moose;
- Keeps helicopters and snaring out of moose season
- DPS does not have a chopper to enforce regulations;
- Continues to liberalize GMU 16 predator control more and more.

Proposal 32: (9-1-1) Support

- NAPCH has been in decline for years;
- To be effective the program must be conducted on federal lands;
- The department has not supported this proposal in the past but the board requested it so the department is supporting it noting that federal land would be needed for success;
- NAPCH probably exceeded carrying capacity of the environment in the mid 1980's;
- The herd show signs of nutrient limitations and even some disease issues but those seem to have resolved themselves in the last few years;
- Department will watch for carrying capacity indices and take action as the herd grows;
- Department does not have a wolf population estimate but they believe the wolf population is healthy;

- The Federal refuge managers get their data on NAPCH health indices from the department. The feds do not collect their own data to corroborate the states claim that nutritional limits and diseases issues have ceased to be an issue limiting the herd's size.

Proposal 33 (10-1) Support

- This helps with the potential of exceeding the carrying capacity of the environment;
- Why keep the harvest objective the same?
- BOG has often been criticized for setting IM objectives too high;

Proposal 34 (9-2) Support

- A habitat program - not a predator control as written;
- Feel like habitat enhancement is long overdue;
- No need for an intensive management plan for fire management. Adjust the fire management plan if you need more fires;
- This is just a cover for predator control. The BOG has wanted predator control on the Kenai for years this is just their way to get it
- Why have these intensive management plans morphed into 10 year plans instead of five? Should stay a 5 year plan.

Proposal 35 (0-11) Oppose

Proposal 36 (0-11) Oppose

Proposal 37 (0-14-1) Oppose

- In Alaska horns are used for crafts and putting holes in it negatively affected. Only one horn is sealed, not both. Department seals to the core (skull) making it hard on taxidermist.
- In areas with no horn restriction no sealing is required it encourages poaching. Bring them all in or bring none in.
- ADF&G does not seal on the core of the horn. They also work with the hunter to place the seal where the hunter approves the most – say a special mount style. Counter sunk so they can be covered up easily.

Proposal 38 (1-14) Oppose

- Bears being killed anyway. It's a marketable natural resource. Let the guys that want to mess with it mess with it.
- Marketable resource to who? Americans don't eat gall bladders of bears. Every professional wildlife management organization in the country strongly opposes selling any bear parts. Poaching has occurred in Alaska for gall bladders, in Prince William Sound for instance. Poaching of bears for bear claws is huge issue in the

federal subsistence board. NPS does not have the regulatory body to track bear parts or enforce regulations. This promotes poaching.

- The trafficking of Gall bladders is often tracked to the disgusting and immoral uses of bear gall bladders. Just because its marketable does not make it right. Child slavery for instance is marketable. Not enough regulatory oversight.

Proposal 39 (9 – 5 – 1) Support

(3-5-3 vote by previous committee)

- These are skins of bears that are already harvested legally. If a hunter has extra hides they should be able to sell them. Control area bears are already legal to sale.
- Black bears are not worth the cost to tan the thing. I don't support the sale of trophy animals but bear hides are not "trophy" status usually;
- It's easy to turn a hide into a mount.
- This would go against the recommendations of the entire body of professional wildlife managers in North America. There is a significant market for brown bear hides.
- Poor regulatory oversight and poor enforcement. The ADF&G oppose this;
- For instance, if you could sell a polar bear hide a lot more polar bears would die. A moose hunter could kill a bear just to augment the cost of his hunt by selling the hide of a bear;
- Even though the BOG has allowed the legal sale of bear hides it has not been utilized by the public.

Proposal 40 (1-13-1) Oppose

- Bush Alaska is in short supply of money. If you pass this proposal and make killing wildlife a profitable there will be rampant abuse, especially in rural Alaska.
- I guided a guy that shot a bear, never even looked at the hide after I put it in my pack, and he subsequently donated to a museum for a tax break. I did not agree with that and this proposal speaks to that.
- If you shoot something it should belong to you and you can sell it. Alaska trophies are sold everywhere but Alaska.
- Right now a poacher has a hard time getting a trophy mount out of Alaska to sell it. Same regulatory and enforcement problems.
- Sheep are sealed. We all know the big moose killed.

Proposal 41 (0-11) Oppose

- If you kill it you should bring it out of field
- Inedible is not defined in law;
- All animals have some level of disease;

Proposal 42 (6-3-2) Support

Proposal 43 (0-11) Oppose

Proposal 44 NA

Proposal 45 (11-0) Support

Proposal 46 (11-0) Support

- Should be done as it's something that has slipped through the cracks;
- State wants to defer but they do have draft standards.
- Committee wonders why wait for two years;
- Don't want to wait two years. We are not re inventing the wheel;
- Board has discretion to develop the actual language;

Proposal 47 (2-9) Oppose

- Current harvest is very low;

Proposal 48 (2-8-1) Oppose

- Significant sublegal ram harvest last year is what we've heard;
- How the sheep holds his head is important – some horns don't curl up;
- Changes the definition for a legal ram;
- Try to make the regulation user friendly as possible.

Proposal 49 (10-4-1) Support

(2-4-5 vote by previous committee)

- It's easy to administer, effective and very cost efficient – 20A is a perfect example. Let's try our best to get it out of the wolf populations;
- The bottom line is still the same you have to get every wolf to be effective;
- We need to know where lousy wolves are turning up. It's a spreading situation and the board of game can figure out where best to place the regulation.
- Consider this a "why not" proposal.
- Important conservation issue for management of wolves is it not;

Proposal 50 NA

Proposal 51 (11-0) Support

Proposal 52 (2-8-1) Oppose

- Migratory birds are not "micro" managed – feds don't like it.
- This is a hunt basically for guided nonresident hunters wanting a nice mount of a harlequin.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

Aaron Bloomquist, Chair

8807 Honeysuckle St #C → Home

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Date: 12/01/09
To: Governor Sean Parnell; Denby Lloyd - Commissioner ADF&G; Alaska State Legislature; Kristy Tibbles – Executive Director Board of Game; Alaska AC Chairs; Jim Marcotte – Executive director Board of Fisheries, ADF&G Directors, Board of Fisheries, Board of Game
Re: **Timely Receipt of Management Reports & ADF&G Comments and Regarding Board Cycle Restructuring**

The Anchorage AC and the public in general are concerned with the recent difficulty we are having regarding our ability to receive wildlife management reports and ADF&G comments prior to the deadlines for Board of Game (BOG) and Board of Fish(BOF) meetings. We appreciate local area biologist's willingness to attend our meetings but our AC in particular is often compelled to submit proposals and comments for GMU's statewide. The committee feels it is imperative that we have current management reports or data sets. We need access to the same data that the department will be using at the BOG / BOF meeting. Our ability to effectively address citizen issues of concern is negatively impacted when the committee does not have the same data, or is unaware of department comments, regarding upcoming discussions on management concerns.

The committee is also concerned that the proposed 3 year board cycle will only exacerbate the problem. The proposed deadline for comments is in March for the following winter, November to March, BOG meetings. As you are aware, harvest data and population surveys are often completed in November and December. The committee feels we would be at a significant disadvantage if we were required to submit comments so far in advance when the department will be using more current data at the meetings. It is also very difficult to build relationships with board members, staff, and public in a three year cycle. Most committees only attend meetings relevant to their local area. It is conceivable that the entire board could turn over in the three years between cycles. It is difficult for the Anchorage AC to keep up an ongoing relationship with Board of Fisheries members and other participants even though we attend more meetings than most committees. One year may not seem like a dramatic change but there is a very significant communication disparity between the two year BOG cycle and the three year BOF cycle. Effective communication between committees, the public and individual board members and staff is crucial to develop proposals and pass equitable regulations.

We are also concerned that the public is being asked to compromise regarding their ability to participate in developing wildlife regulations. We fully appreciate the time commitments the existing 2 year cycle demands on the department. We feel much of the problem lies in the fact that the Alaska legislature has been unwilling to fund the department at a level sufficient to allow for participation at the current 2 year cycle. Another concern is the ability of regional AC's to attract members may be negatively impacted if the individual only gets one opportunity to participate in a BOG meeting for his/her region. Several seats on our committees are for only one year as well.

We do acknowledge, moving the BOF meeting to alternate years from the BOG meeting is a significant improvement. The Anchorage AC strongly supports improving the situation but we also want to be sure increased funding for the department is also being considered, and aggressively sought by the department to alleviate the difficulties both the AC's and the department are facing with the current 2 year cycle

An alternative or addition to a board cycle restructuring may be to change the regulatory year from the current July 1 - June 30 to a January 1 - December 31 year. This should allow more time to produce regulatory language, a single call for proposals, current data BEFORE proposals are drafted, a month separation between major spring BOG and BOF meetings, and department comments in time for public review. The proposal deadline could be December 1 after most game surveys are finished. Board meetings would be held February through April with the shortest meeting first to allow more time for more complicated meetings. Staff will have a full six months to get regulations compiled and submitted for publishing. Biologists will have a few extra months to finalize data before the BOG meetings. Hunters will have more time to plan for busy hunting seasons with new regulation booklets available in December. This idea seems to be the preferred public option and was approved unanimously by the committee.

The Anchorage AC looks forward to working cooperatively with the department to address these concerns. We also request that the Alaska legislature realize the importance of our unique opportunity as residents of Alaska to participate in the development of wildlife policy. It is our hope the legislature will agree and fully fund the mission of the department and the regional AC's. In particular the rural AC's are having a very difficult time due to increased travel costs, long distances between villages and the fact that many rural AC's currently do not have a local AC coordinator to facilitate and support rural AC meetings and dissemination of meeting notes.

The Anchorage AC voted unanimously to send this letter.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

RC 24

Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)
Boards Supplement Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Owl Research Institute, Inc.
Ninepipes Center

25 January 2010

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2010

BOARDS

Dear Board,

I am writing this letter as a Public Statement / Public Comment. I am writing on behalf of Proposal 47, which request the ADFG to remove Snowy Owls from the game/hunting list. I have researched Snowy Owls in Barrow, AK since 1992, and currently continue this long-term study. During the 18 year's almost 700 Snowy Owls have been banded, over 200 nests located, and over 35,000 prey items recorded. Our study is the longest running research project on Snowy Owls in North America, and one of only two long-term breeding studies in the world.

I am in full support of Proposal 47 and ask the ADFG to remove the Snowy Owl from the game hunting list. It is no longer an important food source for any Alaskan resident. In reality, it has never been an important food source. It was merely a supplemental, and season food. I believe it is time to change the laws, with changing times. After all, we cannot shoot other birds of prey in Alaska.

In the following paragraphs I will outline some of the information we have learned in Barrow through our research and public outreach.

Brief Overview of Snowy Owls in Alaska

The Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) is a large ground nesting species whose distribution is Holarctic (Holt *et al.* 1999, König *et al.* 2008). In North America this species breeds in Canada and United States (Godfrey 1979, Parmelee 1992). In the United States, Alaska is the only state where Snowy Owls breed (Gabrielson & Lincoln 1959, Parmelee 1992, Holt *et al.* 2009). Although Snowy Owls have been recorded throughout many areas of Alaska, the northern coastal tundra appears to be the main areas of its breeding range in that state (Gabrielson & Lincoln 1959). Currently in Alaska, the most consistent region for breeding encompasses the North Slope, primarily in the Barrow region (Petersen & Holt 1999, Holt *et al.* 2009). For other research on Snowy Owls and Brown Lemmings related to this project, see Holt *et al.* 2003, Holt *et al.* 2005, Detienne *et al.* 2008, Holt and Zetterberg 2008).

Today, the Barrow region is the primary breeding area for Snowy Owls in Alaska and the United States. Although reasons for this are unknown, one factor may be the occurrence of a fluctuating Brown Lemming (*Lemmus timurcronatus*) population through space and time. Barrow may also be the area with the highest densities of Brown Lemmings on Alaska's North Slope (Pitelka & Blatzi 1993). Collared Lemmings (*Dicrostonyx rubricatus*) also occur, but are much less common. Indeed, diet of Snowy Owls in Barrow is > 90% lemmings, dominated by the Brown Lemming (n = > 35,000; D. Holt, unpubl. data).

As Barrow grows and surrounding land is needed for expansion, city planners and managers will need reference to Snowy Owl habitat types and more specifically, nest site characteristics, if Snowy Owls will continue to nest in the Barrow region. How this growth and Arctic climate change will affect and effect Snowy Owls and Brown Lemmings is unknown (Holt *et al.* 2009).

Given that Barrow is the single most important site for Snowy Owls in the United States, and that the owls face habitat loss issues, it seems reasonable to eliminate any other process – such as shooting – that may affect the owls. We do know that Snowy Owl fitted with satellite transmitter from Barrow, move from Alaska, to Russia, and Canada (Fuller et al. 2003). Thus, Snowy Owl conservation is an international issue.

Historical Overview at Barrow

Barrow was once called Ukpiagvik, meaning a place where owls are hunted or met or found. Historically an Inupiat Eskimo village, the Barrow area has been occupied for approximately 1200 to 1500 years. It is a coastal village adjacent to the Arctic Ocean ecosystem and is bordered by the Chukchi Sea to the west and Beaufort Sea to the east. It is currently the largest Eskimo village in Alaska and continues to grow.

Life and survival of this coastal village has centered primarily on subsistence hunting of marine animals and supplemented by some terrestrial mammals such as Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*). Marine mammals important for subsistence hunting include: Bowhead Whale (*Balaena mysticetus*), Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida*), Bearded Seal (*Erignathus barbatus*), and Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*). Complimenting this diet are other sources of sustenance, such as plants, fish, birds, and terrestrial mammals. One such bird is the Snowy Owl.

Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that the native Inupiat peoples throughout the Arctic have had a long history with the Snowy Owl. Through conversations with village elders and middle-aged men and women, we have determined that Snowy Owls served several purposes. For example, they were killed and eaten, and their eggs were also collected and eaten. Young owls were often captured and kept as pets until they grew and where to large to care for. The owls' were also carved as ivory tokens. And there body parts were used in various functions. We interpret these uses as admiration of the Snowy Owl by the Inupiat people.

Current Overview at Barrow

In today's Inupiat culture the Snowy Owl is rarely eaten. Indeed, a subsistence harvest poster depicts at least 49 species of birds used by various native peoples of Alaska, and the Snowy Owl is not listed (USFWS, Anchorage, Alaska). Barrow is today a modern community and the luxury of buying grocery store food has made life easier from a foraging perspective. Thus, certain supplementary food resources such as Snowy Owls are no longer an important food. Unfortunately however, some owls are still killed, but few are still eaten. Perhaps this may be a left-over cultural tradition that is likely to wane with time.

Rather, today the Snowy Owl is symbolized as a logo for The United Inupiat Corporation (IUC), a worldwide recognized business. The Snowy IUC logo is worn on sweatshirts, and hats. It is used on stationary and business cards. The Snowy Owl is also carved and sold as ivory or bone figurines by native artisans. And in recent years the Snowy Owl has become the object of the growing eco-tourism industry dominated by birdwatchers. Indeed, in Barrow, Alaska, one local native wildlife watching guide depends on Snowy Owls as part of the viewing tour.

The killing of Snowy Owls in recent years has led to National and International outrage in the form of newspaper articles, and internet news. Consequently, on 21 April 2004, the Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, acting as "a duly recognized governing body pursuant to the Constitution of the Native Village of Barrow" adopted RESOLUTION 2004-10, by a 5 yes to 0 no vote. This

resolution stated that all handling (i.e. killing, capturing for pets, egg collecting, etc.) of Snowy Owls – also known in Inupiat as Ukplk - is prohibited. The council cited many justifications for such a resolution, and most have been named above. Overwhelmingly, the people of Barrow see no need to kill the Snowy Owl for food in the 21st Century.

Currently, the state of Alaska still allows any resident the opportunity to kill Snowy Owls anytime for food. To my knowledge, no other bird of prey can be killed for any reason. On the contrary, the United States Government's USFW Migratory Bird Treaty act does not allow the killing of Snowy Owls for any reason. Additionally, the Birds of Prey Protection Act also does not allow killing birds of prey. The Raptor Research Foundation (RRF), the governing body on North American Birds of Prey is currently being consulted regarding this issue. Recent conversations with the President of the RRF concluded with the willingness to write a letter in support of a ban on Snowy Owl hunting in Alaska. Additionally, in February, the World Working Group on Snowy Owls will convene in Canada and also take-up this issue. I am a member of this committee.

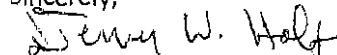
Personal Experiences at Barrow

Since the inception of this project, I have worked closely with the natives people of Barrow from 1982 to present. During the early years of this project, we recorded instances of Snowy Owls killed in the Barrow region. At that point in time I did not know that the killing was legal under the ADFG subsistence and game hunting laws.

Subsequently, my associates and I initiated education programs within all Barrow schools, the Barrow Senior Center ("elders"), conducted public lectures, and employed native men and women to work on the Snowy Owl project. Our intent was to learn more about the Snowy Owl in Inupiat Culture, and to explore way to reduce the killing of breeding Snowy Owls. We settled on an initial verbal proposal to suggest that if Snowy Owl were to be killed for food, then we preferred hunters to kill non-breeders. Non-breeders are easy to recognize, as they do not defend an area, or attack humans. With help from community members, we attempted to reinforce the concept that the owls must be eaten if killed. This information was disseminated through newspaper articles, and radio programs, and public communication.

Over the years it was evident that Snowy Owls were no longer a food source for Barrow natives, and non-native hunters. Although some are still killed, they are usually just left on the tundra with a leg or wing or head cut off. In almost all instances, that we were aware of, the owls killed were not consumed. Additionally, the owls killed that we were aware of were also breeders – i.e. one of a breeding pair with a nest. Today, Barrow elders and middle aged residents are in agreement that the Snowy Owl is no longer needed a supplemental food source.

Sincerely,



Denver W. Holt

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Seidensticker MT, DW Holt, S Talbot, J Detienne and K Gray. Field Techniques for Sex Determination of young Snowy Owls.

RC 25

KANADY

CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

FAX COVER SHEET

FOR: Alaska Board of Game / Atty.
FAX NUMBER: 465-6094 / 907-465-2332 *Commissioner Denby Lloyd*
FROM: Tim Kanady

DR. TIM KANADY • DR. TREVOR TEW
KANADY CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
FAX NUMBER: 907-272-2702
PHONE NUMBER: 907-272-2700

DATE: 1-28-10 PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

LIST OF DOCUMENTS OR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
Public Testimony @ Page 52

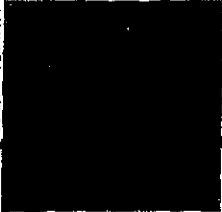
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RECEIVED
JAN 28 2010
DEPT. OF FISH & GAME
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

DR. TIM KANADY • DR. TREVOR TEW

1000 W. 11TH AVENUE SUITE 100 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99503



KANADY

CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

1113 W. FIREWEED LANE, SUITE 100 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503 OFFICE 907-272-2700 FAX: 907-272-2702

January 28, 2010

Alaska Board of Game

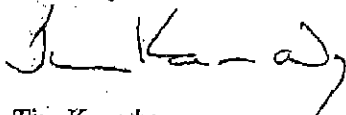
Re: Prop 52, Reduction in seaduck limits

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tim Kanady and I have been a resident of Alaska for 38 years. I have hunted ducks across the state my entire life from Southcentral to Cold Bay. Specifically, I have hunted with Buck Brown in Seldovia for over ten years. My perspective is the duck populations have shown no decline in any of the areas I hunt. I personally hunt ducks about twenty days a year. I have been told that the proposed reduction in the limit of seaducks in the Seldovia area is based on one person's opinion. If this is true it is obviously ridiculous. I would like to see the limits stay as they have been.

If you have any questions or if I may be of any service in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tim Kanady

_____ ↗

RC 26

Regarding the Board of Game's Comments on Proposal 16 & 17

I am distressed that the Board of Game is not considering the voice of the people after the 5 criteria were answered so that monkeys can be moved from the unclean list to the clean list. It seems to me that they are throwing much into the mix that doesn't even have anything to do with moving them from one list to the other.

For example:

1. I understand they want the Dept. of Justice to stop primates from being used because they don't want them used for good with disabled people (service animals) or as pets. But this isn't even passed and has nothing to do with exotic animals moving from one list to the other according to Alaska's Statute that states why an animal can be moved from one list to another. Oh and monkeys are doing a great benefit to many disabled people currently! They are also delightful pets when handled properly - but is not this true of a dog? Sure even dogs may be abused and can hurt an owner in return. In fact, there are packs of dogs in South-east Alaska that are able to breed with wolves, and can be dangerous in a pack and can take a deer (an indigenous animal). (So why are dogs on the clean list? - but please note I don't want to lose my puppies!)

2. The American Veterinary Medical Assoc. has a policy they want to see enforced (where primates are banned due to complaints, injuries and disease). However, this has nothing to do with monkeys moving from one list to the other, either. When a monkey is brought to Alaska a health certificate would show that they are healthy. They could not survive outside with the indigenous animals of Alaska.

3. Lastly the Federal Legislation (HB80/S.462) - which is stalled in the senate at this time. The Board wants to use this to have a big impact so that breeding stock cannot be brought into Alaska. However, again the criteria in the Alaska Statute 5AAC 92.029 Section "h" and "i" is where we were to draw from and answer the five questions. All this other information that the board put out there had nothing to do with answering the criteria of the indigenous population of Alaskan animals.

Therefore, I don't understand why all these other issues were being brought up. It looks like more of a smokescreen than anything to me. Please think before your answer.

Christy Paquette 10155 Jensine St., Juneau, Ak 99801 907 957-2512 Cell



FARMERS

RC 28

Jeffrey D. Johnson
Agent
731 Saint Joseph St. STE 240
Rapid City, SD 57701
Bus. (605) 716-1486
Fax (605) 341-1661

January 28, 2010

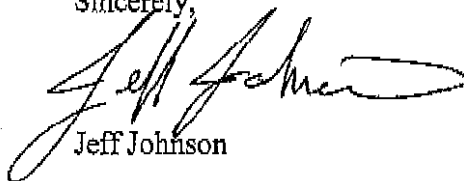
Alaska Board of Game
Proposal 52

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the proposal to reduce the limit of Sea Ducks in the Kachemak Bay area. I have hunted Sea Ducks all over the world. The last 2 seasons in and around the area listed above. I have never witnessed more birds anywhere in the world. I have yet to see any other hunters in that area putting any pressure at all on the birds. I am all about making changes to protect the great birds in which I love so much. However, I would like to see some data supporting the reasons why this is even being looked at. These birds DO NOT live in this area year round. I am wondering why putting a reduced limit on these birds in just this area would make any difference in the population? I would hate to see a change made just because of pressure that a non-hunter may be providing. Any change needs to be made on facts. Facts and data that prove a change NEEDS to be done! Most of the hunting done in and around areas like this is from non-resident hunters like me. The yearly limit is already low at 4 of each species!!

Please, please look hard and deep into this proposal. Reducing the limits in this area will accomplish nothing. Revenue from hunters is what really provides the proper conservation, as we are the individuals who truly care for the great birds that we hunt.

Sincerely,



Jeff Johnson

Re 29

Attn: Board of Game Proposal 52,

On behalf of the proposal to reduce bag limits in Kachemak Bay, I would like to express my thoughts having spent time there as well as being in other locations along the peninsula as a sportsman. The populations of Harlequin, Long tails, Barrows GE and Surf Scoter are overwhelming (along with White wings and Common Scoter). I just cannot understand the reasoning in a reduction pertaining to the small amount of birds actually being harvested from this area. Most of the harvest is done by hunters from the Lower 48 and the limitation on species is 4 per person annually. I have never seen as many Surf Scoter in my life feeding in China Foot Bay. There has never been a shortage of Harlequin and the hunting pressure has always been minimal. Please do not base your decision on some one's opinion. I and many other people have witnessed the overabundance of waterfowl in this area. I would honestly be concerned with the limits if there was a reason to do so. However, this is the last place that any one should be concerned due to population and over harvesting.

Please take an extended look at this and evaluate what is being proposed because limit reduction is not going to solve anything, funding via hunters is what fuels conservation. Do not reprimand them for harvesting the minimal amounts of birds that we do, we are the ones that truly care for the long term good will of these magnificent birds.

Kindest regards,

Shane Smith

266 495 2596 Ph
962 Co rd 94
Bridgeport, Al 35740

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RC30

- Folders [Add]
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- Drafts (1)
- Sent
- Spam [Empty]
- Trash [Empty]
- My Photos
- My Attachments

Board of Game Proposal 52

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 2:48 AM

From: "tyler welker" <twelker601@yahoo.com>
 To: kristy_tibbles@fishgame.state.ak.us, buck@xyz.net

Chat & Mobile Text [Hide]

I am Available

0 Online Contacts [Add]

No contacts online right now.

Start a New Chat

0 Mobile Contacts [Add]

You don't have any Mobile Text contacts yet

Start a Text Message

Settings

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STUN CALLING

Dear Kristy Tribbles,

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I'm writing to voice my opposition to Proposal 52, which would reduce sea duck daily limits from 10 per day for residents and 8 per day for nonresidents to 2 per day in the Kachemak Bay area within GMU 15C. Needless to say, I am an Anchorage resident and duck hunter. I do not represent any group or organization, but only myself as a concerned sportsman.

The original language of the proposal states that: "Exploitation rates and thresholds of abundance need to be maintained within easily accessible areas like Kachemak Bay". It continues with the issue: "Localized depletion of sea duck species from guided hunting". To sum up what will happen if nothing is done: "Depleted areas cannot recover. Most of these ducks are not eaten or utilized".

The first point I'd like to make is in response to "exploitation rates" and "depleted areas cannot recover". Biologists that I have spoken to estimate that 30,000 to 40,000 ducks spend the winter in Kachemak Bay. While published harvest statistics are not available, a reasonable estimate would be somewhere around 500 ducks are harvested by sport hunters in a typical season, the vast majority of which are not even considered sea ducks for the purpose of regulation. Species such as Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Mallards are the more commonly targeted and harvested ducks. While purely anecdotal, I have personally hunted the same general areas for the better part of a decade, both guided and unguided. In my personal opinion, duck numbers have done nothing but increase, with the 09 season being particularly productive. Of course, duck numbers are naturally prone to fluctuation, mostly dependent on nesting conditions. Sport harvest, when you consider that the season is effectively about 45 days long, is a very minor factor in overall duck numbers.

In regards to the Proposal's assertion that Kachemak Bay is an "easily accessible area", I have to respond: relative to what? Unless somebody intends to hunt from the Homer spit, the only way to access Kachemak Bay is by airplane or ocean worthy boat. A hunter simply cannot hop in their truck and hunt Kachemak Bay for an afternoon after work. Certainly the most insulting phrase in the proposal is the assertion that "Most of these ducks are not eaten or utilized". That is an awfully bold assumption. As I mentioned earlier, I have hunted sea ducks/divers/puddlers in this area for long time, and I have harvested many ducks. I have eaten every single one of them...that's the point isn't it? If the author of the proposal is aware of wanton waste laws being violated, that is a matter for law enforcement to deal with, not the Board of Game. A drastic reduction in limits will do nothing to prevent wanton waste. Of the twenty or so people I know that have and do hunt ducks in the area, not a single bird has gone to waste. If there truly is a case of wanton waste occurring, the full force of existing laws should be brought to bear.

In consideration to guided hunting, it would be worthwhile to consider the economic influx at a time of year when most local businesses are all but shut down. Guided hunters utilize air taxi's, water taxi's, local restaurants and hotels, and of course, local resident guides. Since the sea duck season occurs in November and early December, guided hunters represent steady income to these businesses and individuals well after the tourist season ends. A drastic reduction in duck limits would probably encourage most hunters to look elsewhere. Finally, I find it alarming and disheartening to believe that the Board of Game adopted this proposal based on the opinion and unfounded assumptions of one person, in spite of the fact that educated, professional biologists recommended against it. If there were a proven, scientific reason for such a drastic change in regulation, I, as a sportsman, would stand behind it. But a reduction in sea duck limits from ten to two based on nothing but opinion is almost beyond belief. If there were a particular species of sea duck that was in concern, it could be protected like the Steller's Eider, or severely curtailed like the Carvasback. But an across the board reduction of limits on "sea ducks" is entirely unjustified. Let us please leave

game management to the the game managers. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but establishing sport hunting laws based on those opinions is extremely dangerous. What's next? The author of the proposal is opposed to anybody hunting "their" ducks. That is unfortunate, but ultimately, irrelevant. Kachemak Bay duck populations are doing just fine, and so are the existing laws.
Thank you again for your time and consideration.
Tyler Welker
Anchorage

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RC31

1/28/10

Arthur Theodore
Elder Member / KNIK
Tribe

AIC Dept of Fish & Game
Board Support Section

To whom it May Concern:

Although I agree with most of the amendments & changes of laws pertaining to subsistence issues & educational permits,

I feel that the Beluga should be recognized as dwindling but not recognized as endangered species; will be impacted to other species

such as Salmon in the future if ignored. In this area Native population is a minority and the Sport fisherman and Commercial fisherman are recognized as revenue for the state and hampers our right to fish in more appropriate number of catch per season & I think we should be allowed a larger number of fish to subsetize the amount of members we save.

Arthur Theodore

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies.

Remove the reference requiring game taken for certain religious ceremonies to be defined as customarily and traditionally taken [OR USED FOR SUBSISTENCE, AND LIMIT THE TAKE TO MOOSE, DEER AND CARIBOU]. **Involve the local tribal or village entity to help regulate and monitor this religious practice.** In non-subsistence areas, a letter of authorization must be obtained from the department.

(a) The hunting and taking of **game** [CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME, CUSTOMARILY AND TRADITIONALLY TAKEN OR USED FOR SUBSISTENCE AS IDENTIFIED IN 5 AAC 99.025,]] outside the seasons or bag limits established in 5 AAC 85 for use as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies within 12 months preceding the ceremony is authorized if consistent with sustained yield principles.

(b) The department shall publicize a list of **game** [CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME]] populations and areas, if any, for which the taking of ^{game} [a CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME ANIMAL]] would be inconsistent with sustained yield principles.

(c) A written permit from the department is not required for taking of **game** [CARIBOU, DEER OR [BIG GAME]] under this section except a letter of authorization **must** [MUCH] be obtained in person from a department area office for taking of **game** [[MOOSE, CARIBOU, AND DEER]] in a non-subsistence area.

(d) Before **game** [a CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME]] is taken under this section;

(1) a tribal chief, village council president, or the chiefs or president's designee, for the village in which the religious ceremony will be held, notify the nearest office of the department that a hunt for **game** [a CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME ANIMAL]] will take place; the notification must include the number of animals expected to be taken, and the location where the taking will occur; the tribal chief, village council president or designee must maintain records of the successful hunters and the decedents for the village or tribal ceremony, and make that information available to an authorized representative of the department upon request; the tribal chief, village council president, or designee must notify the department of the location of the kill, and the species, sex, and number of animals taken under this section as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the taking of **game** [CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME]].

(2) a hunter [OUTSIDE OF A VILLAGE OR TRIBAL ORGANIZED CEREMONY,] must notify the **local tribal organization and the** nearest office of the department that a **game animal** [CARIBOU, DEER OR MOOSE [BIG GAME ANIMAL]] will be harvested, the time frame when, and location where the harvest will occur, and the name of the decedent; the notification must include the hunter's name, address, and the species [OF BIG GAME ANIMAL] to be hunted; a successful hunter must notify the department of the location of the kill, and the species, sex, and number of animals taken under this section as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the taking.

5329

ISSUE: A new, spring 2009, interpretation of this regulation by the Department of Public Safety has prevented access to big game for use in ceremonial harvests, inadvertently restricting lawful religious practice without demonstrating a compelling state interest justifying curtailing a religiously based practice in areas with abundant big game populations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskans religious freedoms will be restricted. Alaskans who were allowed to harvest big game in non-subsistence areas for religious ceremonies will likely continue their religious practices unlawfully.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No significant impact.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, department staff, **tribal organizations** and law enforcement. Those who traditionally harvest big game for customary and traditional Alaska Native religious funeral and mortuary ceremonies. The letter of authorization for non-subsistence areas will protect those harvesting wildlife under this authorization and will save time for law enforcement officers investigating complaints.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No negative effects are anticipated.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the take under an existing education permit. Do not allow ceremonial harvest in non-subsistence areas.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10W-G-024)

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PROPOSED BY: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-10W-G-024)



Native Village of Eklutna

Ceremonial Hunt Information Sheet Game Management Units 14C

Section A. Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Members

1) Your taking of wildlife for ceremonial purposes is authorized, if the harvested wildlife will be used for food in Dena'ina traditional religious ceremonies, which are part of funerary or mortuary cycles, including memorial potlatches. You must be a Tribal Member with sincere customary and traditional intent for use in game management units 14C and have a Hunting License issued by the State of Alaska.

2) The hunt must take place on Federal, State, Tribal or Village lands, outside populated areas.

3) Prior to attempting to take wildlife, you or your designee must contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or federal land management agency and the designated liaison: the Native Village of Eklutna, to provide the following information:

- Your Name, Residency and Tribal Role Number
- Name of the Decedent(s) and Tribal affiliation
- Nature and Date of the Ceremony
- Species and Number of Wildlife to be taken.
- Conservation unit and harvest area in which harvest will occur

NOTE: Native Village of Eklutna will act as the designated Federal or State agency liaison and will be contacted to assist with the monitoring and administration of this hunt. They may intern contact other Native Organizations or tribal leader.

4) After you take wildlife, the hunter must submit a written report within 15 days to the appropriate Federal or State game management agency and the Native Village of Eklutna who will ensure the agency receives it. A report form is enclosed for your convenience. The report must contain:

- Harvester's Name, Address and Hunting License Number
- Number, Sex and. Species of Wildlife Taken
- Date and Location of Harvest
- Name of the individual(s) and tribal affiliation for who the ceremony was/is being held.



Native Village of Eklutna

Native Village of Eklutna Ceremonial Hunt Pre-Hunt Record Form

Date: _____

Recorder: _____

Person or designee organizing ceremony, residency and tribal role number:

Name of designee: _____

Nature of the ceremony: _____

Species and number of wildlife to be taken:

Conservation Unit and Harvest Management Unit in which harvest will occur:

After above information is filled out, IMMEDIATELY FAX and notify by phone the Native Village of Eklutna or Alaska Department of Fish and Game depending on point of initiation and location of hunt. Designated officials will then sign below after monitoring is complete and IMMEDIATELY FAX it again to the agency and tribe.

Native Village of Eklutna
Land and Environment Manager
907-688-6021 fax

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADF&G/Wildlife Conservation
907-746-6305 fax

Tribal Official: _____ Date: _____

Agency Official: _____ Date: _____

RC 34



NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

January 26, 2010

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

Dear Game Board Members:

RE: Ceremonial Game Harvesting

The purpose of this letter is to support the amended version of Proposal 11- 5AAC-92.019 for the management of harvesting ceremonial game put forth by the Knik Tribal Council (KTC). While ceremonial game harvesting is a religious freedom activity, we realize there is a need to manage and prevent abuse as well as reduce over-harvesting blame on Alaska Natives like what wrongly occurred in the Beluga debates.

First, we appreciate the opportunity the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's, Board of Game has allotted on the Board of Game agenda to comment on the very important subject of harvesting ceremonial game. Second, we thank Knik Tribal Council for taking the lead on the amended proposal as well as all of the members of the various Cook Inlet Tribal communities for providing their input, guidance, and proposals for a collective game management process. With our tribal, state, and local input, service, and goals, we can build a strong continual relationship to serve all of Cook Inlet communities.

To provide the Board of Game with some background information; The Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) is a federally recognized tribe. The Native Village of Eklutna primarily serves Dena'ina ("the original people") residing in their Traditional Territory and the Municipality of Anchorage and is the only remaining original tribe whose village is within the Municipality. Additionally, The Native Village of Eklutna serves Tribal Citizens in locations inside and outside our traditional territory, all through various federally and privately funded programs.

Our duty as a federally recognized sovereign tribal government is to all of our Tribal citizens, and is not limited by arbitrary village or tribal boundaries.

January 26, 2010

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

RE: Ceremonial Game Harvesting

Page 2

To our knowledge, the Native Village of Eklutna has only been involved in one (1) ceremonial harvest under State Regulation 5AAC-92.019 in recent years. Tribal Citizen and Eklutna Incorporated President, Michael Curry accomplished this ceremonial harvest with assistance from Tribal Citizen Eleanor Wilde for a memorial potlatch for one of our Elders and Tribal leaders Daniel Alex who passed away in 2007. At that time, hunting occurred both in the Mat-Su and in the Anchorage areas. The Native Village of Eklutna has not been notified or is aware of any other ceremonial harvests within our Traditional Territory, and we have not been consulted to approve requests for ceremonial hunts from tribal Citizens of the Native Village of Eklutna or other Alaska Native Village Tribal Citizens. Although we do know that, such hunts have occurred over the years. Our Traditional Tribal leaders have also used the process for our bi-annual community potlatch and shall continue to carry out ceremonial harvesting for our Potlatch's. All other ceremonial harvests were done without our awareness or involvement. The point is this activity does not occur often or in large numbers for the Native Village of Eklutna.

We understand there is room for abuses under State of Alaska hunting Regulation 5AAC-92.019 in its current form. The Native Village of Eklutna would like to assist the State of Alaska ensure that all harvests within our Traditional Territory and those that take place within the Traditional Territory of other tribes are accomplished with conservation and reverence to careful management and ceremonial practices.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Proposals 11 thru 14 focus on Alaska Native religious practices regarding the harvest of ceremonial game. The Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Citizens will be harshly affected by any changes to the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulation 5AAC-92.019. Further, if the Board of Game should regulate ceremonial harvests this will be a violation of the Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Citizens religious freedoms, causing further undue harm to our community. Ceremonial potlatches are far too important.

Therefore, the Native Village of Eklutna welcomes the opportunity to ensure appropriate harvesting of ceremonial game by tribal citizens within our Traditional Territory. With this in mind, the Native Village of Eklutna requests to be included in the approval process for the protection of our natural resources. As is our custom, we of course would work with other tribes and villages for access to their Traditional Territories should the need arise in carrying out our ceremonial harvesting.

We believe the Native Village of Eklutna and other Alaska Native Villages around Alaska can facilitate careful management of natural resources by participating in the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulatory approval process. The Native Village of Eklutna would enter into an agreement with the other Alaska Native Villages, Tribes

January 26, 2010
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
RE: Ceremonial Game Harvesting
Page 3

and State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game in order to assist in the conservation of our game and natural resources. Additionally, by the Native Village of Eklutna and Other Alaska Native Tribes and Villages assisting the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulate and monitor any ceremonial harvests in our Traditional Territories this would facilitate communications concerning the overall conservation and the harvesting of game between the Alaska Native Tribes and the State of Alaska.

We have attached a sample application for Ceremonial Harvests within the Traditional Territory of the Native Village of Eklutna (known by the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game as Game Management Unit 14C). Please see Appendix B.

Again, our shared goals as residents of Alaska and the Cook Inlet area are to protect our valuable natural resources, namely our game. Furthermore, we recognize the opportunities for Tribal Citizens to harvest game in our traditional homeland is limited and is why we utilize the State of Alaska road kill disposal process thereby assisting the State of Alaska utilize the 100's of moose that are killed every year on the Railroad and Highway systems that traverse our Traditional Territory.

The Native Village of Eklutna looks forward to working with the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game to assist, clarify and facilitate the process of harvesting ceremonial game. Further to ensure our natural resources are plentiful and healthy in numbers for all whom utilize and depend upon Alaska's Natural Resources.

Respectfully,

Native Village of Eklutna



Dorothy Cook, President

Cc: Cook Inlet Tribes

Navy testing in Alaska

Marine Mammals

The Situation: The Navy has been authorized to take two million mammals per year for the next five years during its training exercises in Hawaii, the west coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and the entire Eastern seaboard; in fact, the Navy wants to deploy sonar in 80% of the world's oceans. Obviously, this issue greatly affects all of Alaska.

The immediate Alaskan concern, however, involves proposed Navy training activities in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). All public comments must be received or postmarked no later than January 25, 2010, so time is of the essence. You may comment online at www.GulfofAlaskaNavyEIS.com. Please see below for points on which to comment.

Marine Mammals

1. According to the Marine Mammal Commission, "The Gulf of Alaska supports a diversity of marine mammals, a number of which are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act or designated as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. They include pinnipeds (Stellar sea lions, northern fur seals, and sea otters) and cetaceans (AT1 killer whales, eastern North Pacific right whales, Cook Inlet beluga whales), humpback whales, fin whales, sperm whales, and sei whales....Several of them are in especially critical conditions....

2. The Ocean Mammal Institute, a federal agency created to help protect marine mammals, stated serious concerns about the effects of the Navy's use of LFAS, explaining that the possible effects on marine mammals could include the following:

- death from trauma
- hearing loss
- disruption of feeding, nursing, sensing and communication (Abandoned calves have been reported in affected areas.)
- stress (making animals more vulnerable to disease and predation)
- changes in distribution and abundance of important marine mammal prey species
- subsequent decreases in marine mammal survival and productivity.

All of these effects have been witnessed in the past. See the Ocean Mammal Institute's publication "US Navy's Misinformation To Congress About LFAS." Additionally, MSNBC reported that "A National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration study said the Navy's use of sonar contributed to the beaching of 16 whales and two dolphins in the Bahamas in 2000. Eight of those whales died, showing hemorrhaging around their brains and ear bones, possibly because they were exposed to loud noise."

3. Many scientists believe that animals seen stranded on the beach as a result of Navy sonar testing represent only a small portion of the technology's toll because severely injured animals rarely come to shore. In fact, scientists believe that mid-frequency sonar blasts may drive certain whales to change their dive patterns in ways their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries; these symptoms are akin to a several case of "the bends." (NRDC) In fact, the true effects of Navy sonar testing on marine wildlife remains unknown.

4. The June, 2010, issue of Scientific American reported that the U.S. Navy's sonar generates "slow-rolling sound waves topping out at around 235 decibels, equivalent to the intensity of a Saturn rocket; the world's loudest rock bands top out at only 130. The Navy confirms that these sound waves can travel for hundreds of miles under water, and can retain an intensity of 140 decibels (100 times more intense than the level known to alter the behavior of large whales) as far as 300 miles from their source."

5. The Navy does not consider the potential cumulative impacts from multiple sound exposures. For example whales in the GOA migrate to Hawaii. The Navy seeks to cover 80% of the world's oceans with its sonar testing, including the west coast of the U.S. as well as Hawaii. Over time, multiple exposures could lead to impaired hearing abilities, as studies on the effects of sound on terrestrial mammals has shown. Too, feeding behavior and other vital behavior could be altered repeatedly, the cumulative effects of which could prove fatal.

6. The Navy does not consider the marine animals that may be affected by sonar at a significant distance from the source.

7. The Navy does not take into account the added noise pollution caused by the increase in vessel traffic during training.

8. The Navy does not consider the possibility of strikes by sub-surface submarines during transit and/or operations. The Navy lacks any evidence that passive listening is a reliable means of detecting nearby marine life.

9. Although the risk of surface vessel strikes is heightened by its operations, the Navy does not note the many limitations on the ability to see and avoid collisions with marine mammals, instead repeatedly touting lookouts as an effective means to avoid collisions with whales. The limited effectiveness of using lookouts is widely documented, yet the Navy fails to take into account the difficulty to see animals as well as the fact that many marine mammals remain under water for

considerable periods of time. Beaked whales, for example, can spend up to an hour under the surface, with only short and intermittent surface intervals.

10. The Navy fails to consider the adverse impact of the massive amounts of debris that will be disposed of in the oceans during its training periods. Entanglements are serious concerns for marine mammals, often resulting in death.

11. Clearly it is likely that certain impacts on marine mammals from the Navy operations may fall within the category of Level A Harassment.

Fish and Other Marine Wildlife

12. The Navy has not evaluated the consequences of its sonar on marine fish.

12. The Navy does not provide analysis of the cumulative effects of sonar testing on commercial fishing, yet the National Marine Fisheries Service believes that sonar testing could directly and indirectly impact federally managed fishery species in North Carolina. (North Carolinians for Responsible Use of Sonar)

13. Not everything is known about the effects of sonar on fish, but studies show that intense sound can damage fish's ears, reduce the viability of eggs and harm larvae, and retard growth. Intense sound can also cause fish to change their behavior, disrupt their navigation, communication, foraging, and schooling - and dramatically reduce catch rates. (NC Coastal Federation)

14. According to the Times-Standard, "the Navy says that shock waves from inert bombs, intact missiles and targets hitting the water's surface would injure fish in some areas," and that "underwater explosions...could hurt invertebrates...."

15. Walt Duffy with the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Research Unit at Humboldt State University points out that there is limited information on the effects of sound on fish. He said that "how the activities the Navy proposes might affect surfacing and migrating salmon are also open to question." (Times-Standard)

16. Arthur N. Popper, biology professor at the university of Maryland and expert in fish hearing, states, "The effects of sound on fish could potentially include increased stress, damage to organs, the circulatory and nervous systems. Long-term effects may alter feeding and reproductive patterns in a way that could affect the fish population as a whole."

17. The reproductive functions of shrimp and crabs may also be affected by intense underwater noise. (NC Coastal Federation)

18. The Navy has not considered the possible effects on seabirds.

Humans and Marine Wildlife

19. The Navy has not addressed the issue of sea pollution. Humans cannot survive without a healthy ocean, and already the North Pacific is known for the North Pacific Gyre, a plastic "graveyard" at least twice the size of Texas; some believe it to be as large as the entire continental United States.

20. The Navy has not addressed the issue of air pollution.

Closing

- *In October 2004 the European Parliament called for a ban in European waters of military sonar equipment and asked its twenty-five member states to stop deploying high-intensity active naval sonar. (Marine Connection)*

- *In November 2004, delegates at the meeting of the parties to ACCOBAMS (the United Nations Environment Program's Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area) adopted a resolution recognizing that ocean noise generated by humans is a dangerous pollutant to marine life. (Marine Connection)*

- *In November 2004, the World Conservation Union called for action to reduce the impact of high-intensity active sonar and other sources of damaging underwater sound. (Marine Connection)*

- *The North Carolina Watermen United has presented a statement opposing Naval sonar training off the coast of North Carolina.*

**** Alaskans depend on the sea for food, for income, and for pleasure. Clearly the Navy needs to train, but choosing training areas in some of the most prolific marine wildlife regions in the United States, if not the world, particularly at a time when migrating marine life is present, is, at best, irresponsible. We therefore support the "No Action Alternative," which provides for the continuation of training activities within the Alaska area at the current levels.***

Additional sources: Southern Environmental Law Center, Atlanta, Georgia

Turning the Tides, Sitka, Alaska, Chapter, Lynn Wilbur

RC 36



**Ahtna Potlatch
January 11, 2010**

Purpose of Ahtna's Proposal and Ahtna Authorization Form

Ahtna, Inc. would like to be the focal point of the distribution of the Ahtna Authorization Form. The Ahtna Authorization Form will have tribal laws written on it, so the public will know what the tribal laws are, so that they can obey and conform to Ahtna's customary and traditional way of holding a traditional potlatch.

There will be one place, where the public can obtain forms to take Game for the two main potlatches which are currently held, which are funeral and memorial potlatches. If Ahtna, Inc. were the designated place, then staff of Ahtna would be responsible for knowing who is hunting and where they are hunting, and ensuring that a report is done, within 15 days after taking Game for a potlatch.

Matrilineal Lineage

The Ahtna Athabascans are from the Copper River area. The Ahtna have a systematic matrilineal lineage in regards to clans. Each person has the same clan as his or her mother's clan. There are 9 Ahtna clans, which are: One Way People-"Alts'e' tnaey, Raven Clan -Naltsiine, Canyon Clan-Dits'i'iltsiine, Fireweed Clan, Dik'aagiyu, Water Clan-Taltsiine, First Tail Clan-Cela'yu, Paint Clan-Tsisyu, Second Paint Clan-Nitsisyu, and Caribou Clan-Udzisyu.

Potlatch(s)

There are two major potlatches held today, which are funeral and memorial potlatches in honor of a loved one, who has died. The funeral potlatch is held as soon as possible after the loved one has passed on. The host/hostess will hold a family meeting to discuss preparations for the potlatch, burial arrangement, moose/caribou kills, and food purchase, etc.

The memorial potlatch is planned for and is held when preparations are ready to hold a potlatch. The memorial potlatch is usually held one or more years after the deceased person has passed on. These potlatches may last two to three days.

Events at Potlatches

Meals for a three day funeral and memorial potlatch are prepared by the host/hostess and clan relatives. All 3 meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served to those in attendance. Meals served are traditional Ahtna food, such as moose, caribou, porcupine, beaver, ducks, etc and wild berries.

Traditional wild foods are served at potlatches. Traditional foods served at potlatches shows that the host/hostess has prepared harvested foods for family and honored guests. Whenever, an Ahtna person gives traditional foods away or other gifts, they always give away their food or gifts to people, to show that they are honoring the person(s).

During the morning and afternoon, people visit with each other and wait for the evening meal and dancing. Ahtna dancing is usually held in the evenings, and sometimes before dinner is served. Dancing usually begins after the evening meal has been served and the community hall floor is cleaned.

Food is served by men, who walk on a "table cloth" or white paper that is stretched out the length of the community hall between rows of people, sitting on chairs or benches. Tea is served in Styrofoam cups that is placed upon the floor or handed to people, who are waiting to be served food and tea. Paper plates, Styrofoam cups, plastic utilities, and other garbage have to be cleaned, before the dancing can begin. It is engii (taboo) to step on or dance on foods, left on the floor. Taking good care of traditional foods is important to Ahtna people.

On the last night of the potlatch, the last event is to give those people who have helped with the burial of deceased person. The gifts are given to opposite clan. People who were honored to have made preparations for the body for burial are given gifts first, and then other opposite clan members are given gifts, such as blanket, rifles, or other items, such as dishes, baskets, pots and pans.

Other Traditional Potlatches

There are other traditional potlatches, which are not held as they were in the past, which are Welcome Home potlatch, First Kill potlatch, Deceased Person's and Name Given to a Relative Potlatch. The host/hostess will hold a family

meeting to discuss the potlatch, such as moose/caribou kills, food purchase, gifts to be distributed, duration of potlatch etc.

The Welcome Home Potlatch is to hold a potlatch to rejoice that a relative has recovered from a serious illness or accident. It is planned for and held when preparations are ready to hold a potlatch. The duration of the potlatch is determined by the host or hostess. It is usually held in combination with other potlatches or held 2 or 3 days.

The First Kill Potlatch is to honor a young boy or girl who has killed his/her first big or small game animal. The child must give away the first kill to the Elders. A potlatch is held to honor the child. The potlatch is planned for and held when preparations are ready to hold a potlatch. The length of days the potlatch is held is determined by the host or hostess. It is usually held in one day.

A Deceased Person's Name Given to a Relative Potlatch is a potlatch held when a person is named after a relative who has passed on. It is planned for and held when preparations are ready to hold a potlatch. The time-span of the potlatch is determined by the host or hostess. It is usually held in combination with other potlatches or held 2 or 3 days.

Ahtna Tribal Laws on Potlatches Unit 11, Unit 12, Unit 13, and Unit 20(a)

Ceremonial Ahtna Potlatch

All potlatches will be held in Ahtna's ceremonial way of holding potlatches.

Procedure for Authorization Form

Ahtna Authorization Form to take game will be given to family's designated hunters by Ahtna, Inc.

The family member of the deceased and/or potlatch host/hostess will fill out an Ahtna Authorization Form with designated hunter (s) names.

The Authorization Form will be signed by Ahtna, Inc. with a copy given to ADF&G and Designated Hunter(s).

The Ahtna Authorization Form will include Ahtna Tribal Laws.

The designated hunters will carry the Ahtna Authorization Form when hunting for game.

Ahtna, Inc. or representative of Ahtna, Inc. will notify ADF&G as soon as practical, but not more than 15 days after the harvest, of the location of the kill and the species, sex, and number of the game animals taken.

List of Ahtna Tribal Rules:

1. A member of the opposite clan, as designated by the family will hunt for Game.
2. The designated hunters will harvest the head, stomach, kidney, liver, fat and any edible meat from the field.
3. They will take all of the meat, head, stomach, kidney, liver, fat and any edible meat to the village community hall where the potlatch is to be held.
4. Only young men will serve the food at potlatches. It is taboo (engii) for women to step over or serve potlatch foods.
5. The men will prepare and cook moose head first and then cook the rest of the meat. Moose/caribou meat will be served to the elders first and then to the younger people.
6. All food left over will be given to the opposite clan before distribution of traditional gifts.
7. The potlatch clan will be dressed with traditional clothing made from moose or caribou hide when serving food or giving of gifts.
8. Big game, small wild game, water fowl and fish may be served at the breakfast, lunch or evening meals. Berries may be served.

**Interview on Traditional Ahtna Potlatch
Copied by Unknown Author**

Hwtiitl' = potlatch in Ahtna. The Ahtna people had potlatch for most big events in life. If a young boy kills his first moose, a baby is named after an ancestor or an adult is given the name of an ancestor, the first salmon of the year, but mostly a memorial potlatch.

The potlatches range from big (costing thousands of dollars) to small (only a few honored people) events.

The small potlatches are usually held in the home where dinner is served. The young person who the potlatch is given for, as when the first moose is killed, the young person does not partake of the food. It is engii (taboo) if he/she eats, it will bring bad luck on the young person in his future hunting if he/she eats. At this time, the young person is also learning to share.

In the days before the western culture penetrated the Ahtna culture, when a person died, the family waited a year to give a potlatch. The person in mourning would cut their hair short while in mourning and they were not suppose to be happy during the time after someone died, They believed happiness would cause more deaths. They stayed sad and quiet during the funeral. Let everyone know they are sad. No potlatch.

The grave diggers would be invited to a steam bath after they dug the grave. After the steam bath, the worker would be given new clothes: underclothes, shirt, pants, etc. They were served a good meal and tea.

The family would take the old clothes and throw it away. After lunch, the family would express their gratitude by a simple "Thank you for all you did." and that was the end.

The people of the opposite clan should not say anything, no complaints about the family if they received unfavorable treatment. If the family hear about the person complaining, they would call the person to come to their home and "fix" him/her". The family would prepare a container of grease and serve it to the complainer. The person would have no choice but to drink the grease in front of the people. [They could not] "Can't deny the drink of grease."

At the end of one year, potlatch, the person who is in charge of the potlatch would kind of make an announcement like "all right, you can make me happy now." and send someone to invite people to the potlatch. The person would walk to the villages and invite people, first and most important, visit the Chief of the village, the highest of the opposite clan, and say, "Come at this time." The people would come at the appointed time. Everyone is happy. A great big

feast is prepared. Not everyone ate; relatives of the dead cannot eat. They have to work. This is the [tradition].

After one year, they can be happy. They wait for one year to give the family time to accumulate gifts, to give to the people who helped with the meal.

The people who help with the funeral are people of the opposite clan. If a person under the Raven Clan passed away, the people of the opposite clan help with the funeral by digging the grave, preparing the body, but they do not help with the cooking or the gifts. The gifts are pay for the help.

In the old days, bowls were carved from spruce wood, big serving type spoons were carved from either spruce wood or Dall sheep horn, Mukluks, moccasins, shirts, clothing type stuff were ready for the gifts. And gifts were only given to those that helped at the funeral. Most important are the grave diggers and the person who prepared the body for burial. Now, the people who dig the grave and the person who transports the body back from town or transport the body to the burial site, because the mortuary prepares the body for burial.

Now we give blankets (Pendleton blanket is best gift given to the people who helped the most). Guns (given to those who dug the grave, transported the body, and if there is enough to pass to others: to the person who came the farthest to be with the family while they were mourning, then to the highest Or eldest person of the opposite clan), whatever kinds of gifts the family want to give, like dishes, TV, radio, etc. is now passed around as gifts.

Olden times, the person giving the potlatch would fast or not eat or do anything extravagant (it was engii, taboo) for a month after the funeral to keep his/her luck.

The people who walked from another village to the potlatch would come as far as about a mile and stop. They would wait there until the family came out to welcome them. While they waited for the family's welcome, they would sing "sorry" songs" songs that were made and sang, for other people who have died. They would stay there and sing the "sorry" songs and intersperse it with happy songs, dance until the door was open. They would come to the family's house, and sing and dance outside the house, like an elder told me "during the winter, the snow would be packed down to flat where the people sang and danced until they were invited into the house."

At the turn of the century when guns became available, the people who were

coming to the house would start shooting the guns in the air, notifying the family that they were about a mile from the house. They sang and danced until they heard responding gunshots from the family. Then they would come closer to the house, singing and dancing. They sang happy songs at certain time to let the people know they were there to make them happy during their time of sorrow. As they entered the house, they would be singing and dancing, wearing the regalia. They made a circle in the middle of the room; they sang and danced until everyone was in the house. They would stop singing and squat on the floor, as the person in charge of the potlatch welcomed them. They were served tea and a small lunch to tie them over until the potlatch meal.

How the guests were served food: The honored guests (the Chief, the grave diggers, the transporter, the person who prepared the body) were given food in big containers. That person can share the food with the people or keep it for himself. Most of the time, it was shared. When china dishes became available to the Ahtna people, they used to accumulate plates, bowls, cups and saucers.

Their cache would be filled with dishes for the potlatch occasion. The people were given these dishes to eat the potlatch meal. When a container of food was empty, the person it was given to would take the empty container and throw it toward the middle of the room and yell "whoa whoa". Then as each person finished the food on their plate, they would do likewise. The reason for the accumulated dishes in the cache, Later, when the enameled tin dishes were available, it was used over and over again, Now paper or Styrofoam plates are used, picked up by kids with trash bags and thrown away.

After the meal, usually the Chief of the honored clan would walk to the middle of the room. It would get real quiet in the room, "you could hear a pin drop". The person would start talking in "high class" Ahtna, I heard this language when I was about twelve, I remember when an Ahtna elder got in the middle of the room and started talking, I prided myself in understanding the lower Ahtna language, but this was different. Only the old Ahtna people understood the person. When I asked what he said. I was told he spoke in "high class" Ahtna that was not used anymore. It is at this time that the family hears the sorrow that the person felt, memories of the deceased is told, or if members of the dead person's family miss-conducted themselves, they were bawled out.

The gifts were not brought in through the doorway, The gifts were stored in a cache near the home, and when it was time to give the gifts to the opposite clans, a window would be opened and the gifts were passed through the windows. This was to keep the luck of the person who is giving the potlatch, This was another engii (taboo) to bring the gifts through the doorway, The gifts

were bundled in moose hide, later in cloth bags made with calico, and now in Hefty's 33-gallon trash bags. It was engii to show the gifts so they had to be bundled.

Children were not allowed at the potlatch. The children stayed home, only older people and workers. If a child came to the dinner, the people would ask: "what do you want, get out of here!" The children didn't mind, it made them think and obey.

**AHTNA COMMUNITY HUNT APPLICATION
FOR COMMUNITY SHARING HUNTERS**
APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE AHTNA HUNT ADMINISTRATOR
BY 3:00 PM ON AUGUST 10, 2009

Today's Date:		Driver's license or state ID number:			
Name (first, middle initial, last, suffix):					Date of Birth:
Mailing address (including zip code):					
Physical address (if different):					
Home phone:		Cell phone:		Email:	

COMMUNITY HUNT CONDITIONS

- 1) **Applications must be received at the Ahtna Glennallen office no later than by 3:00 pm on August 10, 2009. Applications received through the U.S. Mail by August 10th will be considered as timely.**
- 2) Community sharing hunters must fill out and sign an application thereby acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions, that they fully intend to abide by the conditions, and that they understand the consequences of failing to do so. Falsifying information and non-compliance with hunt conditions may result in a harvest report being pulled mid-season, ineligibility for this hunt in future years, and/or citation. Successful applicants may also be asked to sign a similar verifying statement before obtaining a community sharing caribou harvest report.
- 3) By signing this application the applicant verifies his/her full intent to actively hunt as soon as possible after being drawn and selected for the sharing caribou hunt. A successful applicant who fails to actively and timely hunt may be required to provide a sworn statement explaining the reasons for failing to hunt. All applications will be placed in a random drawing and those chosen first will be the first allowed to hunt. At least the first 30 hunters drawn will be issued caribou harvest tickets at the beginning of the sharing hunt.
- 4) Community sharing hunters will need to have a valid hunting license or permanent identification card if 60 or older, as well as a valid state identification card if 16 or older.
- 5) If you sign up as a community sharing hunter, you are prohibited from holding a state harvest ticket/report or any other state hunt permit for caribou or moose during the same regulatory year. If you sign up as a community sharing hunter, all your household members will be similarly affected. You and all your household members will be limited to hunting caribou and moose only within the community hunt area, which for caribou is GMU 13. If you are selected for any state drawing, tier I, or tier II permit for caribou or moose for the 2009-2010 regulatory year, you must decide whether to use the permit and forgo participation in the community hunt or give up the permit and participate in the Community Hunt. You must return a GMU 13 Tier I permit or other caribou or moose permit to an ADF&G office prior to hunting as a community sharing hunter. If you or any member of your household has already hunted this regulatory year under a Tier I or other caribou or moose harvest report or permit for another area, you are not eligible to participate in the community hunt as a community sharing hunter.
- 6) Harvest tickets must be signed by the Ahtna Hunt Administrator or the administrator's designated representative as well as the community sharing hunter to be valid.
- 7) Hunters on the current state Failure to Report list are not eligible to participate as a community sharing hunter. It is the applicant's responsibility to determine if they are on the list.
- 8) Community sharing hunters must deliver completed hunt reports to the Ahtna Hunt Administrator by mail, fax or in person within 3 days of taking the animal and transporting it to the place of final processing and preparation for human use. Unsuccessful hunters must also similarly deliver completed

hunt reports within 10 days of returning home after the hunt. Additionally, community sharing hunters must contact the hunt administrator through email (huntadmin@ahtna-inc.com), fax (822-3495) or phone (822-8137) within 24 hours of leaving the field and notify the administrator of their success or failure to harvest, and if they intend to continue hunting or not. This will allow the administrator to stop the hunt when 30 caribou are harvest, and will allow other hunters to participate in the hunt after already selected hunters stop hunting. Failure to timely report as set forth above will cause a community sharing hunter to be placed on the state Failure to Report (FTR) list, and they will be ineligible to participate in any state permit or subsistence community hunts the following regulatory year. Also, a citation may be issued. The community sharing hunt can be closed by ADF&G or the hunt administrator prior to the scheduled date by emergency order. It is the hunter's responsibility to check the status of the hunt. Updated hunt status information can be found by calling the community hunt hotline at 907-822-8136 or by checking the Ahtna, Inc. website at <http://www.ahtna-inc.com/>

- 7) Community sharing hunters are required to salvage the neck meat, brisket, ribs, front quarters as far as the knee, hindquarters as far as the hock, and all of the meat along the backbone (backstrap and tenderloin).
- 8) Community sharing hunters must deliver at least 2 quarters, one of which must be a hind-quarter, to the Kluti Kaah meeting hall near Copper Center on October 3, 2009. Deliveries should be made between 8am and 10 am since the sharing event will occur after 10 am on that day and there is not sufficient refrigeration at Kluti Kaah to allow for earlier deliveries. The meat delivered must be in very good condition and have been well cared for in the field and during storage. Hunters are encouraged to contact the hunt administrator if they need information about proper care for meat or if they need to work out details for delivering meat. Hunters are also invited and encouraged to attend the sharing event.
- 9) Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat. Caribou antlers must be left at the kill site, and they must be removed from the skull plate or the skull plate must be cut in half.

Signature _____

Date _____

Submit by Email

Print Form



**Moose and Caribou Community Harvest Plan
For the 2009 Ahtna Community Harvest Permit**

- 1) Eligibility
 - a) Alaska Residency
 - b) Village Membership - Boundary maps
 - c) Age
 - d) Valid Hunting License
 - e) Not currently on the State Failure to Report (FTR) List for RY 2009-2010
- 2) Hunt Areas, Moose / Caribou Allocations, and Season Dates
 - a) Deadline to start letting hunters sign up
 - b) Hunt areas
 - c) Moose & Caribou Allocation and Season Dates
- 3) Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee and 8 Ahtna Villages
 - a) Hunt description within Ahtna Villages
 - b) Customary and Traditional Hunt Conditions
- 4) ADF&G's Role
 - a) Create Moose & Caribou harvest tickets/reports
 - b) Assist Ahtna Administrator with Community Harvest Hunt Plan
 - c) Close the hunts (portions of hunts) when harvest limits are reached
- 5) Ahtna, Inc. Hunt Administrator's Role
 - a) Contact person
 - b) Issue numbered harvest tickets/reports
 - c) Assist village designated person/Land Protection Officer
- 6) Village Administrator and Land Protection Officer's Role
 - a) Contact person(s)
 - b) Assist Ahtna, Inc. Hunt Administrator
 - c) Assist hunters in understanding and complying with hunt conditions
- 7) Hunter's Role



Eligibility

The term “community hunter” means a member of one of the 8 communities included in the Community Harvest Permit who has subscribed to the permit and is entitled to receive a harvest ticket/report.

The term “designated hunter” is a person designated by a community hunter to harvest their caribou or moose. A designated hunter does not need to be a community member.

Eligibility for sharing is according to customary and traditional patterns and practices and is not limited to community residents.

Eligibility for the court ordered sharing opportunity, including eligibility as a “community sharing” hunter is not addressed in detail in this plan. The sharing opportunity is addressed in detail in announcements dated July 31 and August 5, 2009 that are available on the Ahtna website.

To be eligible for the community hunt, a community hunter and designated hunter must be an Alaska resident. A resident is defined as a person who is physically present in Alaska with the intent to remain indefinitely and make a home here, who has maintained their domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this hunt, and who is not claiming residency or obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country.

Community hunters must be either permanently domiciled within the boundaries of one of the 8 villages: Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Kluti Kaah, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta, or Tazlina (see boundary descriptions and maps in Appendix A), or demonstrate that they are members of one of the above communities as explained in more detail below.

Community hunters and designated hunters must be at least 10 years of age by the start of the hunt to receive a harvest ticket/report. All hunters 16 years of age and up by the start of the hunt must have a valid hunting license and an annual or permanent identification card. Hunters must abide by all other state requirements including hunter education requirements in Game Management Unit (GMU) 13.

Hunters on the state Failure to Report (FTR) list for Regulatory Year 2009-2010 are not eligible for this hunt (these hunters failed to report on a state permit hunt during 2008-2009 and are ineligible to participate in any state permit hunts this year, as well as community harvest hunts). Hunters will be encouraged to check with ADF&G if they believe they may be on this list. A list of applicant names will also be submitted by the hunt administrator to ADF&G to be checked for FTR ineligibility.

Hunt Areas, Moose / Caribou Allocations, and Season Dates

Deadline

There is no deadline to sign up for this hunt, similar to other state and federal registration hunts. Harvest tickets will be available as soon as practicable after processing applications. Hunters are encouraged to



sign up as early as possible to enable the hunt administrator to process their application and to receive their harvest tickets. Designated hunters are encouraged to sign up before September 1 in order to qualify for any drawing that may be held to select hunters for the sharing event harvest.

Hunt Areas

Maps of the hunt area are in Appendix B. The hunt areas for moose are GMU 11 and GMU 13, and a portion of GMU 12 explained below. The hunt area for caribou is GMU 13. National Park Service park lands are closed for the purposes of this hunt.

The GMU boundaries are described in the 2009-2010 *Alaska Hunting Regulations* booklet. For that portion included in GMU 12, the hunt area is as follows: that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of Units 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier.

The state bag limits for moose and caribou in this region are one bull moose and one caribou per person. Each community hunter will be issued one caribou and one moose community harvest ticket/report. Considering the potential to exceed the 100 any-bull moose limit, any-bull moose tickets/reports will only be issued to the following groups of individuals applying as community hunters, in accordance with C&T use patterns: 1) elders (age 65 and up), 2) disabled (with proof of disability or detailed written explanation of disability), 3) single parents with children, and 4) widows. The Hunt Administrator may issue additional any-bull harvest tickets/reports to other community hunters if, as the season progresses, it does not appear that the 100 any-bull harvest will be fully realized. The Administrator will consult with village representatives and ADF&G before issuing such tickets/reports.

Moose & Caribou allocations and season dates per subunit are as follows:

<u>GMU</u>	<u>'Any-bull' moose*</u>	<u>spike/fork, 50", 4BT moose</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
12	0	Unlimited	24 Aug – 28 Aug; 8 Sept – 17 Sept
13A	20	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13B	25	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13C	15	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13D	10	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13E	15	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept

<u>GMU</u>	<u>'Any-bull' moose</u>	<u>spike/fork, 50", 3BT moose</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
11	15	Unlimited	10 Aug - 20 Sept

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Caribou</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
11	0	None
12	0	None
13	300 in Unit 13 total	10 Aug – 20 Sept/21 Oct – 31 March



*The 'any-bull' moose allocations can also be found on the maps in Appendix B
Roles of Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee & 8 Ahtna Villages

Village boundary descriptions.

Determine C&T requirements for the hunt.

Ahtna Community Hunt Conditions:

- 1) Community hunters and designated hunters must fill out and sign an application form acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions. Falsifying information and non-compliance with hunt conditions may result in a permit being pulled mid-season, ineligibility for this hunt in future years, and/or citation. Community hunters must be Alaska residents, and must be a member of one of the eight communities named below. Community membership is demonstrated either if: 1) a person is permanently domiciled within the designated boundaries of one of the 8 Ahtna villages: Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Kluti Kaah (Copper Center), Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta, or Tazlina; or 2) a person is connected to the community through consistent participation over at least one year with the community, including participation in the community's customary and traditional (C&T) subsistence patterns and practices. A person applying as a resident of a community may be requested to provide proof of residency (an affidavit of residency, or utility bill such as electricity, telephone, or garbage with a physical address). A person applying as a resident who left the Copper Basin or Cantwell area for more than 60 consecutive days in the past 12 months may be required to provide a written explanation for the absence. Valid reasons for an absence include education, military, or medical reasons. A person applying as a non-resident member of the community must provide a statement signed by another resident or member of the community verifying that the applicant is a member of the community and specifying the applicant's participation in the community, including participation in the community's C&T subsistence harvest and use patterns. The following criteria establish community membership: subsistence hunting with other members of the community; sharing among other members of the community; customary and traditional preparation and preservation of big game resources with other members of the community; and teaching and learning C&T subsistence patterns and practices with community members. Community membership requires a pattern of participation. Participation in one hunt, fishing or gathering activity, for example, does not qualify a person as a community member. The Ahtna Tene Nene' hunt administrator is required to verify the statement of community membership with the village hunt administrator or the Village Tribal Government. A sample of a statement supporting an applicant's participant as a community member will be available on the Ahtna website or through the hunt administrator.
- 2) Community hunters and designated hunters must have a valid hunting license or permanent identification card if 60 or older, as well as a valid state identification card if 16 years of age or older.
- 3) If a person signs up for the community hunt as a community hunter, they are prohibited from holding a state harvest ticket or any other state hunt permit for moose or caribou during the same regulatory year.



If they sign up for the community hunt, all their household members will be similarly affected. They will also be limited to hunting moose and caribou only within the community hunt area. If they or any member of their household are selected for any state drawing, tier I, or tier II permit for moose or caribou for the 2009-2010 regulatory year, they must decide whether to use the permit and forgo participation in the community hunt, or to return the permit prior to hunting to the Glennallen ADF&G office and participate in the community hunt.

- 4) Harvest tickets must be signed by the Hunt Administrator or designated representative as well as the community hunter to be valid
- 5) A community hunter may designate another person (a “designated hunter”) to harvest their moose or caribou. The community hunter can designate any person who has applied through the hunt administrator to be a designated hunter and is qualified under the conditions listed below. A designated hunter does not need to be a community resident or a community member. The Ahtna hunt administrator will keep a list of persons who have applied to be designated hunters to enable community hunt participants to select a designated hunter. **The community hunter remains responsible for all harvest reporting requirements.**
 - a. Designated hunters must sign a hunt application acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions and that they agree to abide by the same hunt conditions as the original community hunter (the “beneficiary”).
 - b. A person choosing to participate in the community hunt as a designated hunter, and everyone in their household, will be limited to hunting moose and caribou within the community hunt area during the regulatory year.
 - c. Designated hunters must be Alaskan residents and must have a valid hunting license and a valid state identification card if 16 years of age or older.
 - d. Several designated hunters (no limit) may be listed on the front of the beneficiary’s harvest ticket, but the most current designated hunter must carry the harvest ticket in the field while hunting.
 - e. No fee can be given or received for the taking of game or receipt of meat, organs or other animal parts, although costs (monetary or otherwise) of hunting may be reimbursed. Sharing between the beneficiary and designated hunter may occur according to C&T practices.
 - f. Designated hunters can hunt for more than one person at a time as long as they carry each harvest ticket with them in the field while hunting. For enforcement purposes, designated hunters should keep meat and other salvaged parts separate if hunting for more than one person at a time. The designated hunter must salvage all meat and other animal parts required below as well as all parts requested by the beneficiary, and must deliver all meat and other required salvaged animal parts to the beneficiary.
- 6) Hunters on the current state Failure to Report list are not eligible to receive a community moose or caribou harvest ticket this year. For the 2009 CHP hunt, community hunters must return completed hunt reports to a designated village representative or the Ahtna Hunt Administrator within 3 days of taking the animal and transporting it to the place of final processing and preparation for human use, or



within 10 days of the season closing if the community hunter was not successful or did not hunt. Hunts can be closed by ADF&G prior to the scheduled date by emergency order. It is the community and designated hunter's responsibility to check the status of the hunt.

- a. Updated hunt status information can be found by calling the community hunt hotline at 822-8136 or by checking the Ahtna, Inc. website at <http://www.ahtna-inc.com/>
 - b. Failure to report will cause a community hunter to be placed on the state Failure to Report (FTR) list, and they will be ineligible to participate in any state permit or subsistence community hunts the following regulatory year, and a citation may be issued.
- 7) All community and designated hunters are required to salvage, for moose and caribou, the neck meat, brisket, ribs, front quarters as far as the knee, hindquarters as far as the hock, and all of the meat along the backbone (backstrap and tenderloin). Hunters are also encouraged to salvage other C&T parts of the animal which include the heart, liver and kidneys, and specifically for moose, the head, hide, intestines and stomach. Meat, and organs when salvaged, must be brought out clean and fit for human consumption. Care must be taken, when removing hides from the meat, to prevent poking or cutting holes in the hide:
- a. Community hunters are to share with others in accordance with C&T practices.
 - b. If the community hunter does not wish to keep the organs, head, or hide, they will be asked to contact a designated Ahtna village representative for information on how to share and distribute these parts.
 - c. If a tribal member youth's first moose/caribou is taken, the meat, head and organs must be distributed amongst the opposite clan, according to traditional practices and customs. They must visit the opposite clan, have tea with them and give gift(s) to them. If a non-tribal youth's first moose/caribou is taken, they should seek direction from a designated Ahtna representative as to how to follow this traditional practice.
- 8) Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat for all bull moose, and for caribou if the hunt is a bull-only hunt.
- 9) Caribou antlers must be left at the kill site, and they must be removed from the skull plate or the skull plate must be cut in half. Moose antlers must be uncut, and must come out of the field with the last load of meat.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Role

Alaska Department of Fish & Game personnel will create numbered moose & caribou harvest ticket/reports. There will be one caribou ticket/report, and two moose harvest tickets/reports. For moose, one harvest ticket will be for antler restricted bull moose, and the other will be for any-bull moose.

ADF&G will assist the Ahtna Hunt Administrator with community hunt administration and conditions.

ADF&G will close the hunt or portions of the hunt when allocations are reached. An example of this could be if a subunit allocation of any-bull moose is met, then the any-bull part of the hunt would be closed by



emergency order for the remainder of the season for that subunit. hunters would still be allowed to take antlered bull moose legal under the general state hunting regulations for that area for the remainder of the community hunt season. The bag limit for caribou will be one bull for 2009-2010 due to the herd being below the population objective. If 300 caribou are taken, the community harvest permit hunt will be closed by emergency order.

Ahtna Hunt Administrator's Role

The Administrator will be the contact person for the community harvest hunt.

The Administrator will establish and maintain a telephone hotline (822-8136) so that hunters can call in to check the status of the harvest and emergency order hunt closures, and to obtain information about the court ordered community sharing opportunity. This information will also be provided to the web administrator for posting to the Ahtna, Inc. website.

The Administrator will work closely with ADF&G and a designated person from each village and/or the Land Protection Officer to ensure compliance with Community Harvest Plan.

The Administrator will distribute hunt applications. When completed applications are received, the Administrator or designated representative will issue the harvest tickets/reports. These will be distributed through mail or other means to the community hunters.

During the hunting season, the Hunt Administrator will provide a report by Thursday of each week on the harvest of moose and caribou to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Glennallen Office. Due to hunt limits and requirements of coordination with federal subsistence hunting, this report will also need to require hunter names, sex or classification of animal harvested, and any federally reported harvest of moose and caribou. When the harvest of any-bull moose reaches 90 or the caribou harvest reaches 275, daily reporting will be required.

Each weekly report will include copies of new applications, complete with issued harvest ticket numbers.

The Administrator will remind individual (and designated) hunters to turn in their harvest tickets/report within 3 days of a successful hunt and within 10 days after each season ends.

The Hunt Administrator will maintain a list of people who are in need for those looking for someone with whom to share meat, organs and other salvaged animal parts.

The Hunt Administrator will implement the June 29, 2009 and August 4, 2009 Orders of the Kenai Superior Court. Details on implementation of the Court's Orders can be found on the Ahtna website or requested through the hunt hotline.

Roles of the Village Administrator



Village Administrators (or other designated representatives) and Land Protection Officers will work closely with the Ahtna Hunt Administrator. They will issue hunt applications, distribute the Frequently Asked Questions handout, answer general questions from the public, and take other actions agreed upon by the Village Administrators and the Hunt Administrator.

If village administrators would like, they can forward names of people in each village to share meat with (complete with contact information) to the Hunt Administrator, in the case a village administrator cannot be reached.

They will collect completed hunt applications. These applications need to be submitted (in person, mail or fax) to the Hunt Administrator as soon as possible.

They may collect completed hunt reports. These reports need to be submitted every Wednesday to the Hunt Administrator. Copies will be kept in the village office. It will be very important to make sure hunters completely fill out their hunt reports. Incomplete reports could cause a delay, and would be a violation of the reporting requirements.

When the harvest of any-bull moose reaches 90 or caribou reaches 275, daily reporting will be required.

If ADF&G closes the hunt, or a portion of the hunt, designated representatives and Land Protection Officers will need to help inform the public of the closures. The hotline and website will also be updated. Hunters should be encouraged to call the hotline or check the website for the status of the hunt.

The designated representative and Land Protection Officers, will remind individual (and designated) hunters to turn in their harvest reports within 3 days of a successful hunt and 10 days after each season ends if unsuccessful or did not hunt. When a hunt is closed by emergency order, harvest reports must be returned within 10 days.

Role of Hunters

Community and designated hunters will need to sign the application form acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions. Community hunters may need to provide proof of residency or membership as outlined in the hunt conditions, as well as other supporting documents required by the hunt conditions and/or the hunt application. Community and designated hunters must abide by the C&T patterns and practices described in this plan as well as all other requirements and conditions required through the Plan or application. "Community sharing" hunters must abide by the conditions of the hunt as recorded on their applications and any conditions included in the court's orders.





Appendix A. Village Boundaries

Cantwell – Three mile radius from Cantwell Post Office, 63.391972 -148.900818 (Datum: NAD83)

Chistochina – Boundary is tied to the Glenn Highway (Tok Cut-Off) from MP30 to the Indian Creek (River) bridge. The north border of the boundary is ½ mile from the highway and the southerly border is the Copper River.

Chitina – Three mile radius from the Chitina Village Hall, 61.510044 -144.451923 (Datum: NAD83)

Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center) – Two mile radius from the Kluti Kaah Village Hall 61.988995 -145.337862 (Datum: NAD83)

Gakona – Two mile radius from the Gakona Village Hall, 62.315580 -145.211331 (Datum: NAD83)

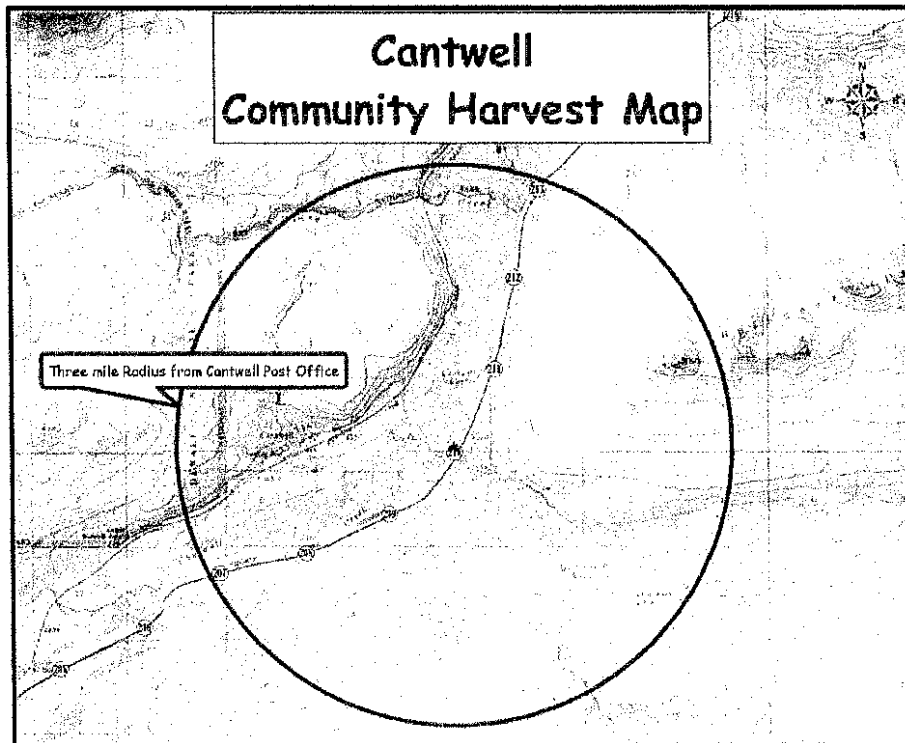
Gulkana – Boundary is determined by specific surveys surrounding Gulkana Village (Reference attached map)

Mentasta – Boundary is one mile on each side of the Mentasta Spur Road and one mile around Mentasta Lake, east to the Glenn Highway (Tok Cut-Off)

Tazlina – Two mile radius from the Tazlina Village Hall, 62.052077 -145.428121 (Datum: NAD83)

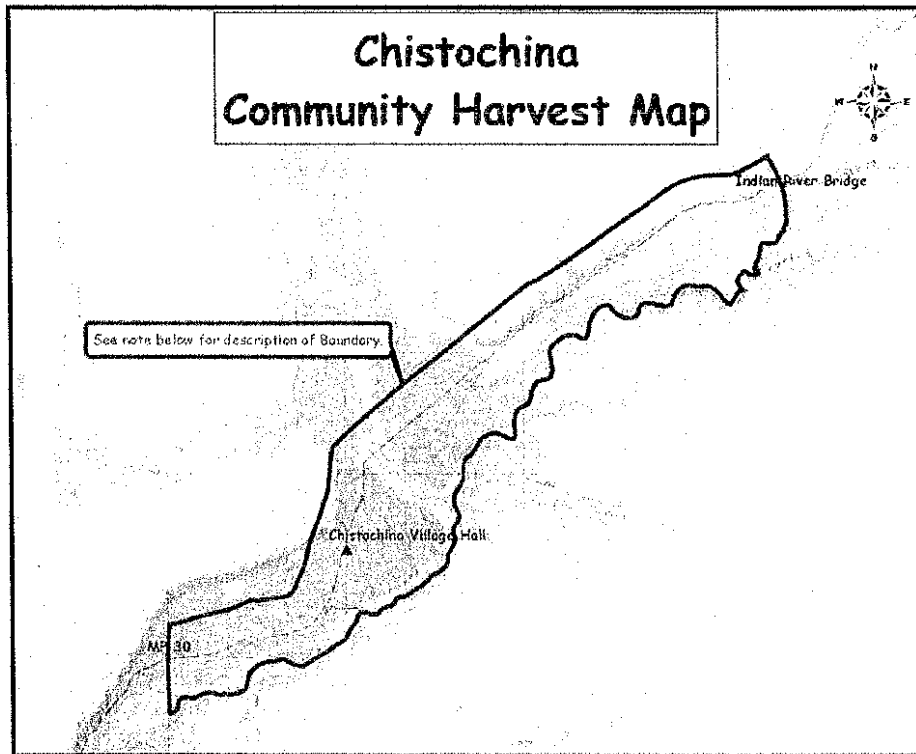


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Coordinates for Cantwell Post Office= -148 900818, 83 391972 (Datum NAD 83)

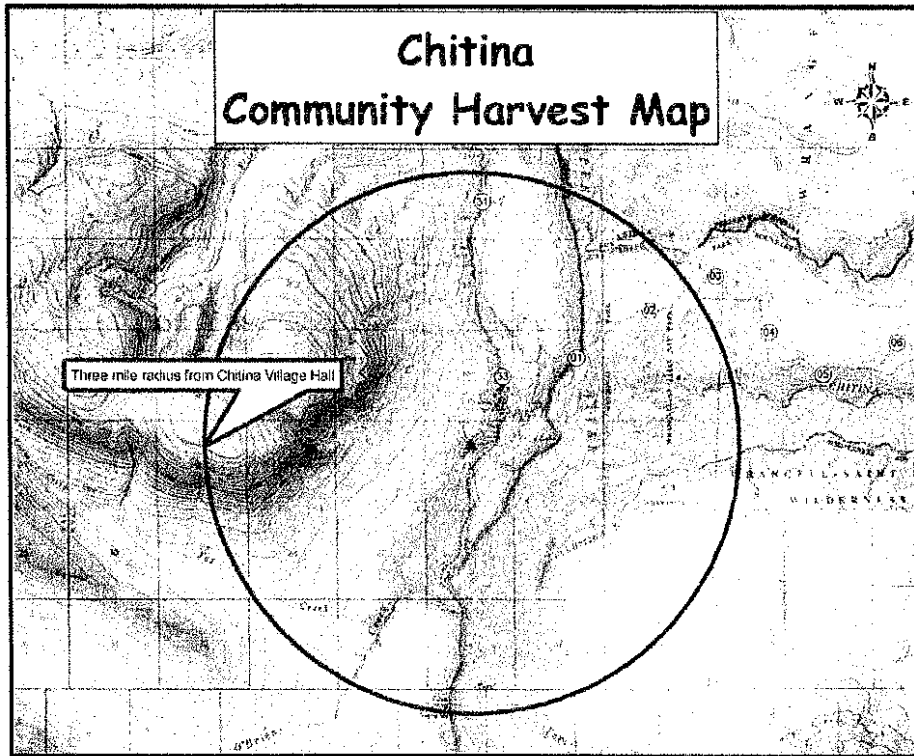
Map is not to scale, for visual reference only
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine
your proximity to Cantwell Post Office.



Boundary is tied to the Glenn HWY (Tok Cut-Off) from MP 30 to Indian River Bridge. The North border of boundary is 1/2 from highway and the southerly border is the Copper River

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only

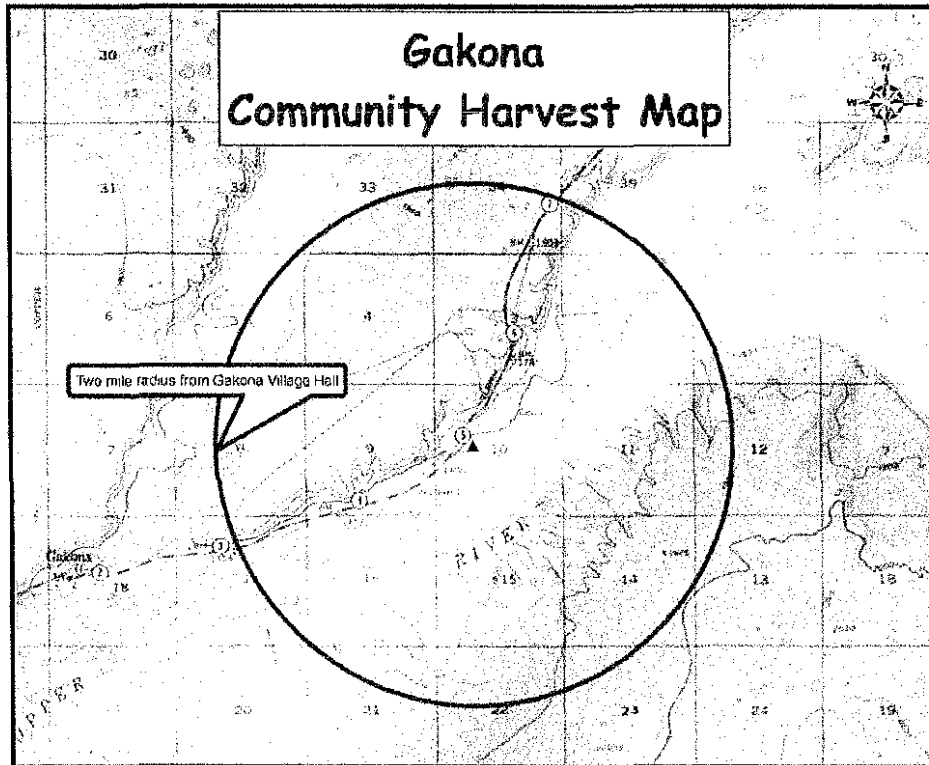
Ahtna, Incorporated



Coordinates for Chitina Village Hall = -144 451923, 61.510044 (Datum: NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only.
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine
your proximity to Chitina Village Hall

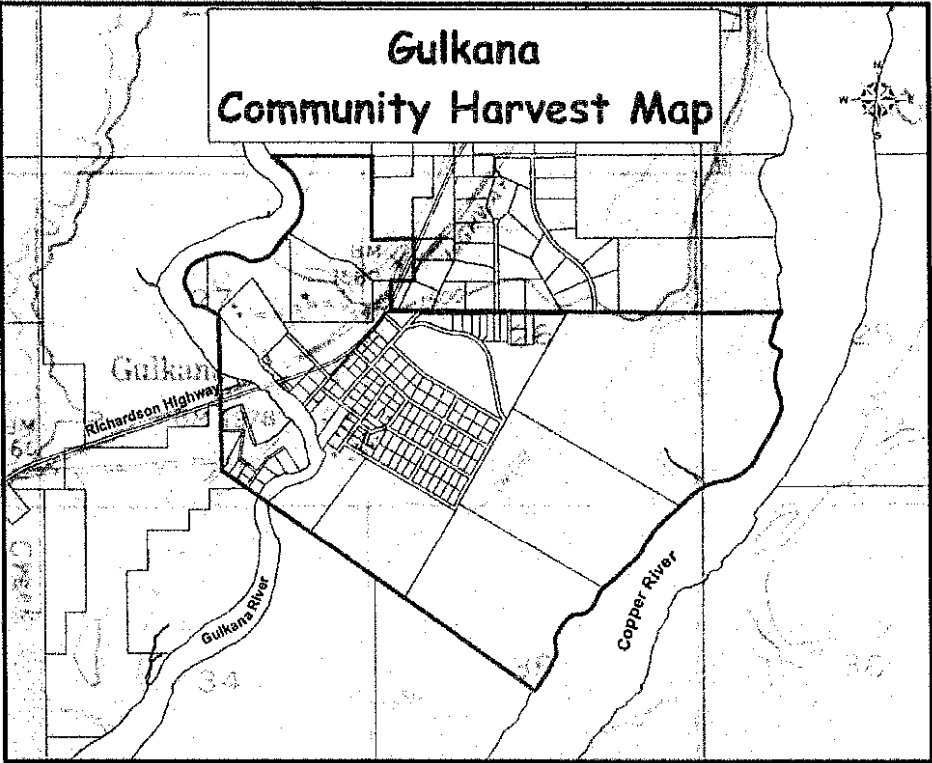
Ahtna, Incorporated



Coordinates for Gakona Village Hall = -145.211331, 62.315580 (Datum NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine
your proximity to Gakona Village Hall

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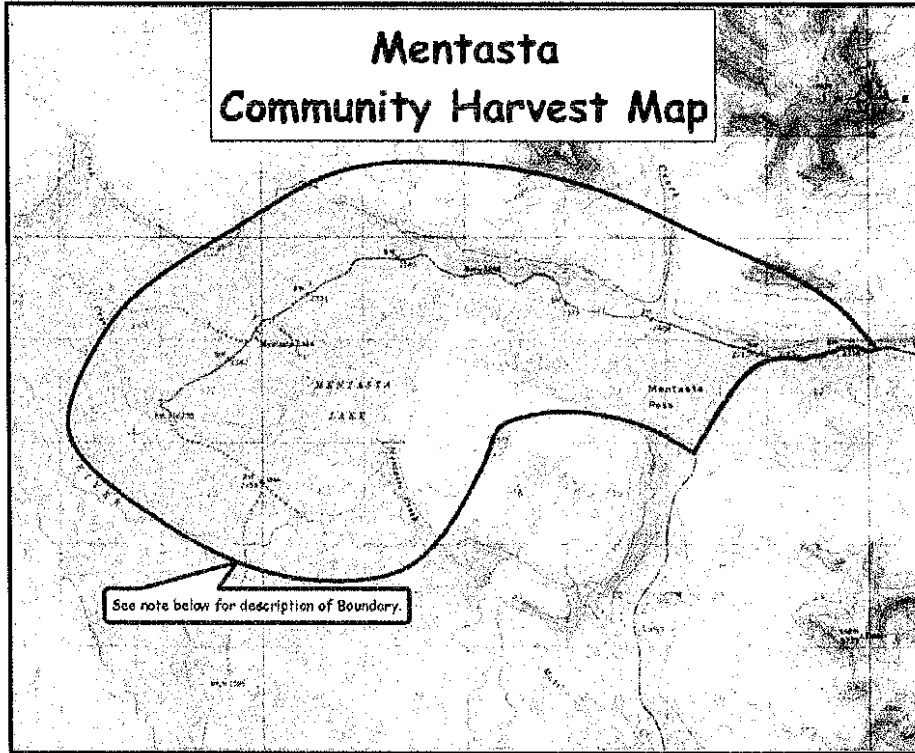


Boundary is around Gulkana Village

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only



Ahtna, Incorporated

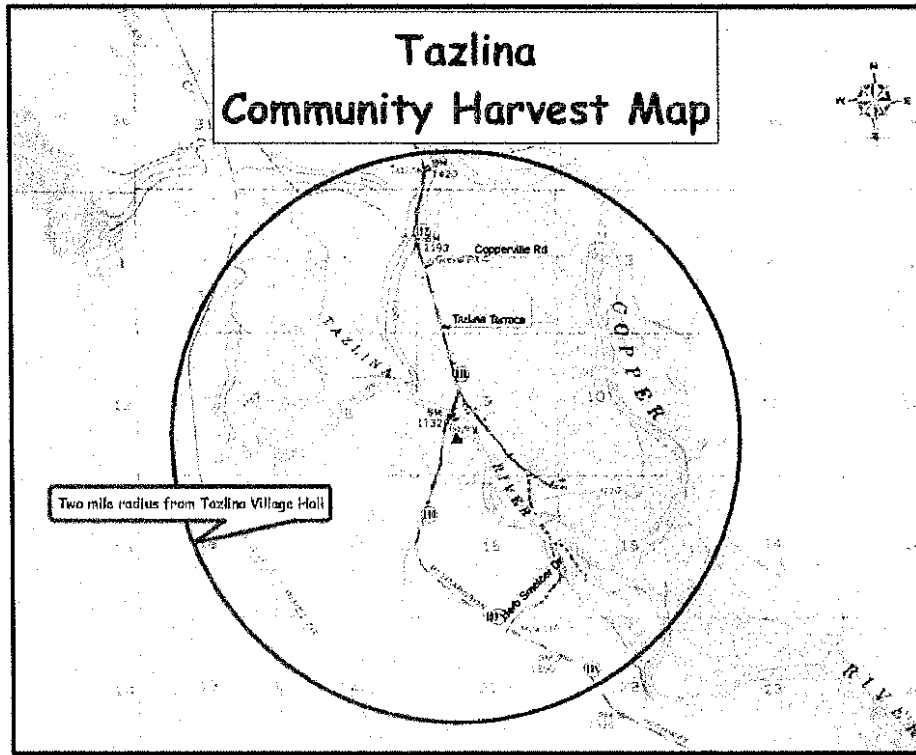


Boundary is one mile on each side of Mentasta Spur Rd. and/or one mile from Mentasta Lake. Boundary follows the west edge of Glenn Highway (Tok Cut-Off)

Map is not to scale. for visual reference only



Ahtna, Incorporated



Coordinates for Tazlina Village Hall = -145.428121, 62.052077 (Datum NAD 83)

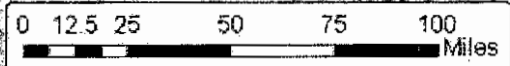
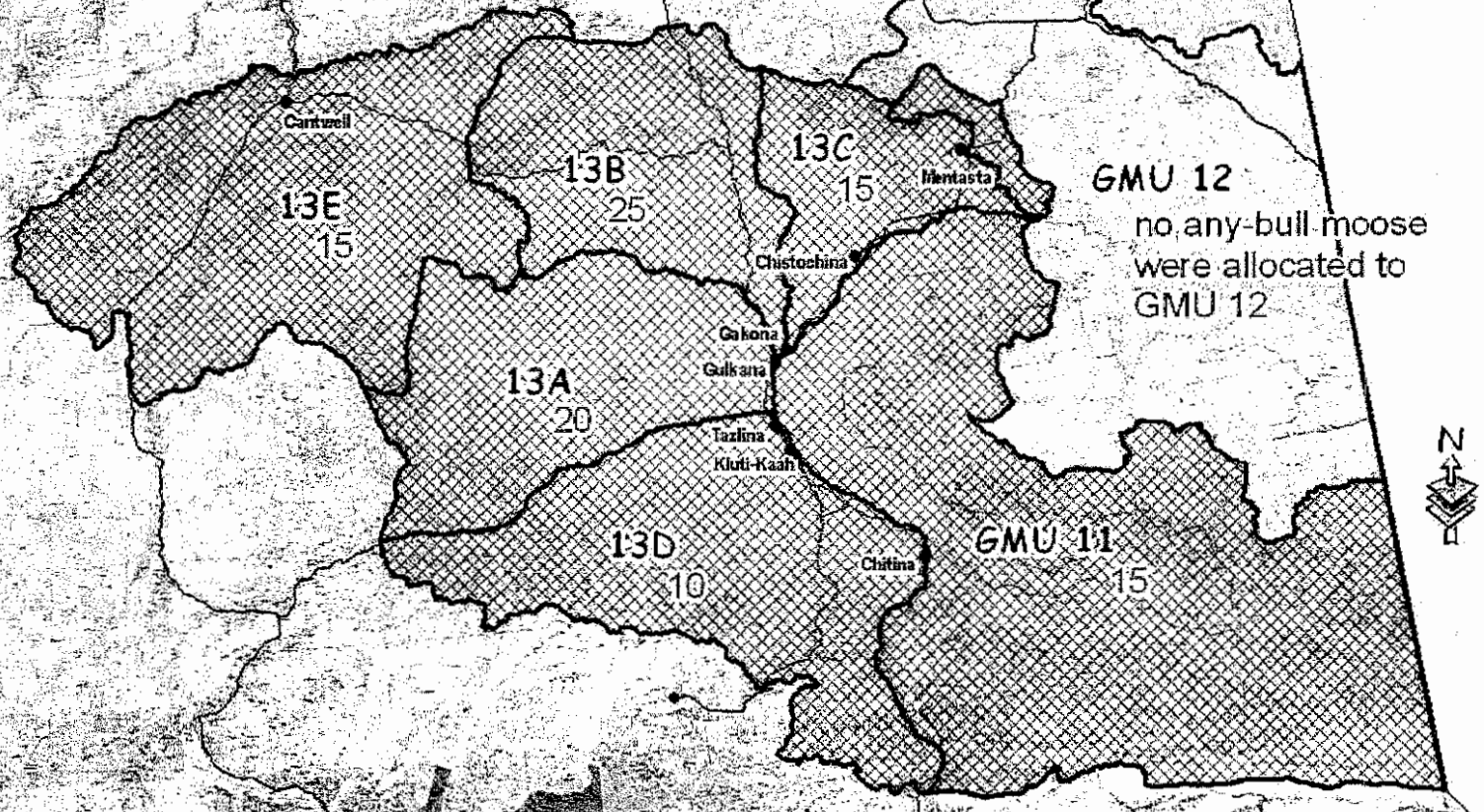
Map is not to scale, for visual reference only
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine
your proximity to Tazlina Village Hall

Appendix B. Ahtna Community Hunt Area Maps

Note: National Park lands in GMU 11 and 13 are closed to community hunters, and all Ahtna Inc. and village lands are closed to hunting by non-shareholders without specific written authority.

Ahtna Community Hunt Area 2009-2010

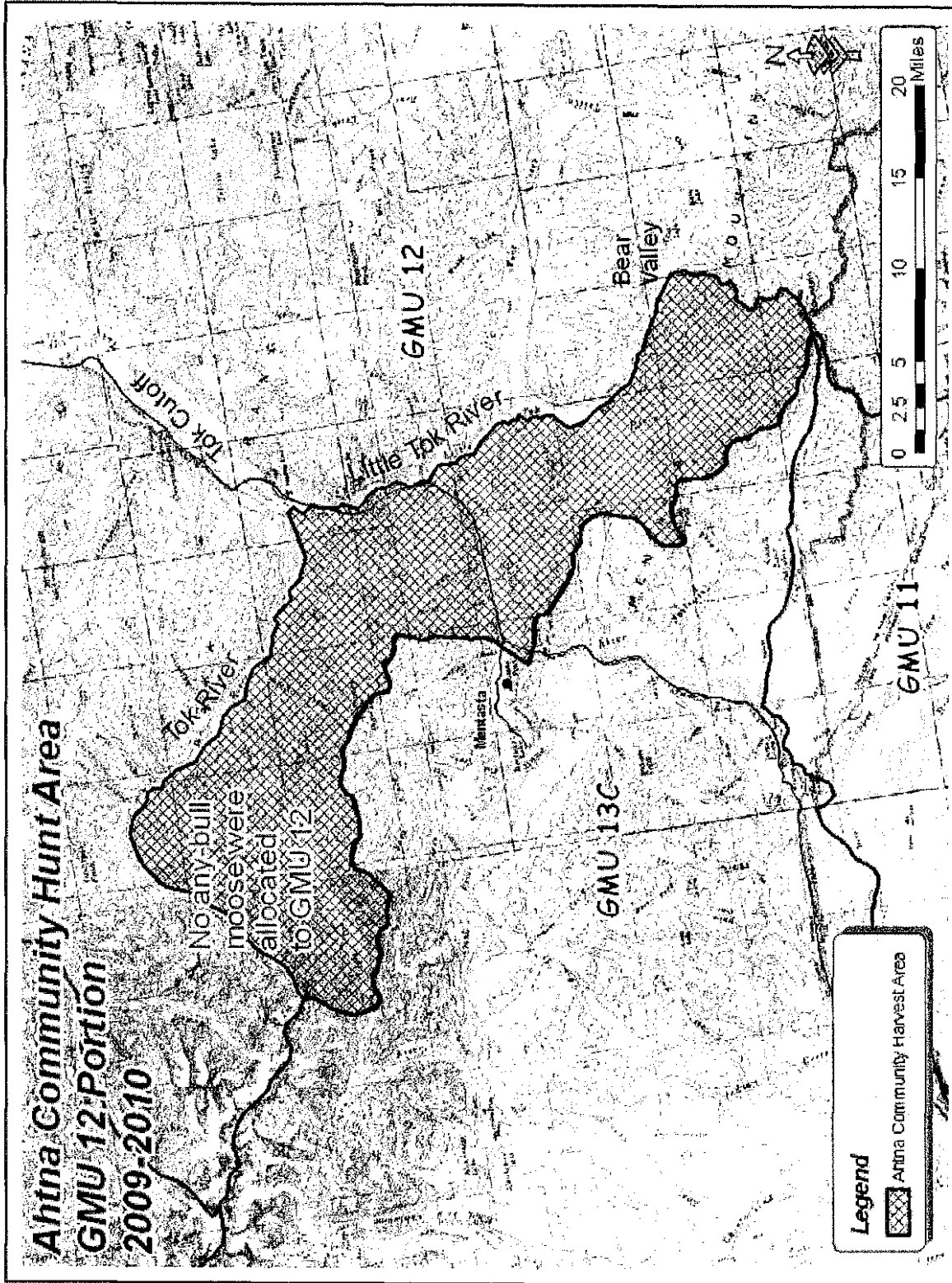
Any-bull moose allocations



Legend
Ahtna Community Harvest Area



Ahtna, Incorporated





Updated 8/14/2009

Frequently Asked Questions 2009-2010

1) What is the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt?

This community subsistence hunt was proposed by the Ahtna Tene Nene Subsistence Committee and was adopted by the Alaska Board of Game at their winter meeting 27 February – 9 March 2009. The Hunt Administrator permit was issued by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for the 2009-2010 regulatory year. This hunt is based on 8 criteria described in the Customary and Traditional (C&T) Use Findings adopted by the Board of Game (2006-170-BOG, available on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section website). It is a community hunt for the 8 Ahtna villages: Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Kluti Kaah (Copper Center), Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta, and Tazlina. See Appendix A for descriptions and maps of village boundaries.

This hunt will allow for harvest of both moose and caribou consistent with C&T use patterns, including but not limited to sharing, and will help satisfy the Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) of both moose and caribou for hunters in this region. The hunt area covers GMU 11, GMU 13, and a portion of GMU 12 (see hunt area maps in Appendix B).

For this hunt, the Board of Game has allocated up to 100 any-bull moose that do not meet antler restrictions in place for the state general hunts. An upper limit of any-bull moose has been set for GMU 11 and each subunit in GMU 13; no any-bull moose have been allocated for the GMU 12 portion of this hunt. State general moose hunters in GMU 12 and 13 are limited to either spike-fork bulls or bulls with antlers at least 50 inches wide or with 4 or more brow tines (3 or more brow tines in GMU 11). That means general season moose hunters cannot take medium sized bull moose. They cannot, for example, take a moose that is 36 inches wide with 2 brow tines. A community hunter however, if they are issued an any-bull moose harvest ticket, could harvest this moose, though only in GMU 11 or 13. Antler restrictions must be followed in the GMU 12 portion of the hunt area.

Once 100 of these any-bull moose (those not legal under the state general hunt) have been taken, the bag limit will be changed by emergency order (to match the state general season bag limit) for the remainder of the season. If a subunit limit of any-bull moose is met, the any-bull portion of the hunt will be closed in that subunit. The community hunt would remain open, though hunters would then be limited to taking those bulls that are allowed under state general season antler restrictions. Except for the one moose per person signed up under the community permit, there is no set total community harvest permit limit on the number of moose that can be taken if community hunters comply with state general hunt antler restrictions.

The Board of Game also allocated up to 300 Nelchina caribou to this hunt. The bag limit for caribou will be one bull for 2009-2010 due to the herd being below the population objective. If the harvest approaches 300 caribou, the caribou hunt will be closed by emergency order.

It will be very important for hunters to comply with reporting requirements. The 8 village councils, land protection officers, and Ahtna Inc. will be working closely with the Glennallen ADF&G office, who will close the hunts if harvest limits are reached.

This hunt is a combined moose/caribou hunt. Except for the court ordered “community sharing hunters”, a person cannot sign up for one species and not the other. This hunt is voluntary. If you choose to sign up for this community hunt, you and all members of your household are limited to hunting moose and caribou only within the community hunt area, under community hunt regulations for the entire regulatory year. Once signed up, you cannot opt out of this program for the remainder of the regulatory year (1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010). Neither you, nor any other members of your household can hunt with any other state moose or caribou harvest tickets or permits. If you are federally qualified, you may participate in federal subsistence moose hunts in GMU 11 and 13 and the caribou hunt in GMU 13. Participation in federal hunts does not affect your ability to participate in state hunts, including community hunts.

The Ahtna Community Harvest Permit includes a “sharing event” that will be held at Kluti Kaah which is located near Copper Center. The sharing event will be held on October 3, 2009 beginning at 10 am. Community sharing hunters are required to bring at least two quarters (at least one of which must be a hind quarter) of caribou harvested in the hunt to the October 3 sharing event. Caribou will be distributed to elders and disabled persons on a first come first serve basis. Elders are those age 65 and up, and disability, if requested, will be established through a written explanation of disability. If more meat remains after the elders and the disabled are provided for, the rest will be given out on a first come first serve basis, but people will be asked to allow widows, single parents and others with the most need to receive sharing first. Ahtna may also distribute part of the caribou harvested by community sharing hunters to non-profit organizations that serve meals to Alaskan elders. For example, Ahtna may share some of the caribou harvested with the Pioneers’ Home in Anchorage and with organizations serving elders in the Copper Basin and in the vicinity of Cantwell, including Nenana, McKinley Village and Fairbanks. The amount of sharing will depend on the harvest by community sharing hunters and any other meat donated by other hunters. More details are available on the Ahtna website.

2) Who is eligible to sign up for the hunt?

a) Any Alaskan resident who is member of one of the 8 designated communities regardless of where they reside can hunt as a “community hunter” in the community hunt. A “community hunter” means a member of one of the 8 communities included in the Community Harvest Permit who has subscribed to the permit and is entitled to receive a harvest ticket/report. Community membership for a person applying to hunt as a “community hunter” is demonstrated either if: 1) a person is permanently domiciled within the designated boundaries of one of the 8 Ahtna villages: Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Kluti Kaah (Copper Center), Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta, or Tazlina; or 2) a person is connected to the community through consistent participation over at least one year with the community, including participation in the community’s customary and traditional (C&T) subsistence patterns and practices. A person applying as a resident of a community may be requested to provide proof of residency (an affidavit of residency, or utility bill such as electricity, telephone, or garbage with a physical address). A person applying as a resident

who left the Copper Basin or Cantwell area for more than 60 consecutive days in the past 12 months may be required to provide a written explanation for the absence. Valid reasons for an absence include education, military, or medical reasons. A person applying as a non-resident member of the community must provide a statement signed by another resident or member of the community verifying that the applicant is a member of the community and specifying the applicant's participation in the community, including participation in the community's C&T subsistence harvest and use patterns. The following criteria establish community membership: subsistence hunting with other members of the community; sharing among other members of the community; customary and traditional preparation and preservation of big game resources with other members of the community; and teaching and learning C&T subsistence patterns and practices with community members. Community membership requires a pattern of participation. Participation in one hunt, fishing or gathering activity, for example, does not qualify a person as a community member. The Ahtna Tene Nene' hunt administrator is required to verify the statement of community membership with the village hunt administrator or the Village Tribal Government. A sample of a statement supporting an applicant's participant as a community member will be available on the Ahtna website or through the hunt administrator.

b) Any Alaska resident, regardless of residency or community membership, can hunt as a "designated hunter". Designated hunters do not need to be members of the community. The term "designated hunter" is a person designated by a community hunter to harvest the community hunter's caribou or moose. More detailed information about "designated hunters" is included in question number 17 below.

c) Any Alaska resident, regardless of residency or community membership, can apply, and if selected in a drawing, may hunt as a "community sharing" caribou hunter. The term "community sharing" caribou hunter is an individual allowed to hunt caribou pursuant to the Kenai Superior Court's Orders of 29 June 2009 and 4 August 2009. Any Alaska hunter wishing to participate in the community caribou hunt as a "community sharing" hunter may apply to the Ahtna hunt administrator. Applications and other information regarding "community sharing" caribou hunters are available at the Ahtna Office in Glennallen, on the Ahtna website, <http://www.ahtna-inc.com>, or by calling the Ahtna hunt hotline (907-822-8136).

d) Signing up for all of these hunting opportunities is done by individuals, not households. However, if one member of your household signs up for the community hunt, all members of your household will be restricted to moose and caribou hunting within the community hunt area. There is no limit as to how many people from one household can sign up for the hunt. You must be at least 10 years old by the start of the hunt to be eligible.

e) A person who is on the State Failure to Report list is not eligible to participate as a community hunter or a community sharing hunter. They may, however, participate as a designated hunter or as in the sharing event to be held at Kluit Kaah on October 3, 2009.

3) What is the hunt area?

Descriptions and maps of the hunt area are in Appendix B. The hunt areas for moose are GMU 11 and GMU 13, and a portion of GMU 12 explained below. The hunt area for caribou is GMU 13. National Park Service park lands are closed for the purposes of this hunt.

The GMU boundaries are described in the 2009-2010 *Alaska Hunting Regulations* booklet. For that portion included in GMU 12, the hunt area is as follows: that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of Units 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier.

4) What are the season dates and bag limits?

The state bag limits for moose and caribou in this region are one bull moose and one caribou per person. Each community hunter will be issued one caribou and one moose community harvest ticket/report. Considering the potential to exceed the 100 any-bull moose limit, any-bull moose tickets/reports will only be issued to the following groups of community hunters in accordance with C&T use patterns: 1) elders (age 65 and up), 2) disabled (with proof of disability or detailed written explanation of disability), 3) single parents with children, and 4) widows. The Hunt Administrator may issue additional any-bull harvest tickets/reports to other community hunters if, as the season progresses, it does not appear that the 100 any-bull harvest will be fully realized. The Administrator will consult with village representatives and ADF&G to determine who shall receive such tickets/reports.

All other community hunters will receive one caribou and one antler-restricted moose harvest ticket/report. While community hunters can only take one bull moose and one caribou per person, the designated hunter options and season dates in GMU 11 and 13 are generous, providing additional hunting opportunity for community hunters.

The moose and caribou allocations and season dates per subunit are as follows:

<u>GMU</u>	<u>'Any-bull' moose</u>	<u>spike/fork, 50", 4BT moose</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
12	0	Unlimited	24 Aug – 28 Aug; 8 Sept – 17 Sept
13A	20	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13B	25	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13C	15	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13D	10	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept
13E	15	Unlimited	10 Aug – 20 Sept

<u>GMU</u>	<u>'Any-bull' moose</u>	<u>spike/fork, 50", 3BT moose</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
11	15	Unlimited	10 Aug - 20 Sept

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Caribou</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
11	0	None
12	0	None
13	300 in Unit 13 total	10 Aug – 20 Sept/21 Oct – 31 March

*The 'any-bull' moose allocations can also be found on the maps in Appendix B

Seasons and bag limits may change by emergency order, and it will be your responsibility to check the status of the hunt. A telephone hotline will be available (822-8136) so hunters can call in to check the status of the harvest and emergency order hunt closures. This information will also be posted to the Ahtna, Inc. website.

5) How soon do I need to report harvest after a successful hunt?

If successful, you will be required to return your hunt report to the Ahtna Hunt Administrator, or a designated village representative within 3 days. The Board of Game has allocated a limited number of animals to this hunt. The Hunt Administrator must give a caribou and moose harvest report by Thursday of each week during the hunting season to the ADF&G Glennallen Office. When the allocations are met (such as the number of any-bull moose for a specific subunit, the total number of any-bull moose, or the total number of caribou), the hunt, or portions of the hunt will be closed by emergency order. If unsuccessful or did not hunt, you will be required to return your hunt report to the Ahtna Inc. hunt administrator or a designated village representative within 10 days of the close of the season. A “community sharing” hunter is required to report as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after returning home from the hunt if the hunt was successful or unsuccessful. This will allow the hunt administrator to provide another community hunter with a hunting opportunity or to stop the community sharing hunt when 30 caribou are taken.

6) If I applied for a state drawing, tier I, or tier II permit hunt, will I be able to participate in this community hunt?

If you applied for any state moose or caribou permit, and are drawn/selected, no, you cannot use the permit and also participate in the community hunt as a community hunter or community sharing hunter – you must choose one or the other. If you choose to participate in the community hunt, you must return your moose/caribou drawing, tier I, or tier II permit to the Glennallen ADF&G office prior to the start of the hunts.

If you applied for a state drawing, tier I, or tier II permit for this regulatory year other than for moose or caribou, such as bison, elk, muskox, sheep, goat, or brown bear, yes, you can participate in this community hunt as well as use a permit if drawn.

If you applied for any state moose or caribou permit, and are not drawn, yes, you can participate in this community hunt. This includes the Unit 13 tier I caribou hunt if you applied for a ‘point-only’ since you will not receive a permit this regulatory year.

If you are applying as a designated hunter only, you may use other state moose or caribou harvest tickets/permits, though only within the Ahtna Community Hunt area. This also applies to your other household members.

7) If I am a resident or member of one of the 8 designated communities, and I draw a moose or tier I caribou permit for Unit 13 and I do not sign up for the community hunt, does my animal count against the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt allocation?

No

8) If I sign up for the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt, can I still hunt under federal subsistence regulations?

Yes. Participation in the community hunt does not affect your eligibility for federal subsistence permit(s).

The state bag limit in this area is one moose and one caribou. If you would like to harvest a second caribou for your personal use, you can do so under the Unit 13 federal subsistence hunt administered by the Bureau of Land Management. If you would like to hunt any-bull moose on federal lands, you may do so under the Unit 11 or 13 federal subsistence hunting regulations. Any-bull moose (not legal under state general hunt regulations) and all caribou harvested under federal subsistence regulations by those signed up as community hunters for the community hunt, will count against the 100 any-bull and 300 caribou allocation for the community hunt. Community

hunters will be required to report your federal harvest of moose and caribou to Ahtna Inc. in addition to your community harvest. If the community hunt is closed, any additional any-bull moose or caribou harvested by a community hunter will count against next year's allocation to the community hunt.

9) When can I sign up for the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt?

Beginning July 17, 2009, you will be able to sign up for the community hunt for 2009-2010. You will be able to sign up anytime throughout the hunt, unless the hunt is closed for a specific species or location. Sign-up deadlines for Community Sharing hunters are posted on the website and recorded on the hunt hotline.

10) Where do I go to sign up for the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt?

You may sign up at your village office. You may also sign up by mailing or faxing an application to the hunt administrator in the Glennallen Ahtna office and by filling out an application on the Ahtna website. If you have any concerns or question, contact the hunt hotline Ahtna, Inc. at 822-8136 or the hunt administrator at 822-3476. The Ahtna Inc. main office is located at the Glennallen Junction of the Glenn and Richardson Highway, across from the Hub of Alaska – gas station.

Cantwell Village Council Office Cantwell, Alaska 768-2591

Chistochina Village Council Office MP 33 Tok Cutoff Hwy., Chistochina, AK 822-3503

Chitina Village Council Office, Chitina, Alaska 823-2215

Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center) Council Village Office, MP 104 Richardson Hwy, 822-5541

Gakona Village Council Office MP 5 Tok Cutoff Hwy, 822-5777

Gulkana Village Council Office MP 127 Richardson Hwy, 822-3746

Mentasta Village Council Office, Mentasta Lake, MP 188 Tok Cutoff Hwy., 291-2319

Tazlina Village Council Office, MP 110.5 Richardson Hwy., 822-4375

11) If I reside in one of the 8 designated communities, can I sign up at another village office?

Yes, but for the hunt administrator prefers that you sign up at the village office of the community where you reside.

12) If I live in a Nonsubsistence Area or Anchorage, Fairbanks, etc., can I participate in the Ahtna Community Subsistence Hunt?

Yes. You can sign up under the community hunt as a community hunter if you are a member of the community and do not reside in the community. You can also sign up as a designated hunter for a qualified community hunter. And you can sign up as a "community sharing" hunter for caribou.

13) What happens if more any-bull moose are harvested from a subunit than are allocated?

The animal(s) will count against one of the remaining subunit allocations per the recommendation of ADF&G in Glennallen.

14) What happens if more any-bull moose or caribou are harvested through harvest reports issued to community hunters than the total allocation for the hunt?

The animal(s) will count against the following year allocation.

15) What are the Ahtna community hunt conditions?

- a) Community hunters, designated hunters and community sharing hunters must fill out and sign a form acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions. Falsifying information and non-compliance with hunt conditions may result in a permit being pulled mid-season, ineligibility for this hunt in future years, and/or citation
- b) Community hunters will need to have a valid hunting license or permanent identification card if 60 or older, as well as a valid state identification card (if 16 or older)
- c) If you sign up for the community hunt as a Community hunter or community sharing hunter, you are prohibited from holding a state harvest ticket or any other state hunt permit for moose or caribou during the same regulatory year. If you sign up for the community hunt, all your household members will be affected. They will also be limited to hunting moose and caribou only within the community hunt area.
- d) If you are selected for any state drawing, tier I, or tier II permit for moose or caribou for the 2009-2010 regulatory year, you must decide whether to use it (and forgo participation in the community hunt) or return it, prior to hunting, to the Glennallen ADF&G office (if you wish to opt in to the community hunt)

16) Do I need a Harvest Report to go hunting?

Yes. Harvest tickets will be issued to eligible community hunters and community sharing hunters by the Hunt Administrator. Harvest Reports must be signed by the Hunt Administrator or designated representative as well as the community hunter or community sharing hunter to be valid.

17) What is a “Designated Hunter”? A community hunter may designate another person (a “designated hunter”) to harvest their moose or caribou. The community hunter can designate any person who has applied through the hunt administrator to be a designated hunter and is qualified under the conditions listed below. A designated hunter does not need to be a community resident or a community member. The Ahtna hunt administrator will keep a list of persons who have applied to be designated hunters to enable community hunt participants to select a designated hunter. **Please note: The community hunter remains responsible for all harvest reporting requirements.**

- a. Designated hunters must sign a hunt application acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions and that they agree to abide by the same hunt conditions as the original community hunter (the “beneficiary”). **A Designated Hunter for a “community sharing hunter” must abide by all the same hunt conditions that apply to the community sharing hunter.**
- b. A person choosing to participate in the community hunt as a designated hunter, and everyone in their household, will be limited to hunting moose and caribou within the community hunt area during the regulatory year.
- c. Designated hunters must be Alaskan residents and must have a valid hunting license and a valid state identification card if 16 years of age or older.
- d. Several designated hunters (no limit) may be listed on the front of the beneficiary’s harvest ticket, but the most current designated hunter must carry the harvest ticket in the field while hunting.

- e. No fee can be given or received for the taking of game or receipt of meat, organs or other animal parts, although costs (monetary or otherwise) of hunting may be reimbursed. Sharing between the beneficiary and designated hunter may occur according to C&T practices.
- f. Designated hunters can hunt for more than one person at a time as long as they carry each harvest ticket with them in the field while hunting. For enforcement purposes, designated hunters should keep meat and other salvaged parts separate if hunting for more than one person at a time. The designated hunter must salvage all meat and other animal parts required below as well as all parts requested by the beneficiary, and must deliver all meat and other required salvaged animal parts to the beneficiary.

18) What are the reporting requirements for hunters?

Community hunters must return completed hunt reports to a designated village representative or Ahtna Inc. within 3 days of taking the animal and transporting it to the place of final processing and preparation for human use and within 10 days of the season closing if unsuccessful or did not hunt. Hunts can be closed by ADF&G prior to the scheduled date by emergency order; it is your responsibility to check the status of the hunt.

- a. updated hunt status information can be found by calling the community hunt hotline at 822-8136 or checking the Ahtna, Inc. website at <http://www.ahtna-inc.com/>
- b. failure to report will cause a community hunter to be placed on the state Failure to Report (FTR) list, and they will be ineligible to participate in any state permit or subsistence community hunts the following regulatory year; a citation may be issued

19) What are the salvage and sharing requirements?

All hunters are required to salvage, for moose and caribou, the neck meat, brisket, ribs, front quarters as far as the knee, hindquarters as far as the hock, and all of the meat along the backbone (backstrap and tenderloin). Hunters are also encouraged to salvage other, C&T parts of the animal which include the heart, liver, and kidneys, and specifically for moose, the head, hide, intestines and stomach. Meat, and organs when salvaged, must be brought out clean and fit for human consumption. Care must be taken, when removing hides from the meat, to prevent poking or cutting holes in the hide

- a. hunters are to share with others in accordance with C&T practices
- b. if the hunter does not wish to keep the organs, head, or hide, they are asked to contact a designated Ahtna village representative for information on how to distribute these
- c. if a tribal member youth's first moose/caribou is taken, the meat, head and organs must be distributed amongst the opposite clan, according to traditional practices and customs. They must visit the opposite clan, have tea with them and give gift(s) to them. If a non-tribal youth's first moose/caribou is taken, they should seek direction from a designated Ahtna representative as to how to follow this traditional practice

20) What are the other conditions of the Hunt?

Evidence of sex for all moose and caribou harvested must remain naturally attached to the meat. Caribou antlers must be left at the kill site, and they must be removed from the skull plate or the skull plate must be cut in half. Moose antlers must be uncut, and must come out of the field with the last load of meat.

Appendix A. Village Boundaries

Cantwell – Three mile radius from Cantwell Post Office, 63.391972 -148.900818 (Datum: NAD83)

Chistochina – Boundary is tied to the Glenn Highway (Tok Cut-Off) from MP30 to the Indian Creek (River) bridge. The north border of the boundary is ½ mile from the highway and the southerly border is the Copper River.

Chitina – Three mile radius from the Chitina Village Hall, 61.510044 -144.451923 (Datum: NAD83)

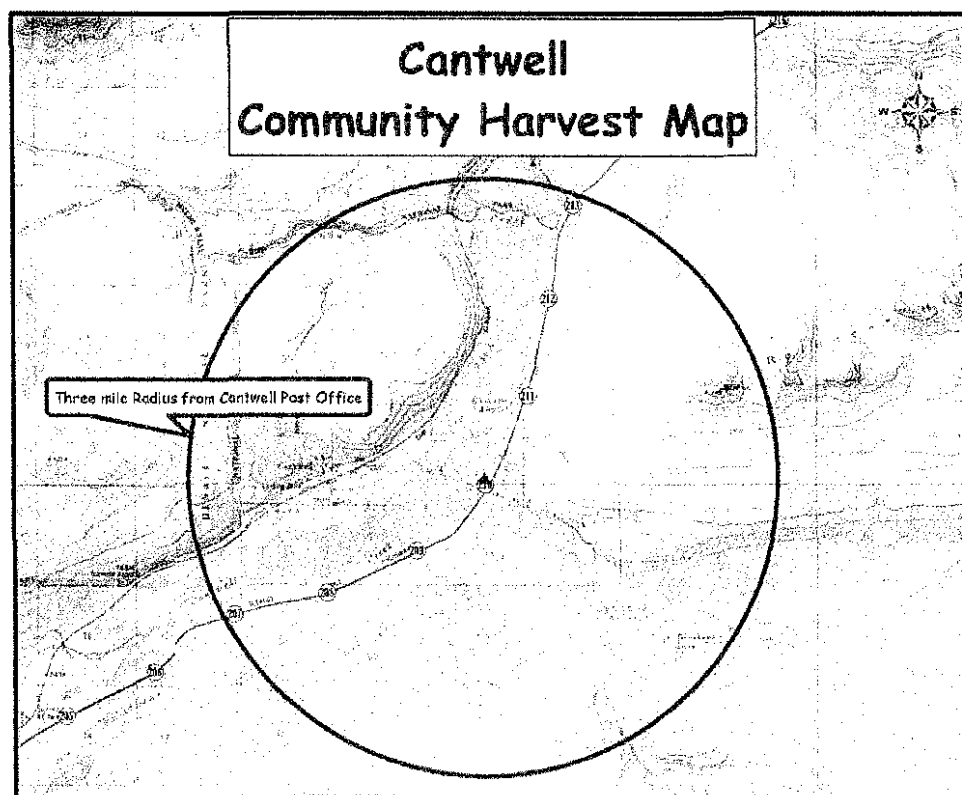
Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center) – Two mile radius from the Kluti Kaah Village Hall 61.988995 -145.337862 (Datum: NAD83)

Gakona – Two mile radius from the Gakona Village Hall, 62.315580 -145.211331 (Datum: NAD83)

Gulkana- Local Boundary Option Map. Mile Post 127 Richardson Highway. Boundaries are the Gulkana Village Townsite, US Survey 4861, Tracks A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H, and Markle F. Ewan Sr. original native allotment. This area is outlined on the Gulkana Community Harvest Map.

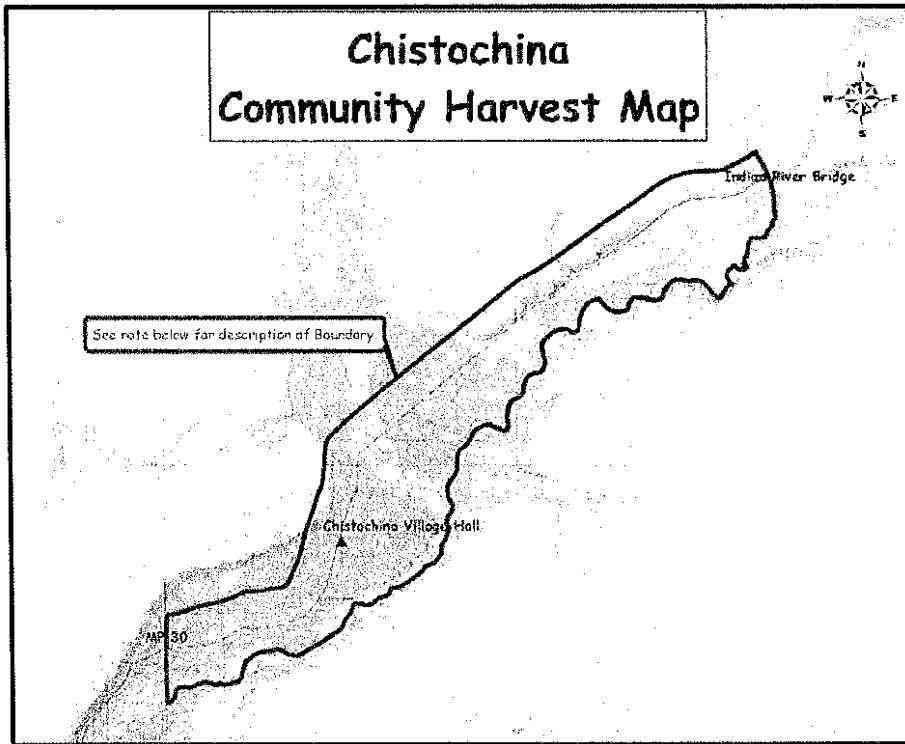
Mentasta – Boundary is one mile on each side of the Mentasta Spur Road and one mile around Mentasta Lake, east to the Glenn Highway (Tok Cut-Off)

Tazlina –Two mile radius from the Tazlina Village Hall, 62.052077 -145.428121 (Datum: NAD83)



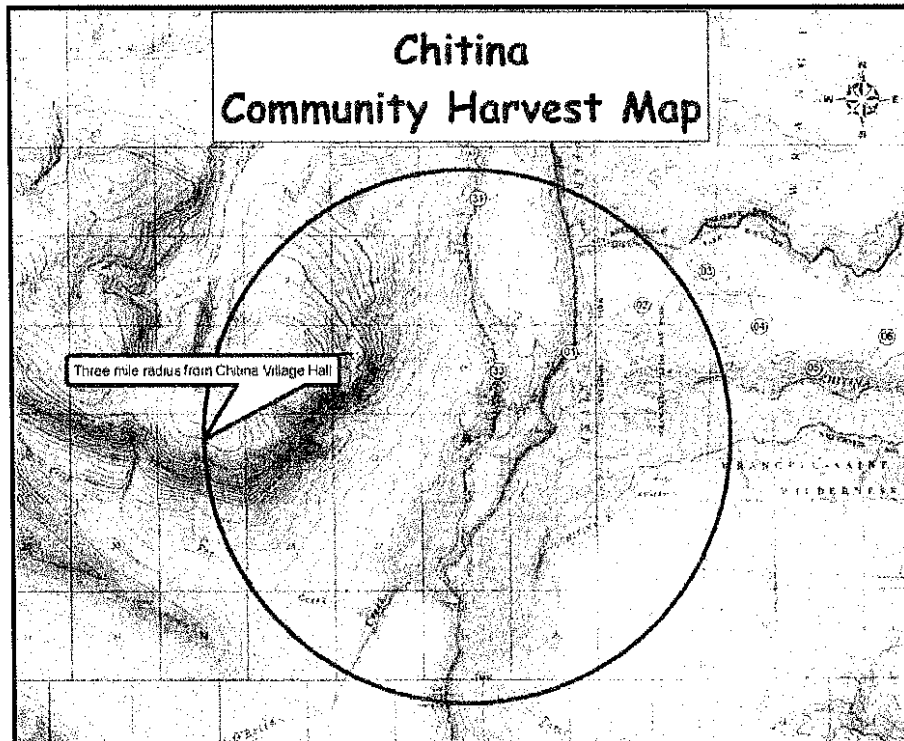
Coordinates for Cantwell Post Office- -148 900818, 63 391972 (Datum: NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only. Use GPS coordinates provided to determine your proximity to Cantwell Post Office.



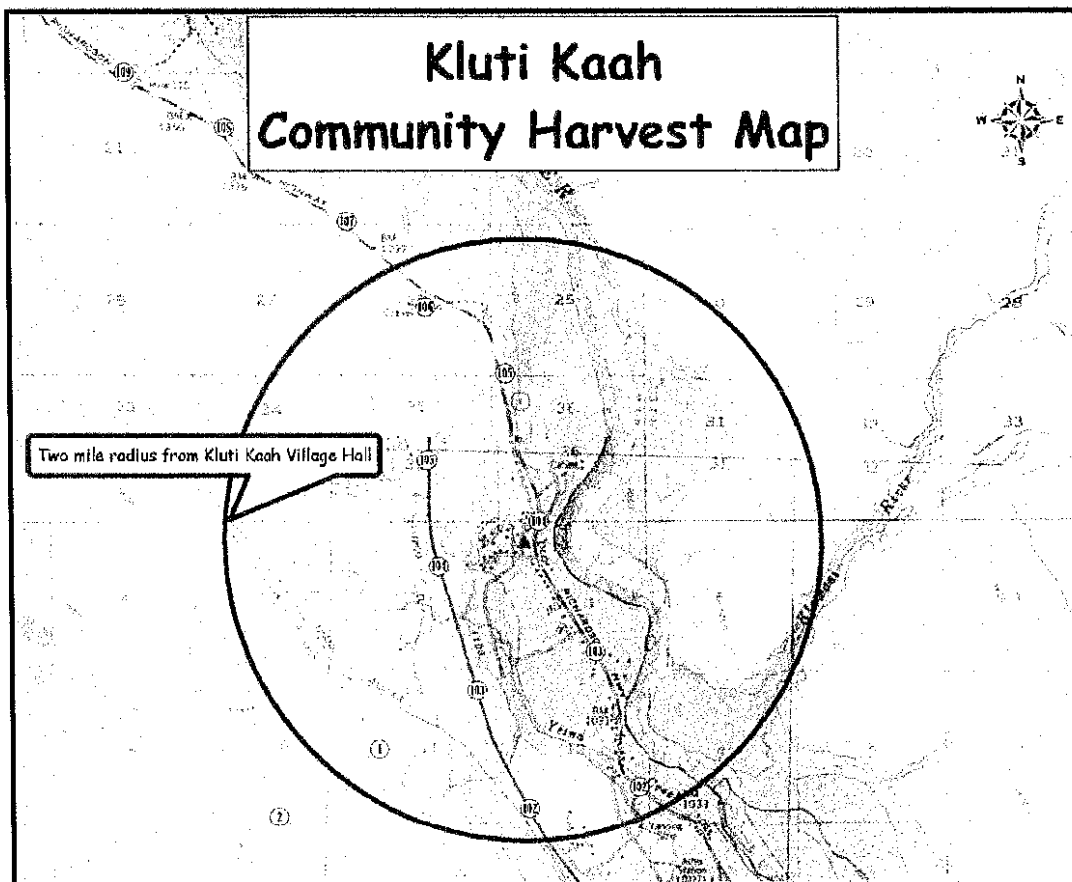
Boundary is tied to the Glenn HWY (Tok Cut-Off) from MP 30 to Indian River Bridge. The North border of boundary is 1/2 from highway and the southerly border is the Copper River

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only



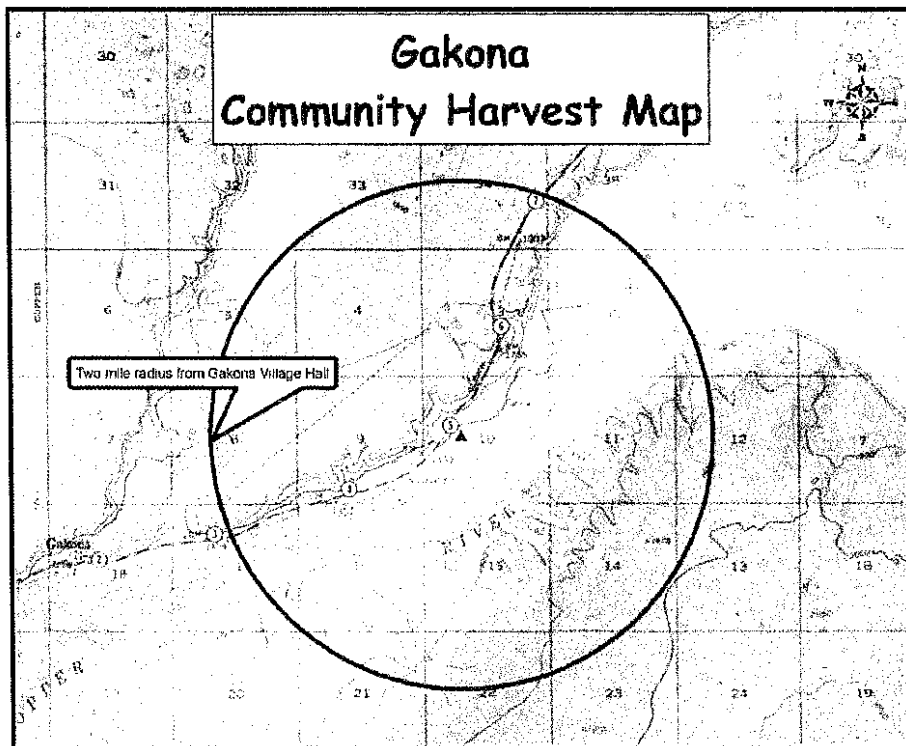
Coordinates for Chitina Village Hall = -144.451923, 61.510044 (Datum NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine your proximity to Chitina Village Hall



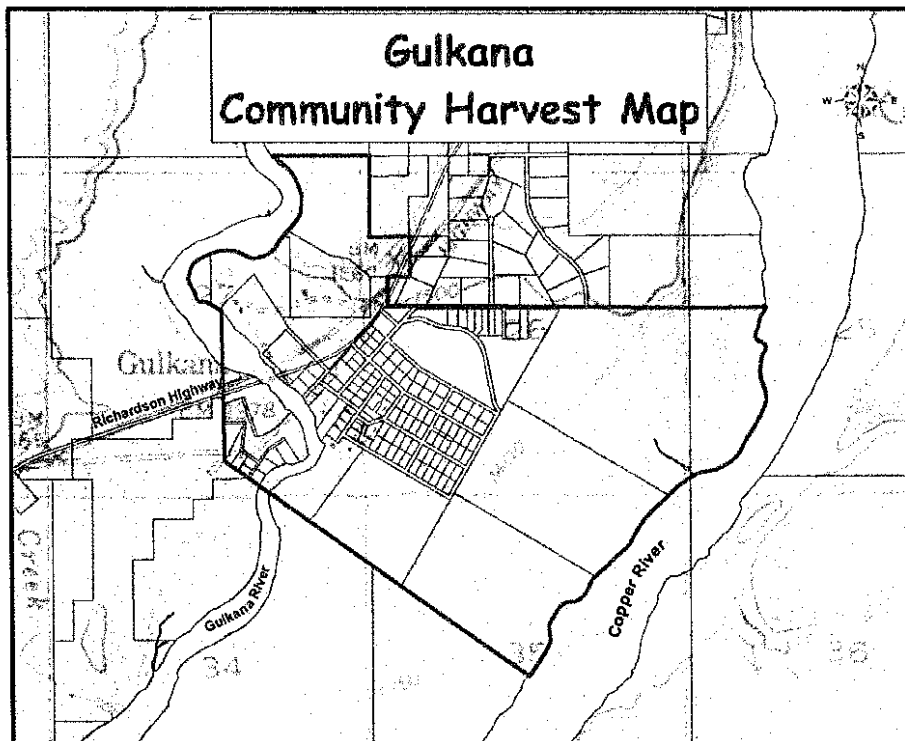
Coordinates for Kluti Kaah Village Hall = -145.337862, 61 998995 (Datum NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only.
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine
your proximity to Kluti Kaah Village Hall



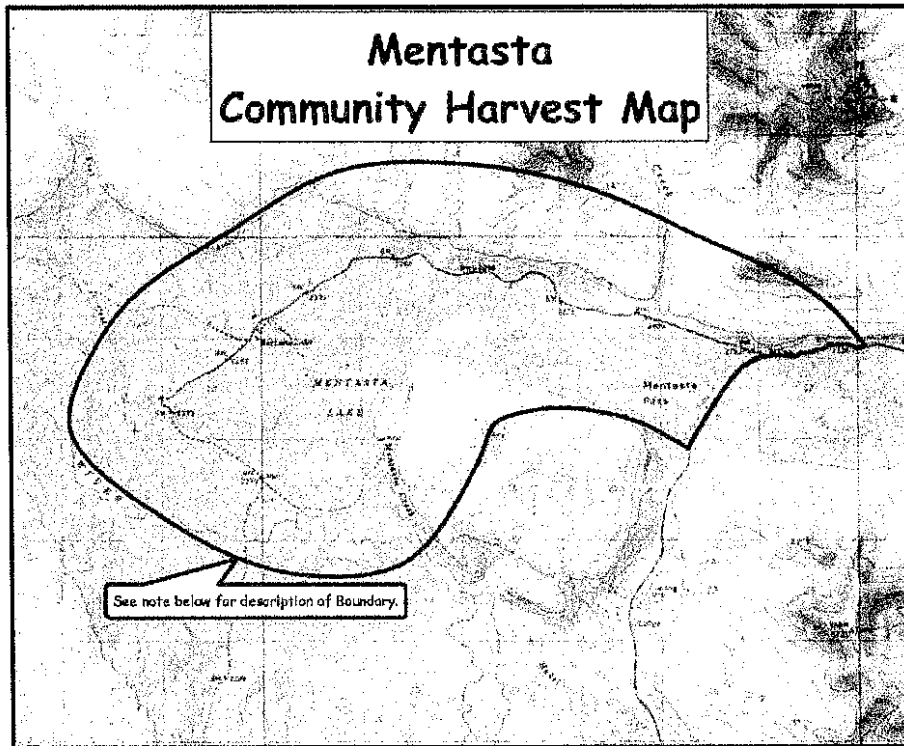
Coordinates for Gakona Village Hall = -145 211331, 62 315580 (Datum: NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine
your proximity to Gakona Village Hall



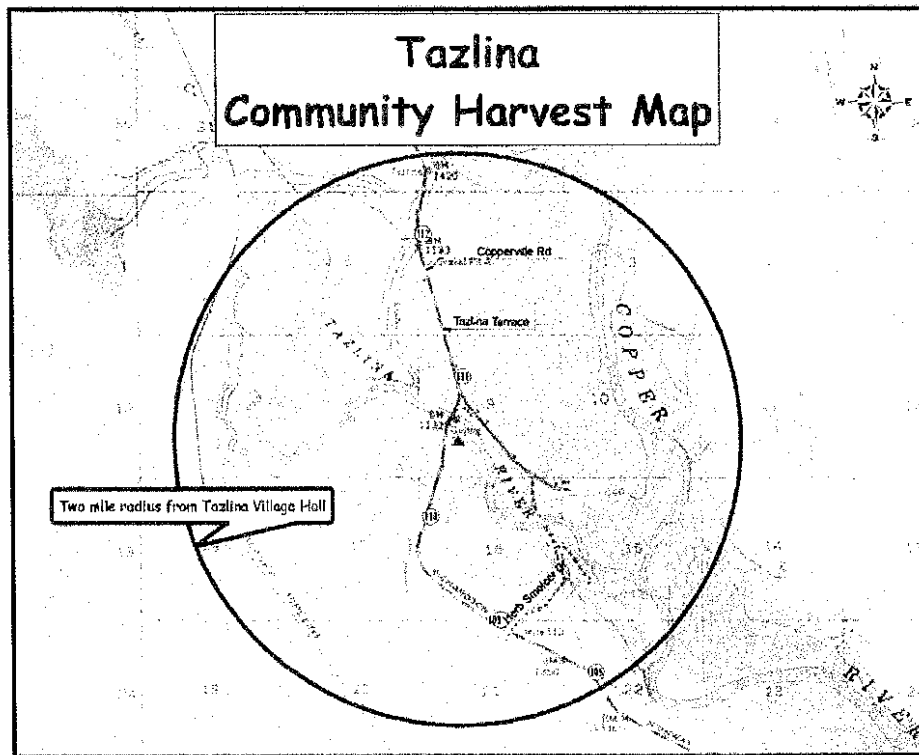
Boundary is around Gulkana Village

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only



Boundary is one mile on each side of Mentasta Spur Rd and/or one mile from Mentasta Lake. Boundary follows the west edge of Glenn Highway (Tok Cut-Off)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only

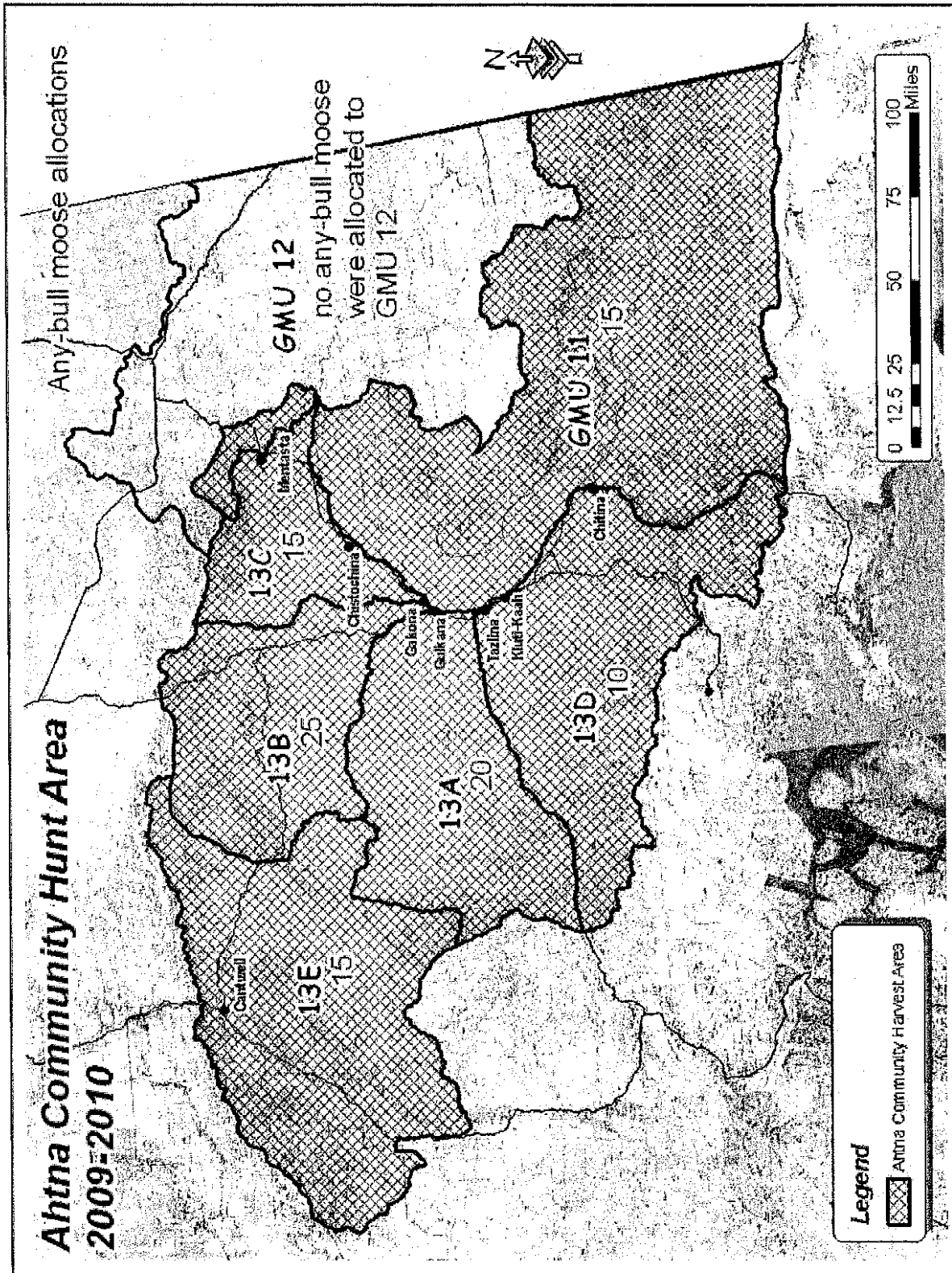


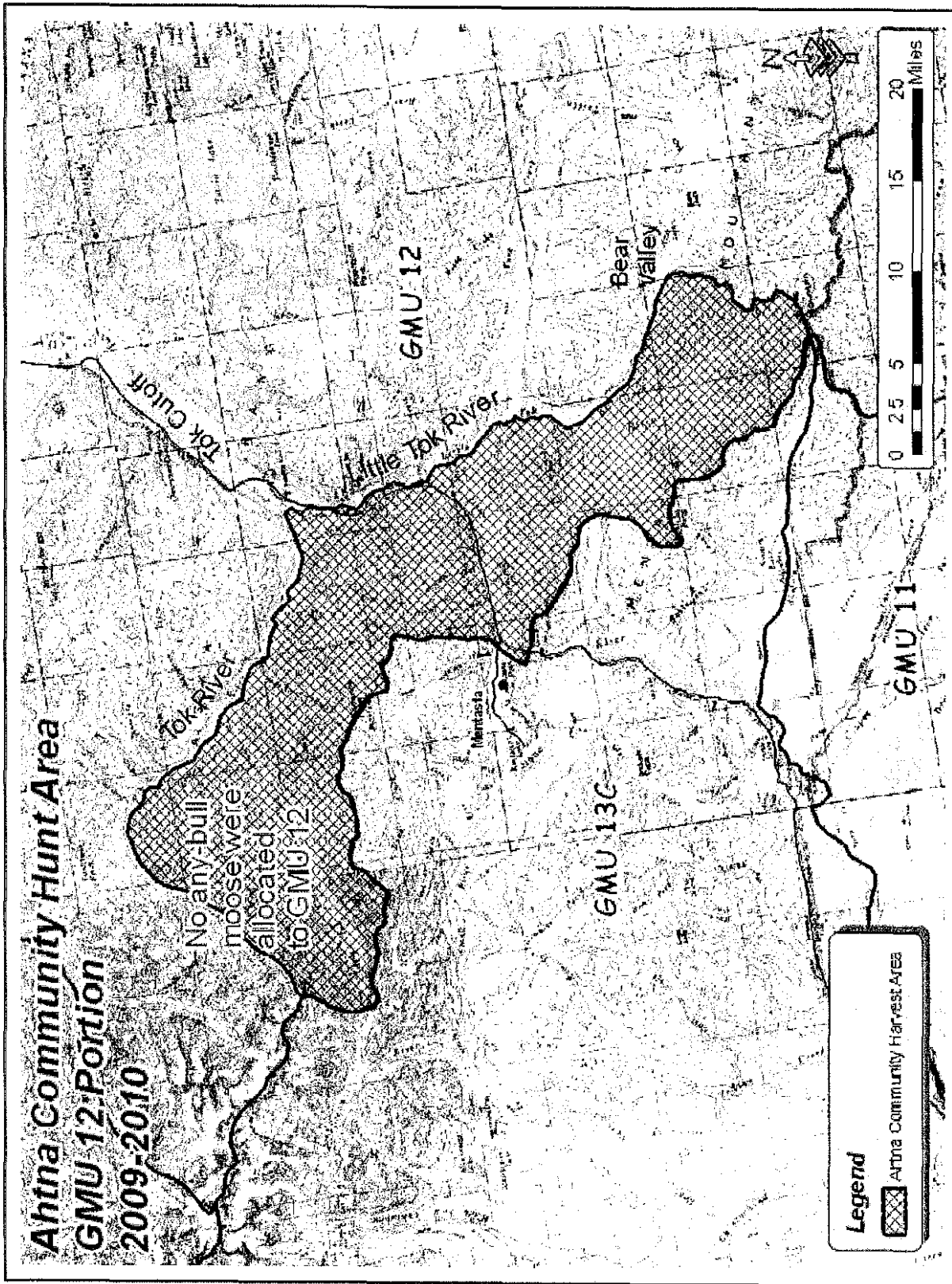
Coordinates for Tazlina Village Hall = -145.428121, 62.052077 (Datum: NAD 83)

Map is not to scale, for visual reference only
Use GPS coordinates provided to determine your proximity to Tazlina Village Hall

Appendix B. Ahtna Community Hunt Area Maps

Note: National Park lands in GMU 11 and 13 are closed to community hunters, and all Ahtna Inc. and village lands are closed to hunting by non-shareholders without specific written authority.





RC 40

**Alaska Board of Game
Winter 2010 Meeting
January 29 – February 1, 2010**

Public Testimony Comments:

Bob Ermold
PO Box 267
Soldotna, AK 99669
907 398-9544

Proposal #34 - 5AAC 92.125 Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans
Establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A

* I support the idea of an intensive management plan in 15A as it relates to both predator control and continued habitat enhancement.

* I support the population objective (3000 – 3500) and harvest objective (180 – 350).

* I question the 2% annual population growth as worthwhile. I would like to see an objective of a higher growth rate (perhaps 8 – 10% annually.) Using the last census estimate of 1670 moose, if we aim for the upper end of the population objective of 3500 moose, it will take approximately 37 years to accomplish this with a 2% annual increase.

* Cow pregnancy rates, although not ideal, are probably adequate for sustained growth.

* I believe the main issues to be examined and addressed are calf mortality and lack of recruitment as it relates to predation. With that, there are three main predators in 15A that need to be addressed: black bears, brown bears, and wolves.

*There are five main considerations in implementing a predator control plan to address the current situation in 15A:

1. Coordination – There must be a coordinated effort to reduce all three major predators simultaneously and by multiple means and methods for each (i.e. it will be ineffective to simply increase a bag limit of one predator for one year and then implement a different change for a different predator the next year.)

2. Intensive Means – Means and methods must be greatly increased to have a significant impact on the predator populations. I would personally be in support of any and all of the following:

- a. increase the areas where bear baiting is allowed (including KNWR)
- b. increase the bag limit for black bears
- c. change to predator control permits for black bears (much like 16B)
- d. allow snaring of black bears
- e. increase harvest limits of brown bears
- f. allow baiting for brown bears
- g. allow same day fly and shoot for bears and wolves
- h. allow the sale of black bear hides
- i. increase access (snow machines/ 4-wheelers) on KNWR
- j. open all lakes in the KNWF to aircraft landing, with the exception of the Swanson River Canoe System lakes and designated wilderness lakes.

3. Time Specific – The idea must be sold to the public that an intensive management plan is just that. These are not proposed changes to the general hunting regulations that will remain in effect forever. It should be stated that it will be in effect for a specific time window, at which time a census will be conducted and population objectives re-evaluated. I believe the public will support a plan with a stated objective for a specified period of time, with the overall goal of increasing the moose population.

4. In Conjunction with Continued Habitat Enhancement – If we reach our population objective, we'd better be able to support it.

5. Cooperation – Since 80% of Unit 15A is within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, a cooperative relationship is necessary for success of the program. With a new incoming refuge manager, this is an opportune time to establish a positive working relationship between KNWR and ADF&G to achieve a common goal. With the KNWR as the manager of the land, and ADF&G as the manager of the fish and wildlife resources, they must work together in order for all to benefit. One of the major issues will be means of access (e.g. 4-wheelers, snow machines, aircraft), but again, if understandings are reached that these are not permanent changes and have a specific purpose, then a positive cooperative working relationship can exist.

As an avid hunter, fisherman, and trapper, I believe in managing our resources for abundance. Our declining moose population in 15A has been an ongoing issue of concern for quite some time and has reached a point of needed recovery to prevent further decline. Abundance is not even a consideration at this point. I believe that an intensive management plan is not only necessary, but as stewards of our land and resources, we have an obligation to take such management measures.

RC41

Comments: Mike McCrary
P.O. Box 143494
Anchorage, AK 99514

Board of Game January 30, 2010.

I am before you today representing my self.

If it matters, I was elected to serve on the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee in January 2009 and since that time have done my best to represent the interests of the urban; local, Alaskan residents. My term on that committee expires in 2011.

After observing the public process of managing our fish in the river and our game resources...and the corresponding degradation of Alaskans resident opportunities over the last 35 years I am convinced that most of our resource management issues for residents...access, opportunity, and depressed resource populations are directly related to the implemented practice of the commercial hunting and the in-river commercial sport fishing industries in Alaska.

These two "industries"; the in-river commercial fishing industry and the commercial hunting industry do not pay any sort of slaughter tax on the resources they take profit from.

They are unlimited.

They do not stand down when our resources are scarce.

They are in fact industries operating 'outside' of the law.

Nothing in our State Constitution permits the exploitation and commercialization of our fish in the river and our game.

The commercial hunting industry is NOT intended to be managed by what we now call the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

The Big Game Commercial Service Board is not doing it's job. It is not managing "guides" and there is a difference between managing an outside the law industry and managing guides.

I understand that the Board of Game is limited to imposing seasons, bag limits, and methods and means of harvest yet this Board has supported over the years an untold number of "proposals" that have been proposed and enabled to satisfy only the special interests of the commercial hunting industry.

There are some proposal here before you now and there will be more in March in Fairbanks that are purely special interest proposals that do nothing but expand the commercial hunting industry.

Likewise, there are proposals that limit the industry.

I am hopeful the 2010 Board of Game will be the board that began to check the special interests of the commercial hunting industry in Alaska by rejecting any and all proposals that expand the commercial hunting industry and carefully...consider the public interest value of proposals that limit the commercial hunting industry.

Alaskans and our resources can no longer afford a commercial hunting industry.

Alaskans want and expect there will always be a place for the iconic real deal Alaskan hunting guide but the cookie cutter cowboys that the Big Game Commercial Services Board protects and enables have expanded the industry to the breaking point.

The Alaska constitution set aside; reserved, game and fish in the river for the "common use" of the people.

There is no authority for this Board to propose implementing any regulation or program that exploits or commercializes our game.

Previous Board's of Game have written; in June of 2007 and again in January 2008, letters supporting the DNR's proposal to carve up all State lands into exclusive commercial hunting zones.

DNR does not even have statute or regulation to implement such a program.

The public, back in 07 and 08 had not even heard of this proposed program when the 07 and 08 Boards supported what is clearly and without any question the most special of special interest programs.

Prior to December 2009 there was never any public discussion; for that matter even a public awareness, of this proposed program until December of 2009. Yet previous Boards of Game are on record supporting a program that benefits only a few people in the commercial hunting industry.

No alternatives to the DNR proposed program have yet to be considered.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association sold a bill of goods to the Governor who directed the DNR commissioner to make this program happen and along with that comes this support by the Board of Game in the way of letters in 2007 and 2008.

Getting caught up in situations where the cart is put in front of the horse are the kinds of thing the Board of Game needs to be more vigilant of.

So, I appreciate that the 2010 Board of Game has not signed on to supporting the special interests of the commercial hunting industry represented by the DNR proposed program.

I hope the reason for that is that you realizes this special interests program may not see the light of day and that more importantly that no alternatives have ever been fully considered by any one. Not this Board, not the DNR not the public.

Having said all that, letter writing works both ways.

So, I am here today to appeal to the Board of Game to write a letter to the Big Game Commercial Service Board advising them to get their own house in order. Advise the Big Game Commercial Service Board to put the tough stuff on there March agenda begin to deal with their own problems like they are supposed to do according to the legislative intent in establishing the BGCSB.

Alaska has outlived the concept that every licensed hunting guide can operate in three guide use areas if they want too.

That any licensed guide be permitted to hire an unlimited number of licensed guides or assistant guides.

That a licensed guide can sign dozens of "contracts" year in and year out and never actually even guide a client.

That "assistant" guides can independently provide the contracted services a registered guide sold and act as a surrogate for the contracting guide.

And, that the Big Game Commercial Services Board is allowing; as a standard implemented industry practice for any one guide to sign client contracts or subcontract to another guide opening up 6 or more guide use areas to one mega commercial hunting business.

We all know it is not DNR's job to solve the problems associated with the commercial hunting industry. It is the Big Game Commercial Services Boards duty and public obligation to clean up there mess and if the Board of Game can write such letters as we have seen in 07 and 08 I believe the 2010 Board can write the requested sort of letter I have appealed for you to consider.

Finally, I want to speak to you about the focus the commercial hunting guide industry has turned on air-taxis.

In order to keep the focus off of their own industry practices and to limit their competition the Big Game Commercial Services Board is turning their time and energy into limiting the competition of guides by focusing on limiting and restricting air taxi's.

Air taxis are now the target of the ideological favorite time location conflict crowd too.

We have legislators going off half cocked introducing legislation that does nothing to improve the opportunity for resident non commercial hunters or limit the commercial hunting industry but instead focuses on limiting and restricting the very tool 70% of Alaskans who hunt rely on for access to our public grounds and resources.

These people, the ones who use air taxis, fill their freezer's....NOT their pocket books.

They kill one moose in a season not 10. They kill one sheep in a season not 20. They kill one brown bear in a life time not 10 a year. Most people get that and when these discussions come up about limiting and restricting air taxis it is nothing more than a tactic to keep our eyes off the ball.

No one is really fooled by all this lets do something about air taxis when they are educated regarding the facts of the matter.

We know those who have the most to gain from limiting and restricting air taxis are the commercial hunting industry and the ideological favorite time location advocates.

So, I personally am not all that worried about this 'get the air taxis' under control of the Big Game Commercial Services Board because when urban resident hunters and the conservation majority of Alaskans; the sleeping dogs, realize what is intended by limiting and restricting air taxis is to provide less competition to the commercial hunting industry.....what ever the legislature or the Big Game Commercial Services Board try to do will be completely ineffective at limiting the sleeping dogs.

What is disturbing, and the reason I have appealed to the Board of Game to write a letter to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, is because the Big Game Commercial Service Board should not be permitted to continue to focus residents as if they are the problem.

Guides cater to non residents.

Air taxis cater to residents.

The Big Game Commercial Services Board must focus on what is happening to our resources through their implemented "guiding" practices....not how to better limit and restrict residents hunting opportunity of residents.

That goes for this Board and the Legislature too.

65% of the brown/grizzly bears, 45% of the sheep and 30% of the goats annually harvested in this state are being harvested by non residents.

Non residents are harvesting less than 10% of our moose and less than 10% of our caribou.

Air taxis are not the problem.

The problem is the Big Game Commercial Services Board is the proverbial fox watching the hen house.

I predict that what is more likely to happen now that the commercial hunting industry has actually pushed residents so far is rather than permitting restrictions be imposed on residents access to the resource through some kind of controls and limits on air taxis is going to be the following:

In the next year or so there will be legislation to implement One Alaskan Standard Guide Licensing Board where all classes of guide, whether its a wildlife viewing guide, a mountain climbing guide, a river rafting guide or a hunting guide or a fishing guide....this new Alaska Standard Guide Licensing Board will have all the resources users sitting around one table actually managing the profession guiding. Kind of like hair dressers and barbers do. This will take care of the fox watching the hen house we have now.

That may not be enough to bring the special interests of the commercial hunting industry into check so we will see a bill in the legislature or a ballot initiative or both proposing to limit all non residents to 10 % of the Alaskan effort to harvest fish in the river and game.

This would mean if 3,000 residents are hunting sheep or brown bears state wide then 300 non resident opportunities would be provided.....statewide.

That is the way the 10% law will go for moose, caribou, goats ect.

Non residents will be limited to 10% of the resident effort. Not the historical harvest but the historical resident effort will drive what opportunity is made available to non residents to harvest our game or our fish in the rivers.

In any case the commercial hunting industry as we know it in Alaska is finished.

The sooner the Board of Game and the Big Game Commercial Services Board and the DNR realize that the easier it will go on the guides who can not make the transition from no limits to....all things considered limits.

In closing I want to thank you for your time, your consideration and to remind you that letters go both ways.

It is about time this Board write a letter to the Big Game Commercial Services Board advising them that it is not DNR's problem or the Board of Games problem to fix the

commercial hunting industry and if the Big Game Commercial Services Board can not or wont fix the issues then the public is bound to.

Respectfully,

Mike McCary

McCrar907@gmail.com

209.0119



Chugach Regional Resources Commission

TESTIMONY OF THE CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Chenega Bay

Eyak

Nanwalek

Port Graham

Qutekcak
Native Tribe

Tatitlek

Valdez Native
Tribe

PROPOSAL 52 (March Proposal 117) - Bag Limits for Sea Ducks in Kachemak Bay

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) requests that the Alaska Board of Game Take No Action on Proposal 52 regarding the hunting seasons and bag limits for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay. The Member Tribes of CRRC **oppose** Proposal 52 and request that the Board rescind the amendment adopted in March, 2009, for the following reasons.

1. There is no biological concern about sea duck populations in Kachemak Bay to warrant a restriction on the bag limit. A subsistence harvest survey was conducted for migratory birds and their eggs in the Native Villages of Port Graham (Lower Cook Inlet) and Chenega Bay (Prince William Sound) in 2006. This study was conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. The report (Technical Paper No. 349) revealed that only 596 migratory birds (all species) were harvested in 2006 with 44% of the households represented in the sample. Similar numbers have been reported in comprehensive subsistence harvest surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Chugach Regional Resources Commission in five year increments after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (the latest one being Technical Paper

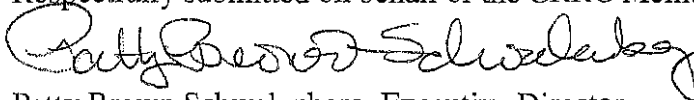
312, published in 2006). These harvest numbers do not indicate a large exploitation rate as the original proposal indicates. Technical Paper 312 states that in 2004, only 285 sea birds were harvested by Nanwalek and 264 in Port Graham, for a total of 549 birds. In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, in their Memo to the Alaska Board of Game Members, dated April 30, 2009, regarding the Emergency Petition-Kachemak Bay Sea Ducks, indicates that “with 15,000-30,000 sea ducks wintering in Kachemak Bay and an average annual harvest of only 1,500 there is **no regional concern** for overharvest of sea ducks.”

2. Lowering the Bag Limit of Sea Ducks will negatively impact the subsistence hunters in Port Graham and Nanwalek. Reduced harvest opportunity limits the amount of waterfowl that can be taken for food and other purposes by local community members. Contrary to the statement made in Proposal 117 that “most of these ducks are not eaten or utilized,” the Native people of the Chugach Region rely on these birds for subsistence purposes, using the meat as well as the non-edible parts of the bird for traditional and cultural purposes. Since the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, subsistence harvest has required greater effort for the same amount of food that was harvested before the spill. In other words, people have to travel farther and hunt longer in order to maintain their subsistence requirements at pre-spill levels. Reducing daily bag limits will become cost-restrictive, thereby eliminating the ability for Native hunters to harvest these important species.
3. The action taken by the Board of Game was not based on conservation concerns for any particular species. The initial proposal (Proposal 117) did not address any one particular species, nor any specific regulatory change. The Board of Game took

action on the proposal, despite this lack of information. While the CRRC Board and its Member Tribes appreciate the Board of Game's action to delay the implementation of this proposal to allow for public review and comment, we believe No Action should have been taken on this proposal initially.

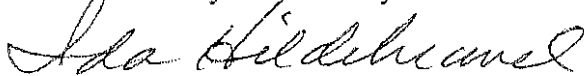
Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 907-562-6647.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CRRC Member Tribes and Board of Directors



Patty Brown Schwalenberg, Executive Director
Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Oral Testimony Provided By:



Ida Hildebrand, Tribal Natural Resource Education Director
Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Note: The Chugach Regional Resources Commission ("CRRC") is an Alaska Native non-profit organization created by the seven Tribes of the Chugach Region (Tatitlek Village IRA Council, Chenega IRA Council, Port Graham Village Council, Nanwalek IRA Council, Native Village of Eyak, Qutekcaq Native Tribe, and Valdez Native Tribe) to address environmental and natural resource issues and to develop culturally-sensitive economic projects within our communities that support the sustainable development of Alaska's natural resources. The mission of CRRC is to work with our seven member Tribes to promote and develop sound economic resource-based projects and to work collectively to address any natural resource- and environment-related issues that affect the Native people of the Chugach Region.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 25528
Juneau, AK 99802-5528
PHONE: (907) 465-4190
FAX: (907) 465-8142

TO: Alaska Board of Game Members

THRU: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Boards Support

FROM: Dale Rabe, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Marianne G. See, Assistant Director, Division of Subsistence

DATE: April 30, 2009

SUBJECT: Emergency Petition Kachemak Bay Sea Ducks

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the requests for an emergency repeal of the decision in March 2009 to restrict sea duck hunting in Kachemak Bay (Proposal 117) and provides the following analysis and recommendations. An important aspect of this matter is that the department was not able to provide the Board of Game (Board) all the relevant data during deliberation of the proposal.

The department does not believe there is any biological concern about sea duck populations nor other data to warrant new restrictions on hunting opportunity in Kachemak Bay. In the analysis and recommendations prepared for the Board meeting the department pointed out that because wintering sea ducks are highly mobile, populations are managed within the Cook Inlet and Gulf Coast regional zone rather than in site-specific areas like Kachemak Bay. With 15,000-30,000 sea ducks wintering in Kachemak Bay and an average annual harvest of only 1,500 there is no regional concern for overharvest of sea ducks.

The department further considers that the regulatory change of March 2009, which will substantially lower the bag limit, will have unnecessary and potentially significant impacts on resident waterfowl hunters in and around Kachemak Bay. As part of this concern, reduced harvest opportunity will likely decrease the subsistence harvest and use of waterfowl by residents of Seldovia, Nanwalek, and Port Graham. Travel in Kachemak Bay in November and December is difficult at best and very dangerous for the small boats used by most waterfowl hunters. Reducing the daily bag limits will require hunters to make additional trips to harvest enough ducks for subsistence uses. It will also have economic impacts on the local communities and guide services through reduced travel to the area in autumn by non-residents interested in waterfowl hunting. Therefore, the public may experience significant costs if this regulation becomes effective.

RC43

January 30, 2010

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Game,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before this board. I am Sandra Nicori and I represent Kwethluk Incorporated as a newly elected board member so pardon my style of testifying if it is somewhat different or not adhering to certain criteria.

My present concerns are in regards to proposal # 44 Description of Game Mgmt Units, and more specifically Unit 18.

- 1) If the boundary line is moved five miles further down river from the present proposed line, it would certainly benefit not only the Kalskag residents, as stated, but the Lower Kuskokwim residents as well in less 'citations' for hunting and killing below the boundary line as is the case now.
- 2) After the recent five year moose moratorium in Game Mgmt. 18 there is now more moose downriver and it would certainly cut down on personal fuel expenses because the majority of the area's population lives downriver from the present Unit 18 boundary lines.
- 3) Finally, during the recent moose moratorium in Game Mgmt. Unit 18 eating moose meat was few and far between. There are now more moose downriver of the current boundary and the local media can certainly testify to that. The local people have had customary cultural resource of the moose since time immemorial. As an example, I am a hefty woman and if I don't have candy in the house, I tend to crave it, even though I certainly don't need it. The non-access to the moose being further upriver falls under the same concept resulting in 'citations' to people who simply crave for what they grew up eating.

This move would certainly result in:

- a) less 'citations' in moving the present proposed boundary further downriver.
- b) use of less fuel /personal expenses to the Lower Kuskokwim residents.
- c) closer access to a customary cultural resource.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter which affects a lot of people.

Cali quyanaqegcar. (Again, thank you very much.)

RC 44

Office Use Only – moose ticket #: _____ caribou ticket #: _____

Updated 7/31/2009

AHTNA COMMUNITY HUNT APPLICATION MOOSE AND CARIBOU 2009-2010 FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND DESIGNATED HUNTERS

Return to a designated Ahtna representative

Today's Date:		Driver's license or state ID number:		
Name (first, middle initial, last, suffix):				Date of Birth:
Mailing address (including zip code):				
Physical address (if different):				
What is your community of principal residence:				
Home phone:		Cell phone:		Email:

Check one (or more) if applicable*: Elder (≥65) Disabled Single parent Widow

*If disabled, you must provide a full description of your disability or proof (example supplemental disability check or a doctor's note). If you are a single parent, your children must live in your household, and you must show proof that your school age children are enrolled in a local school district (Copper River or the Cantwell school), or a valid home school program.

- Check here if you are applying for a duplicate harvest ticket/report
- Check here if you are applying ONLY as a designated hunter

COMMUNITY HUNT CONDITIONS

- 1) Community hunters and designated hunters must fill out and sign his application thereby acknowledging that they have read and understand all the hunt conditions. Falsifying information and non-compliance with hunt conditions may result in a permit being pulled mid-season, ineligibility for this hunt in future years, and/or citation.
- 2) Community hunters must be Alaska residents, and must be a member of the community. Community membership is demonstrated if: 1) a person is permanently domiciled within the designated boundaries of one of the 8 villages: Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Kluti Kaah (Copper Center), Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta, or Tazlina; or 2) a person is connected to the community through consistent participation over at least one year with the community's customary and traditional (C&T) subsistence patterns and practices. A person applying as a resident of a community may be requested to provide proof of residency (an affidavit of residency, or utility bill such as electricity, telephone, or garbage with a physical address). If you are applying as a resident and have left the Copper Basin or Cantwell area for more than 60 consecutive days in the past 12 months, you may be required to provide a written explanation (valid reasons for an absence include: education, military, or medical reasons). A person applying as a non-resident member of the community must provide a statement signed by another resident or member of the community verifying membership in the community and specifying the applicant's participation in the community's C&T subsistence harvest and use patterns. See the Community Hunt Plan available on the Ahtna website or available through the hunt hotline for more details about establishing non-resident community membership and for a sample statement in support of community membership.
- 3) Community hunters will need to have a valid hunting license or permanent identification card if 60 or older, as well as a valid state identification card if 16 or older.
- 4) If you sign up as a community hunter, you are prohibited from holding a state harvest ticket or any other state hunt permit for moose or caribou during the same regulatory year. If you sign up as a community hunter, all your household members will be similarly affected. They will also be limited to hunting moose and caribou only within the community hunt area. If you are selected for any state drawing, tier I, or tier II permit for moose or caribou for the 2009-2010 regulatory year, you must decide whether to use the permit and forgo participation in the community hunt, or you may return the permit, prior to hunting, to the Glennallen ADF&G office and participate in the community hunt as a community hunter.
- 5) Harvest tickets must be signed by the Hunt Administrator or designated representative as well as the original hunt participant to be valid.

- 6) A community hunt participant may designate a hunter to harvest their moose or caribou. The community hunt participant can designate any person who has applied to be a designated hunter and is qualified under the conditions listed below. A designated hunter does not need to be a resident or a member of one of the eight participating communities. The Ahtna hunt administrator will keep a list of persons who have applied to be designated hunters to enable community hunters to select a designated hunter. **The community hunter remains responsible for all harvest reporting requirements.**
- a. Designated hunters must sign a hunt application acknowledging reading and understanding all the hunt conditions and agreeing to abide by the same hunt conditions as the original community hunt participant (the "beneficiary").
 - b. The designated hunter and everyone in their household will be limited to hunting moose and caribou within the community hunt area during this regulatory year.
 - c. Designated hunters must be Alaskan residents and must, if 16 years of age or older, have a valid hunting license and a valid state identification card.
 - d. Several designated hunters (no limit) may be listed on the front of the beneficiary's harvest ticket, but the most current designated hunter must carry the harvest ticket in the field while hunting.
 - d. No fee can be given or received for the taking of game or receipt of meat/organs, etc., though costs (monetary or otherwise) of hunting may be reimbursed and sharing between the beneficiary and designated hunter may occur according to C&T practices.
 - f. Designated hunters can hunt for more than one person at a time as long as they carry each harvest ticket with them in the field while hunting. For enforcement purposes, designated hunters should keep meat, etc. separate if hunting for more than one person at a time. The designated hunter must salvage all meat and other animal parts required below as well as all parts requested by the beneficiary, and must deliver all salvaged meat and parts to the beneficiary.
- 7) Hunters on the current state Failure to Report list are not eligible to receive a community moose or caribou harvest ticket this year. Community hunters must return completed hunt reports to a designated village representative or Hunt Administrator within 3 days of taking the animal and transporting it to the place of final processing and preparation for human use, or within 10 days of the season closing if unsuccessful or did not hunt. Failure to report will cause a community hunter to be placed on the state Failure to Report (FTR) list, and they will be ineligible to participate in any state permit or subsistence community hunts the following regulatory year. Also, a citation may be issued. Hunts can be closed by ADF&G prior to the scheduled date by emergency order. It is the hunter's responsibility to check the status of the hunt. Updated hunt status information can be found by calling the community hunt hotline at 907-822-8136 or by checking the Ahtna, Inc. website at <http://www.ahtna-inc.com/>
- 8) All hunters are required to salvage, for moose and caribou, the neck meat, brisket, ribs, front quarters as far as the knee, hindquarters as far as the hock, and all of the meat along the backbone (backstrap and tenderloin). Hunters are also encouraged to salvage other, C&T parts of the animal which include the heart, liver, and kidneys, and specifically for moose, the head, hide, intestines and stomach. Meat, and organs when salvaged, must be brought out clean and fit for human consumption. Care must be taken, when removing hides from the meat, to prevent poking or cutting holes in the hide. Hunters are to share with others in accordance with C&T practices. If the hunter does not wish to keep the organs, head, or hide for his own personal use, the hunter is asked to contact a designated Ahtna village representative for information on how to distribute and share these parts. If a tribal member youth's first moose/caribou is taken, the meat, head and organs must be distributed amongst the opposite clan, according to traditional practices and customs. They must visit the opposite clan, have tea with them and give gift(s) to them. If a non-tribal youth's first moose/caribou is taken, they should seek direction from a designated Ahtna representative as to how to follow this traditional practice.
- 9) Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat. Caribou antlers must be left at the kill site, and they must be removed from the skull plate or the skull plate must be cut in half. Moose antlers must be uncut, and must come out of the field with the last load of meat.

Signature _____

Date _____

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME Statewide, Cycle A Proposal Comment Summary Prepared by Boards Support Section
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HUNTER EDUCATION

1. Require hunter education for using crossbows.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Fairbanks AC32</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Edward Buyarski PC7</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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HARVEST TICKETS AND REPORTS

2. Repeal the black bear harvest ticket requirement.

<u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>	<u>Central Peninsula AC18</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>National Park Service PC2</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Jim Stratton - NPS PC65</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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3. Clarify the inspection requirements for licenses, harvest tickets, and permits.

<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Seward AC24</u>
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4. Require hunters to submit harvest reports for deer.

<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Cooper Landing w/Am AC22</u> <u>Edward Buyarski PC7</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u>		<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u>
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5. Issue big game harvest tickets to eight years olds and older.

<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>	<u>Wrangeli AC3</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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6. Clarify the types of harvest reporting allowed.

<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u>		<u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna w/Am AC19</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u>
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PROXY HUNTING

7. Modify the proxy authorization process.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u>	<u>Wrangell AC3</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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8. Expand proxy hunting to include immediate family members.

	<u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Saxman w/Am AC13</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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EXEMPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

9. Provide special provisions for disabled veterans.

<u>Seward w/Am AC24</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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10. Provide a special permit to disabled individuals for taking brown bear with the use of bait.

<u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Henry D. Tiffany IV PC4</u>		<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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PERMITS FOR TAKING GAME FOR CEREMONIAL HARVEST AND CULTURAL PURPOSES

11. Modify the permit requirements for taking game for certain religious ceremonies.

<u>Ketchikan AC1</u>	<u>Seward AC24</u>	<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka w/Am AC5</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central peninsula w/Am AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing w/Am AC22</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Kenaitze Indian Tribe w/Am PC8</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Knik Tribal Council w/Am PC15</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Tony Russ PC9</u>	<u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Barbara Donatelli PC6</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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12. Modify the permit requirements for taking potlatch moose.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley w/Am AC10</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u>	<u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Saxman AC13</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Tony Russ PC9</u> <u>Knik Tribal Council w/Am PC15</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Barbara Donatelli PC6</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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13. Modify the language that allows for the taking of big game for religious ceremonies.

<u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Tony Russ PC9</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Knik Tribal Council w/Am PC15</u>	<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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14. Create a new regulation for an Ahtna Traditional Potlatch Religious Ceremony.

Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Tony Russ PC9</u> <u>Knik Tribal Council w/Am PC15</u>	<u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Bobby Munchen PC37</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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CLEAN LIST

15. Add domestic finches to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Alan Armbruster PC36</u> <u>Peggy Santane PC38</u> <u>Linda Bruemmer PC40</u> <u>Jim Lounsbury PC42</u> <u>Patrica Warner PC43</u> <u>Laura Lounsbury PC44</u> <u>Diana Lecorchick PC46</u> <u>Denali Center Residents PC49</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u>	<u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u>
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16. Add Capuchin monkeys to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska.

<u>Sidney Nelson PC11</u> <u>Laurie Sivertsen PC14</u> <u>Mary Lynn Campbell PC26</u> <u>Joni and Thomas Swanson PC29</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Art Greenwalt PC1</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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17. Add primates/ Capuchin monkeys to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska.

<u>Sidney Nelson PC11</u> <u>Laurie Sivertsen PC14</u> <u>Mary Lynn Campbell PC26</u> <u>Joni and Thomas Swanson PC29</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Art Greenwalt PC1</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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18. Remove chimpanzees from the list of animals allowed in Alaska.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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19. Add sloths, kinkajous, wallaroos, savannah cats, and surgically de-venomized (venomoid) reptiles to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska.

<u>Theresa Bauer PC61</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Art Greenwalt PC1</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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20. Modify the definition of *Felis Catus* to include hybrid cats.

<u>Joann Odd w/Am PC13</u> <u>Edith Wilson PC20</u> <u>Theresa Bauer PC61</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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21. Add Bengal and Savannah cats to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska.

<u>Edith Wilson PC20</u> <u>Theresa Bauer PC61</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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22. Add Bengal, Savannah and Chausie cats to the list of animals that may be possessed in Alaska.

<u>Edith Wilson PC20</u> <u>Theresa Bauer PC61</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>	<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u>	<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT

23. Disallow guides and assistant guides from obtaining aerial permits for taking wolves.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Susan Olsen PC28</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska</u> <u>Wildlife Alliance, and Defenders of</u> <u>Wildlife PC58</u> <u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u>	<u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Naknek / Kvichak AC27</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Henry D. Tiffany IV PC4</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Joe Klutsch PC59</u>
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24. Modify the number of bait stations that a licensed guide-outfitter and his assistant guides may register in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area.

<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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25. Prohibit the use of bait or scent lures near businesses, schools or other facilities.

<u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks a/Am AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Susan Olsen PC28</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u>		<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		
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26. Clarify the usage of cable snares in predator control areas.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>
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27. Clarify the usage of cable snares in predator control areas.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Susan Olsen PC28</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>
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28. Eliminate nonresident hunting in predation control areas.

Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Homer AC28</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Susan Olsen PC28</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>Kimbrough Mauney PC50</u> <u>Duane Howe PC51</u> <u>Diane Frank PC52</u> <u>James Jackson PC53</u> <u>Brian Okonek PC54</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska</u> <u>Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of</u> <u>Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Jessica Cler PC71</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kotzebue AC21</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Naknek / Kvichak AC27</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>Henry D. Tiffany IV PC4</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Joe Klutsch PC59</u>
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29. Eliminate nonresident hunting in predation control areas.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u>	<u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Susan Olsen PC28</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Duane Howe PC51</u> <u>Diane Frank PC52</u> <u>James Jackson PC53</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska</u> <u>Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of</u> <u>Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>Jack Lentfer PC66</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Naknek / Kvichak AC27</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>Henry D. Tiffany IV PC4</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Joe Klutsch PC59</u>
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30. Eliminate nonresident hunting in predation control areas.

<u>Homer AC28</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Susan Olsen PC28</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u>	<u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Duane Howe PC51</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>		<u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Naknek / Kvichak AC27</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>Henry D. Tiffany IV PC4</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Joe Klutsch PC59</u>
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31. Change the dates that helicopters and snaring may be used in Unit 16 Predation Control Area .

<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u>	<u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u>
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32. Establish a predation control plan for Units 9C and 9E.

<u>Juneau Douglas AC2</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Naknek / Kvichak w/Am AC27</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u>	<u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Joe Klutsch PC59</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u>		<u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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33. Modify the population objectives for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd in Unit 9C and 9E.

<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Naknek / Kvichak AC27</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Nushagak w/Am AC33</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Joe Klutsch PC59</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u>	<u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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34. Establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A, Northern Kenai.

Support

Comment

Oppose

<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u>	<u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u>	<u>Northern Norton Sound AC12</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>Wade Willis PC41</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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SEALING REQUIREMENTS AND SALE OF GAME

35. Provide hunters the option for sealing hides.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Lower Yukon AC6</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>	<u>Wrangell AC3</u>	<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

36. Eliminate the sealing requirements for certain furbearers.

<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>		<u>Wrangell AC3</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>National Park Service PC2</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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37. Modify the Dall sheep sealing requirement.

<u>Fairbanks AC32</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u>	<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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38. Allow the sale of black bear gall bladders by non-profit organizations.

<u>Central peninsula w/Am AC18</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u>	<u>Edna Bay AC4</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

<p><u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Chuck Lamb w/Am PC32</u></p>		<p><u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Northern Seward AC16</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Kotzebue AC21</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>National Park Service PC2</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Barbara Rally PC24</u> <u>Rebecca king PC31</u> <u>Christine Maack PC35</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife PC58</u> <u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>Jim Stratton - NPS PC65</u> <u>Marilyn Houser PC67</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u></p>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

39. Allow the sale or barter of tanned bear hides.

<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak w/Am AC33</u> <u>Chuck Lamb w/Am PC32</u>		<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Northern Seward AC16</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska</u> <u>Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of</u> <u>Wildlife PC58</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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40. Allow the sale or barter of big game trophies.

<u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>		<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Northern Seward AC16</u> <u>Kotzebue AC21</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>William Smith PC12</u> <u>Laura D'Amico PC16</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Gillian Kirby PC22</u> <u>Karen Biljetina PC55</u> <u>Leslie Waller PC57</u> <u>Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska</u> <u>Wildlife alliance, and Defenders of</u> <u>Wildlife PC58</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>A. Silgailis PC63</u> <u>April Warwick PC68</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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SALVAGE REQUIREMENTS

41. Modify the definition of edible meat under the salvage requirement.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Northern Seward w/Am AC16</u> <u>Kotzebue w/Am AC21</u>	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Upper Kobuk AC20</u> <u>Lower Kobuk AC23</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u>	<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Arctic AC8</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Copper Basin AC17</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kenai-Soldotna AC19</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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42. Modify the salvage requirement.

<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>	<u>Kotzebue AC21</u>	<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

		<u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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43. Modify the salvage requirement for big game.

<u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>		<u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Middle Nenana AC7</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Denali AC14</u> <u>Northern Seward AC16</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kotzebue AC21</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>Fairbanks AC32</u> <u>Nushagak AC33</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u> <u>Mike and Julie Collins PC18</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

44. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 20.

<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Stony Holitna AC15</u>	<u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u>	<u>Jeff Sperry PC62</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

45. Modifications to boundaries for Units 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 25.

Matanuska Valley AC10 Seward AC24 AHTNA PC10 Andrea Veach PC69		
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DEFINITIONS

46. Create a regulatory definition for crossbow.

Juneau Douglas AC2 Edna Bay AC4 Sitka AC5 Matanuska Valley AC10 Central Peninsula AC18 Homer AC28 Edward Buyarski PC7 AHTNA PC10 APHA-Robert Fithian PC47 Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC48 Andrea Veach PC69 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72	<u>Cooper Landing AC22</u>	
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47. Remove snowy owl from the unclassified game definition.

Edna Bay AC4 Homer AC28 William Smith PC12 Laura D'Amico PC16 Carol McIntyre PC17 Michael Guglielmo PC19 David Johnson PC23	<u>Upper Kobuk AC20</u>	<u>Sitka AC5</u> <u>Arctic AC8</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Northern Seward AC16</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Kotzebue AC21</u> <u>Chuck Lamb PC32</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Barbara Rally PC24 Karen Biljetina PC55 Audubon Alaska - Matthew Kirchhoff PC56 Leslie Waller PC57 April Warwick PC68 Andrea Veach PC69		
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48. Modify the definition of full curl ram.

Edna Bay AC4 Matanuska Valley AC10 Cooper Landing AC22 Henry D. Tiffany IV PC4 Andrea Veach PC69	<u>Denali AC14</u>	<u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Upper Tanana / Fourtymile AC25</u> <u>Delta AC26</u> <u>APHA-Robert Fithian PC47</u> <u>Alaska Wild Sheep foundation -</u> <u>Wayne Heimer PC70</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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MISCELLANEOUS

49. Add a permit condition when using radio-telemetry equipment.

Middle Nenana AC7 Matanuska Valley AC10 Delta AC26 Fairbanks AC32 William Smith PC12 Laura D'Amico PC16 Barbara Rally PC24 Chuck Lamb PC32 Karen Biljetina PC55 Leslie Waller PC57 April Warwick PC68 Andrea Veach PC69		<u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Homer AC28</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u>
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Support

Comment

Oppose

Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72		
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50. Modify the agenda change request policy.

Chuck Lamb PC32 Andrea Veach PC69	<u>Fairbanks AC32</u>	<u>Ketchikan AC1</u> <u>Edna Bay AC4</u> <u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Central Peninsula AC18</u> <u>Craig AC29</u> <u>AHTNA PC10</u>
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51. Extend all trapping season dates.

Edna Bay AC4 Central Peninsula AC18 Kenai-Soldotna AC19 Cooper Landing AC22 Seward AC24 Naknek / Kvichak AC27 Homer AC28 Craig AC29 Fairbanks AC32 AHTNA PC10 Chuck Lamb PC32		<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Andrea Veach PC69</u> <u>Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72</u>
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52. Modify the bag limit for sea ducks in Unit 15.

Central Peninsula AC18 Kenai-Soldotna w/Am AC19 Homer w/Am AC28 Andrea Veach PC69 Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC72 Nancy Hillstrand PC73		<u>Matanuska Valley AC10</u> <u>Seldovia AC11</u> <u>Cooper Landing AC22</u> <u>Seward AC24</u> <u>Tim Robertson PC3</u> <u>Erich Schaal PC21</u> <u>Richard Dykema PC33</u> <u>Thomas Rothe PC39</u>
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RC46

**For Public Testimony: Proposals to be Supported or Opposed
at the Board of Game Meeting, Anchorage,
January 30-31, 2010**

Submitted by: Valanne Glooschenko, Anchorage, Alaska

23 SUPPORT - Do not allow commercial hunting guides to carry out aerial killing of wolves. It is entirely inappropriate to allow the for-profit commercial guiding industry to conduct predator control! Rationale behind predator control (where it may be necessary) is intended to benefit residents who are dependent upon subsistence. Otherwise predator control is being used to prop up commercial guiding operations to the detriment of the resource and the subsistence users.

#29/30 SUPPORT - Nonresident hunting must be eliminated for big game animals in predator control areas. Where moose and caribou populations are depressed, no non-resident hunting should take place (see Alaska Stat. 1605 255 13D). If there is sufficient game to liberalize harvest, then liberalized harvest should be provided first to residents .

#31 - OPPOSE - Snaring of black bears in GMU 16 or in any other unit; this practice is inconsistent with fair chase principles and unethical. Also strongly oppose residents using helicopters to assist any bear snaring activity.

32 - OPPOSE - Predator control for the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd because these animals have been shown to be nutrient-limited, there are disease issues and there is significant unreported harvest of this herd. In addition, for predator control to be successful here, it would require that it be conducted on a federal wildlife refuge. However, predator control is not appropriate activity for the nation's wildlife refuges which have a mandate to protect natural diversity and intact ecosystems within their boundaries. In addition, the present management priority for unit 9 is for bears; however this priority is wrong, since it is commercially motivated. Nowhere in the in constitution is there provision for commercial exploitation of game; in fact, this is expressly prohibited.

#34 - OPPOSE- Predator Control Areas Implementation Plans; establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A. The habitat enhancement plan does not have to be placed into an intensive predator management plan; fire management is already managed by the DNR. If a decision is made to support this plan, the plan should not be in place for 10 years, standard protocol is for a 5 year plan.

38- OPPOSE - The proposed sale of black bear gall bladders; sale of bear gall bladders and other wildlife parts has always been prohibited, for good reason. Such practice will only encourage increased poaching and black market trade.

#39 - OPPOSE - The propose legal sale of bear hides, because common sense tells us that it will promote poaching for profit in Alaska and nationally. In addition, our own wildlife agencies here in Alaska have always held this position.

#47 - SUPPORT - Removal of the snowy owl from the unclassified game definition. This will ensure protection of this already-protected bird under the Federal Migratory Bird Species Act.

Strongly oppose these ideologies ahead introduced by these extremist sportsmen urban hunters and trappers and these politicians who want to manage the wildlife according to their convenience and purposes. They are pushing proposals which only benefit sport hunters and trappers and not the community.

We oppose the allowing of state personnel to use carbon monoxide bombs to kill wolf pup in their dens. Strongly oppose expanding the area to snare bears including sows and cubs and are especially targeting the black bears. Trapping and snaring bears is a practice that has been long prohibited in Alaska. Oppose the expanding of eliminating wolves all over Alaska. This strategy used to control our wildlife is the most absurd and horrendous massacre that has been implemented to please a few rich sportsmen urban hunters and trappers. To apply this method against Alaska's wildlife by these outdoor sportsmen hunter and trappers is inhumane, savage, barbaric and unacceptable. How can a human being be so cruel just for money?

The state and Fish and Game Board are the ones responsible for the decrease of moose and caribou because of over hunting, the promotion of sport hunting all over Alaska and the fact that people come from all over the world to kill moose and caribou for trophies and profits. Its not fair to blame the animals for the humans fault.

We need diversity on the Board of Game because Alaska is a diverse state such as Alaskan natives, Hispanics, Samoans, Blacks etc. Why does the state and outdoor urban sportsmen want to be the only ones to control Fish and Game Board. Where is the democracy here in the state of Alaska?

I have a question for these politicians and the outdoor sportsmen. Why do they hate the wolves and bears so much but especially the black bears? GOD made the wolves and bears with a purpose for their to be balance in the wildlife. God is more intelligent than anybody on the earth and he knows the importance of what he did it. Now the state governor and the outdoor sportsmen want to eliminate them. I have seen a lot hate against wolves and bears by these politicians and the sportsmen. They have no compassion and they enjoy poisoning and snaring wildlife for money. They are against Gods creation and believe it or not, GOD will bring justice someday to the people who are doing this to the wildlife.

Strongly oppose legal sale of bear hides and the proposed sale of black bears gall bladders and other parts. This is a big illegal business in Asia and now the state governor and sport hunters want to make it legal to get money for themselves. Palin and her friends are the ones who in 2008 introduced bills to intensify predator control and unanimously voted in favor to o eliminate wolves, bears, wolverines and other animals including wolverines. Since Sarah Palin was governor, she is the one who started targeting the wildlife such as: wolves and bears. The situation of black bears has gotten worse after she lost when she

was running as VP. I don't understand what Palin and Parnell and the outdoor sportsmen phobia is against the color black.

The tourists come to Alaska to enjoy the landscape and wild animals that we still have here. The tourists bring millions of dollars in revenue to the state of Alaska through hotels, restaurants, shops etc. Which benefit the community in general. Without our wildlife tourism will decrease which will affect the state and its inhabitants. However the sports hunters only benefit themselves and a few people.

Yolanda de la Cruz
806 west 57th Ave.
Anchorage, Ak. 99518

Paul Justin
P.O Box 202671
Anchorage, Ak. 99520

Barbara Raily
8100 Parkside DR
Anchorage, Ak. 99501

April Awarwick
5716 Kennyhill Dr.
Anchorage, Ak. 99504

Diane Raynor
5132 west 72nd Avenue
Anchorage, Ak. 99502

Bette Rutan
9300 Ponderosa Dr.
Anchorage, Ak. 99570

I Yolanda have been targeted by some of the sportsmen hunters and trappers, by some of the Fish and Game Board people and from one of the radio talk show men because I have been speaking out in favor of the wildlife.

**For Public Testimony: Proposals to be Supported or Opposed
at the Board of Game Meeting, Anchorage,**

January 30-31, 2010

Submitted by:

23 SUPPORT - Do not allow commercial hunting guides to carry out aerial killing of wolves. It is entirely inappropriate to allow the for-profit commercial guiding industry to conduct predator control! Rationale behind predator control (where it may be necessary) is intended to benefit residents who are dependent upon subsistence. Otherwise predator control is being used to prop up commercial guiding operations to the detriment of the resource and the subsistence users.

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STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

January 14, 2010

RC 48

Aaron Bloomquist, Chair
Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
8807 Honeysuckle St. #C
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Chairman Bloomquist:

Thank you for your letters of December 1, 2009, and December 10, 2009, with your questions about the availability of management reports and your thoughts regarding changes to the Alaska Board of Game (Board) cycle and proposal deadlines. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Governor and Commissioner.

I will attempt to describe why the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) is recommending a change from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle from the perspective of our area management staff. However, because the issue is more complex than I can adequately convey in this letter, I suggest that you and other members of the Anchorage Advisory Committee may want to participate in a public discussion about these changes when the Board holds an evening session on this topic during its January 29 – February 1 meeting in Anchorage. The Department will also provide a staff report to the Board at this meeting, detailing the reasoning and rationale behind the recommendations.

Workload of Area Managers Associated with Board Meetings

The Department is very committed to the public process for setting regulations and values the contributions of the advisory committees and the public. As a result of several changes in the Department interface with the Board process, including much greater use of area managers at Board meetings, and greater numbers of proposals as the public has become more fully engaged in the process, the time commitment and cost to wildlife programs has increased substantially. These changes are having impacts on staff workloads, reducing their ability to meet other management responsibilities. In years between Board meetings, management biologists have many demands on their time, including: 1) conducting wildlife surveys and other field work that provides critical data to management, 2) summarizing and analyzing data and preparing a wide variety of management reports, and 3) providing a wide range of public services to hunters and other wildlife enthusiasts through the area offices, including work with advisory committees. In years when they are asked to participate in a Board meeting, their workload increases significantly and staff are forced to make tradeoffs relative to their normal responsibilities.

To illustrate the impact Board meetings have on area staff, it is useful to understand the work associated with each proposal submitted to the Board, which includes: 1) evaluating what is being requested in the proposal, 2) summarizing all relevant data from existing reports and analyzing additional data that may be needed that is not available in existing reports, 3) developing a draft recommendation, 4) reviewing proposal recommendations with other management and research staff, regional leadership, and other divisions and departments (e.g. Subsistence Division, Boards Support Section, and Department of Public Safety), 5) preparing formal presentations for the Board, and 6) attending most or all of the Board meetings and making presentations on the proposal during deliberations. In total, this work with these multiple steps represents a significant amount of time for each proposal and the amount of time increases substantially for complex proposals. The total amount of time invested in the regulatory process is a function of the frequency of the Board meetings and the number of proposals within each cycle. Typically, management staff will drop population surveys, reduce field work, or make other adjustments to accommodate the extra workload during years with Board meetings.

In your letter you inquired whether additional funding could address this problem and whether the Department has formally requested additional funding from the legislature to meet this need. From a funding standpoint, the Department's participation in Board meetings is part of its base budget, which covers nearly all of our normal management activities, including Board meetings. The Department does not generally have the opportunity to add to the base operating budget, except through license fee increases.

Having additional funding may be part of the answer, but the bigger limitation is the amount of time area managers have to meet all the expectations listed above. Because of the local knowledge that area staff can contribute to the Board meetings for local regulations, the only way to address workload limitations is to add additional staff to the area offices. Because this problem occurs to varying degrees in all our area offices, many additional management staff would be needed to meet all the local needs and provide full participation in Board meetings.

Recognizing that significant funding increases are not likely to occur, the Department must make difficult decisions about tradeoffs it must make, and what services or field work it will forgo to accommodate the demands of the Board meetings. This is one of the central reasons that the Department is interested in looking for solutions that will maintain the quality of the Board process that has been developed over many years, while finding a better balance with other management responsibilities and expectations from the public. Notably, we believe a change to a three-year cycle will additionally provide ACs and the public with a more reasonable timeframe to receive and review Department Analyses and Recommendations and other information and materials.

Management Reports

Area managers prepare management reports for each big game species by Game Management Units (GMU). Depending on the number of big game in the GMU, this can represent a substantial amount of work. As a result, the Wildlife Division made the decision many years ago to update species management reports every two or three years, depending on the species. Thus, some reports are completed during years when Board meetings occur and others are not. When a proposal is submitted for a species in a GMU out of cycle with the completion schedule, our published reports may be one to two years behind the most recent information. In these cases, biologists must do

interim summaries of more recent years in order to have it available for Board meetings. The result, however, is that these interim reports are not published until the next scheduled completion date for that species in the management area and therefore are not available to the public much before the meeting. It is unreasonable to expect that Area Biologists would be able to provide the same high quality presentations with all the most recent data to each AC in November or December that they provide to the Board in March.

I hope that this information helps you understand the limitations we face in having data available for the public to use and the tradeoffs managers must make when trying to balance the various demands of collecting population data, writing reports, providing public services, and, during years when Board meetings occur, completing all the work necessary for the Board's deliberations of suggested regulatory changes.

Sincerely,



Patrick Valkenburg
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
Doug Larsen, Director, Wildlife Conservation
Dale Rabe, Division Operations Manager, Wildlife Conservation
Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Boards Support
Jennifer Yuhas, Legislative Liaison/Communications Director
Senator Lisel McGuire, Co-Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Senator Bill Wielechowski, Co-Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Representative Craig Johnson, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

RC49

Members of the Board of Game:

This letter refers to sea duck hunting in Kachemak Bay.

I hold Master Guide License #49 and have lived in China Poot Bay since 1969 where we built the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, in operation continuously since 1970.

We accommodated duck hunters as clients there for 16 years until 1986. These clients came from around the country and the world. We hunted with them from the head of Kachemak Bay to Sadie Cove and off Bluff Point on the Homer side of the Bay. Our primary focus was sea duck hunting for museum collectors. Much of our business activity involved interacting with duck biologists, we participated in sea duck gut samples and other monitoring programs.

As recently as November we reported unusually low numbers of sea ducks to the ADFG waterfowl biologist in Anchorage. The China Poot Bay estuary, the principle intertidal estuary in Kachemak Bay continues to be our home. My brother Patrick who worked with our operation for many years as an Assistant Guide has lived there since 1976. He continues to duck hunt (dabblers) there regularly. We are both keen observers of duck numbers, behaviour, species distribution and hunting pressure.

It is my observation that the dramatically lower populations of sea ducks, surf, common and white wing scoters, barrows and common goldeneye, is an example of global warming. Ocean acidification and its impact on the skeletal calcifiers is clearly understood by the scientific community. Those organisms compromise most of the food for sea ducks. The exact impact on sea ducks of this reality is not yet fully understood. Our blue mussel beds are a mere shadow of what was there a decade ago. The changes in our bay with the drastic decrease of these calcifiers is shocking.

The simple fact is that sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay's principle estuary, China Poot Bay, are extremely low. Having lived there for more than 40 years and watching those populations carefully, we report that numbers have never been lower. We ask you to carefully limit the take of these birds in order to protect their numbers for the future.

Michael and Diane McBride

Diane and Michael McBride
Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge
PO Box 956, China Poot Bay
Homer, Alaska 99603 USA
January 30, 2010

(907)235-8910
www.alaskawildernesslodge.com

RC50

Alaska Outdoor Council
Positions on ALASKA BOARD OF GAME proposals
for
Statewide Regulations, Cycle A
Anchorage, Alaska
January 29 – February 1, 2010

AOC Recommendations:

SALVAGE REQUIREMENTS;

Do not adopt . 41 Modify the definition of edible meat under the salvage requirement.

CLEAN LIST;

Do not adopt proposals that could result in the introduction of non-native species into Alaska.

HARVEST TICKETS AND REPORTS;

Do not **Adopt** . 2 Repeal the black bear harvest ticket requirement.

Adopt . 4 Require hunters to submit harvest reports for deer.

Adopt . 3 Clarify the types of harvest reporting allowed.

Amend and adopt Delete [an employee of the department or] 6 Clarify the inspection requirements for licenses, harvest tickets, and permits.

INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT;

Do not adopt . 23 Disallow guides and assistant guides from obtaining aerial permits for taking wolves.

Do not adopt . 28 and 29 Eliminate nonresident hunting in predation areas.

Do not adopt . 30 Eliminate nonresident hunting in predation control areas.

Do not adopt . 26 and 27 Clarify the usage of cable snares in predator control areas.

Adopt . 31 Change the dates that helicopters and snaring may be used in Unit 16 Predation Control Area.

Adopt . 24 Modify the number of bait stations that a licensed guide-outfitter and his assistant guides may register in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area.

Adopt . 32 Establish a predation control plan for Units 9C and 9E.

Adopt . 34 Establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A, Northern Kenai.

022

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS;

AMEND 1/ Adopt. 44 Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 20.

Adopt. 45 Modifications to boundaries for Units 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 25.

MISCELLANEOUS;

Adopt. 49 Add a permit condition when using radio-telemetry equipment.

HUNTER EDUCATION AND DEFINITIONS;

Adopt. 1 Require hunter education for using crossbows

SEALING REQUIREMENTS AND SALE OF GAME;

Adopt. 37 Modify the Dall sheep sealing requirement.

Adopt. 39 Allow the sale or barter of tanned bear hides.

Adopt. 40 Allow the sale or barter of big game trophies.

SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS, BEAR BAITING;

Adopt. 51 Extend all trapping season dates.

NO NOT Adopt. 52 Modify the bag limit for sea ducks in Unit 15.

Adopt. 25 Prohibit the use of bait or scent lures near businesses, schools or other facilities.

PERMITS FOR TAKING GAME FOR CEREMONIAL HARVEST & CULTURAL PURPOSES;

Amend and adopt. compelling state interest justifies curtailing religious based moose, deer and caribou allocations in non-subsistence areas. 11 Modify the requirements for taking game for certain religious ceremonies.

Adopt. 13 Modify the requirements for the taking of big game for religious ceremonies.

Do not adopt. 14 Create a new regulation for an Ahtna Traditional Potlatch Religious Ceremony.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit positions on Board of Game proposals. I will be present during deliberations should any board members have questions regarding AOC positions on proposals.

Rod Arno, Alaska Outdoor Council Executive Director aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

TO: Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

FROM: Patricia Kinnunen
1930 E. 56th Ave
Anchorage, AK 995071609

SUBJECT: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

DATE: January 30, 2010 04:15 PM

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for the previous buffer zones you have designated to protect the wolves of Denali National Park from hunting and trapping outside of park boundaries. I support proposals #59 and #60 to renew and expand these buffers for the following reasons:

--Denali National Park is one of the best places in the world for visitors to see wolves in the wild and as an Alaskan resident, I value that opportunity as well.

--The percentage of park wolves killed by hunting and trapping has increased tremendously in the last six years (from 17% to 30%) and the current population is currently at 65--the lowest recorded number since the 1980s.

--Proposals #59 and #60 are reasonable and provide clear understandable boundaries.

I also urge you to support Proposal #5, submitted by the National Park Service, to exempt park lands from two new hunting rules meant to decrease black bear populations in Denali and Gates of the Arctic national preserves. Hunting bears in their dens with artificial light and allowing cubs and sows with cubs to be hunted at their dens is predator control and has no place in a national park unit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Patricia Kinnunen
1930 E. 56th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507-1609

RC52

202-659-0650

January 29, 2010 08:10 PM

Dael Devenport

2280 Black Spruce Ct , ♦ Fairbanks, AK 99709

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Dael Devenport
2280 Black Spruce Ct
Fairbanks, AK 99709

RC 53

202-659-0650

Linda Bassett

2940 Mallard Lane , Anchorage, AK 99508

January 29, 2010 08:38 PM

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

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Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Linda Bassett
2940 Mallard Lane
Anchorage, AK 99508

RC 84

Steven Bergt

2600 Draper Drive , ♦ Anchorage, AK 99517-1239

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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Sincerely,
Steven Bergt
2600 Draper Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517-1239

TO: Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

FROM: Rebecca Goodrich
905 Richardson Vista #22
Anchorage, AK 99501

SUBJECT: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

DATE: January 30, 2010 03:10 PM

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for the previous buffer zones you have designated to protect the wolves of Denali National Park from hunting and trapping outside of park boundaries. I support proposals #59 and #60 to renew and expand these buffers for the following reasons:

--Denali National Park is one of the best places in the world for visitors to see wolves in the wild and as an Alaskan resident, I value that opportunity as well.

--The percentage of park wolves killed by hunting and trapping has increased tremendously in the last six years (from 17% to 30%) and the current population is currently at 65--the lowest recorded number since the 1980s.

--Proposals #59 and #60 are reasonable and provide clear understandable boundaries.

I also urge you to support Proposal #5, submitted by the National Park Service, to exempt park lands from two new hunting rules meant to decrease black bear populations in Denali and Gates of the Arctic national preserves. Hunting bears in their dens with artificial light and allowing cubs and sows with cubs to be hunted at their dens is predator control and has no place in a national park unit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Goodrich
905 Richardson Vista #22
Anchorage, AK 99501

My name is Christine Rifredi

I am sponsored by Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and am currently a tribal council member of the Gwichyaa Zhee Tribal Council

I am here in opposition of any proposals that restricts or denies our religious freedom rights of ceremonial harvest practices.

the suggestion to place the taken of big game under the educational permit system will also restrict our ways of practicing our religious rights.

the historic and traditional taken of big game from our local areas, our hunters have been practicing conservation of game and hunts in those areas with healthy populations.

even with the rising cost of living within our rural villages, local have continued to practice their ancient ceremonies and values of their ancestors, a rich resource that is worthy of protection. there are three basic components are that interrelated:

Cultural: Significant amount of sharing takes place in ceremonies. there are certain ceremonial codes of conduct of how animals are treated in prescriptive ways to ensure the return of the animal harvested.

Social: ceremonial hunts for extended families, elders are group hunts. there are young members who are invited in these hunts so they can carry on the traditions and understand the methods of hunting and preserving the foods as well as reading climate changes within their environment.

Economic: traditionally lands were owned and its natural resources required sharing of resources. the utilization included consumption and use for arts and crafts; tools and equipment. The dual or mixed economy within rural villages are hard hit for cash today. many more have signed up for transfer payment to help support their livelihood of gathering , hunting, and fishing.

Any proposal that limits our ability to practice our centuries old ceremonies are again ignoring the social, cultural and ideological importance of ceremonial harvest and Alaska Natives' way of life. We Alaska natives have maintained a group orientation rather than an individualistic nature of the american society. We Alaskan natives are required to feed the spirits of our ancestors.

Proposal 11: taken of big game for certain religious ceremonies 5AAC92.019

remove reference requiring game taken for certain religious ceremonies to be defined as customary and traditionally taken or used for subsistence, and limit the moose, deer and caribou.

this will restrict our religious freedom rights

this proposal suggest to place this under the education permit system should not be the solution to restricting our religious practices.

Proposal 12 permit to take game for cultural purposes 5 AAC92.034

modifies proposal to take potlatch moose only from those populations that have been identified as cultural and traditional subsistence animals.

there are areas in our state that take more game than others for ceremonial uses, it's the community sharing of that game which plays a major factor in distribution.

Proposal 13 taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. 5AAC 92.019

modifying the language concerning the taken of big game for religious ceremonies by removing "customary and traditional" would also place restriction to the continuation of local ceremonial practices.

This restricts our religious and cultural practices. Many of our practices have been passed down orally.

By involving our young members in customary activities the traditional values are ensured to continue.

We support changing the regulation to include "game".

We support allowing ceremonial harvest throughout the state - even in non subsistence areas.

Ceremonially harvested moose are not a "subsistence resource" they are important as a cultural, ceremonial, and spiritual treasure.

RC 57

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Statewide Regulations, Cycle A
January 29 – February 1, 2010
Egan Convention Center
555 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

January 30, 2010

Jeanette Hanneman

RC # _____

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Alaska Board of Game. My name is Jeanette Hanneman, I am an Alaskan resident and would like to comment on the following proposals:

Proposal 23: Please support this proposal. Restricting commercial and for-profit individuals from conducting predator control hunting is a positive move toward a healthy intensive management protocol.

Proposal 29: Please support this proposal. Eliminating nonresident hunting for certain big game animals in predation control areas. Residents of Alaska are entitled to be able to hunt and feed their families according to state law. In areas with limited subsistence resources let's take care of Alaskans first.

Proposal 31: Please DO NOT support this proposal. Using helicopters and allowing same-day-airborne taking of black bears will be hard for law enforcement to regulate. The use of snares to take black bears is cruel and inhumane.

Proposal 32: Please DO NOT support this proposal. One reason for the decline of the Northern Alaskan Peninsula caribou herd is not related as much to animal predation as it is to a decreased food source, disease and a significant unreported human harvest. In my opinion predator control is not appropriate for the State of Alaska or the United States of America. Our Federal Refuges have a mandate to protect natural diversity and healthy ecosystems. Please let them.

Proposal 34: Please **DO NOT** support this proposal. As stated in this proposal predator population numbers are **BELIEVED** to be stable and the evidence obtained from biologists, pilots, trappers, and local residents is anecdotal. Scientific data should be determined before an intensive management plan is put in place. Any intensive management plan should not be authorized for over 5 years. Lastly there is already a fire management plan under DNR.

Proposal 39: Please **DO NOT** support this proposal. This proposal will possibly promote poaching in Alaska and nation wide.

Proposal 47: Please support this proposal. The snowy owl is already protected under the Migratory Bird Species Act Title 50. This proposal will promote a healthy snowy owl population in Alaska, the only breeding ground for these great birds in the United States.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I enjoy living in Alaska and look forward to the time when my Grandchildren who live in in South Carolina will come up and see this great state. It is only fair to our future generations that they get the opportunity to see Alaska as God made it, **WILD** and healthy. Human interference in nature, and upsetting the ecosystem will only be to our detriment. Alaska wildlife is not only for hunters and trappers. Alaska is for all of us to enjoy in whatever way we choose. This is one of the great advantages of being an American, having the freedom to choose. Having a fair and balanced Board of Game would be a responsible way to start.

For Public Testimony: Proposals to be Supported or Opposed

at the Board of Game Meeting, Anchorage,

January 30-31, 2010

Submitted by: *Suzanne Moore*

23 SUPPORT - Do not allow commercial hunting guides to carry out aerial killing of wolves. It is entirely inappropriate to allow the for-profit commercial guiding industry to conduct predator control! Rationale behind predator control (where it may be necessary) is intended to benefit residents who are dependent upon subsistence. Otherwise predator control is being used to prop up commercial guiding operations to the detriment of the resource and the subsistence users.

#29/30 SUPPORT - Nonresident hunting must be eliminated for big game animals in predator control areas. Where moose and caribou populations are depressed, no non-resident hunting should take place (see Alaska Stat. 1605 255 13D). If there is sufficient game to liberalize harvest, then liberalized harvest should be provided first to residents .

#31 - OPPOSE - Snaring of black bears in GMU 16 or in any other unit; this practice is inconsistent with fair chase principles and unethical. Also strongly oppose residents using helicopters to assist any bear snaring activity.

32 - OPPOSE - Predator control for the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd because these animals have been shown to be nutrient-limited, there are disease issues and there is significant unreported harvest of this herd. In addition, for predator control to be successful here, it would require that it be conducted on a federal wildlife refuge. However, predator control is not appropriate activity for the nation's wildlife refuges which have a mandate to protect natural diversity and intact ecosystems within their boundaries. In addition, the present management priority for unit 9 is for bears; however this priority is wrong, since it is commercially motivated. Nowhere in the in constitution is there provision for commercial exploitation of game; in fact, this is expressly prohibited.

#34 - OPPOSE- Predator Control Areas Implementation Plans; establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A. The habitat enhancement plan does not have to be placed into an intensive predator management plan; fire management is already managed by the DNR. If a decision is made to support this plan, the plan should not be in place for 10 years, standard protocol is for a 5 year plan.

38- OPPOSE - The proposed sale of black bear gall bladders; sale of bear gall bladders and other wildlife parts have always been prohibited, for good reason. Such practice will only encourage increased poaching and black market trade.

#39 - OPPOSE - The propose legal sale of bear hides, because common sense tells us that it will promote poaching for profit in Alaska and nationally. In addition, our own wildlife agencies here in Alaska have always held this position.

#47 - SUPPORT - Removal of the snowy owl from the unclassified game definition. This will ensure protection of this already-protected bird under the Federal Migratory Bird Species Act.

RC59

January 30, 2010 07:43 PM
202-659-0650

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Support Board of Game Proposals #5, #59, and #60

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for the previous buffer zones you have designated to protect the wolves of Denali National Park from hunting and trapping outside of park boundaries. I support proposals #59 and #60 to renew and expand these buffers for the following reasons:

--Denali National Park is one of the best places in the world for visitors to see wolves in the wild and as an Alaskan resident, I value that opportunity as well.

--The percentage of park wolves killed by hunting and trapping has increased tremendously in the last six years (from 17% to 30%) and the current population is currently at 65--the lowest recorded number since the 1980s.

--Proposals #59 and #60 are reasonable and provide clear understandable boundaries.

I also urge you to support Proposal #5, submitted by the National Park Service, to exempt park lands from two new hunting rules meant to decrease black bear populations in Denali and Gates of the Arctic national preserves. Hunting bears in their dens with artificial light and allowing cubs and sows with cubs to be hunted at their dens is predator control and has no place in a national park unit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Tara Whitesell
P.O. Box 82683
Fairbanks, AK 99708

RC60

My testimony to Alaska Board of Game Meeting

January 30, 2010

Submitted by: Kate Swift

I am here as a private citizen. I'm a biologist currently working in Alaska as a wildlife tour guide. This is my first time testifying, I'm very impressed with the number of proposals and overwhelmed with the information. I moved to Alaska to play, hunt and fish in the large wild spaces and remain passionate about being able to do that but realize with human intervention and use comes the need to manage. I wish it wasn't so, but such is the reality. Finding the balance between the various user's interest and impacts isn't easy. I commend all involved in this process.

Being an Alaskan for over 20 years, I must SUPPORT proposals #29 & 30, which would eliminate nonresident hunting for certain big game animals in predator control areas. If there is sufficient game to liberalize harvest then hunting should be provided first to residents. Both moose and caribou populations are mandated by law to be a priority subsistence resource for Alaska residents by AS 16.05.255(13)d which is stated in proposal 29. In my head, it just doesn't match up to be doing predator control in areas for commercial hunting client's trophy hunts. Again, let's provide opportunities for ALASKANS.

I must address predator control in general initially. Though in some very specific situations, it has proved to be useful and effective, for the most part it should be used very carefully and conservatively. The Fish and Game department readily admits that intensive predator control programs can negatively affect the long term integrity of the ecosystem where they are being conducted. In addition, the program is a very contentious issue for the public as noted by 3 statewide votes. Promoting accurate data collection and transparency in the program is essential to allow the public to review the ongoing affects of these programs. In all predator control proposals, I ask you to eliminate use of helicopters to take especially wolves. This leads to unnecessary stress on the animal and adds to the contentiousness of the issue. Didn't that practise get eliminated years ago with public scrutiny?

With this in mind, I must strongly OPPOSE proposal 34, which would allow for predator control ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE lands. Our National Wildlife Refuges are set aside to protect natural diversity and intact ecosystems within their boundaries. To my personal knowledge, there has been no National Wildlife Refuge that has allowed predator control on its lands. This sets dangerous precedent for other national wildlife refuges. Where will proposals such as this go next -into our National Parks?!!

I also OPPOSE proposal 32, establishing a new intensive management plan for units 9C & 9E. The Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd has shown to be nutrient limited, there are some disease issues and there is significant unreported harvest of this herd. If the proposal does pass, I request the proposal time frame to be 5 years, more in line with standard protocol.

P. 2

Kate Swift

Testimony to Alaska Fish & Game Meeting

January 30, 2010

I SUPPORT proposal 23. Do not allow commercial hunting guides to carry out predator control in areas where they are profiting. This seems a no brainer to me, clearly a conflict of interest in the name of profit and at the detriment of the resource . Where predator control is necessary, it should be used to benefit residents and/or residents dependent on subsistence. Otherwise, predator control is being used to prop up commercial guiding.

I OPPOSE proposal 31. I oppose the snaring of black bears in GMU 16 or in any other unit; this practice is inconsistent with fair chase principles and is unethical. I also strongly oppose residents using helicopters to assist in bear snaring activities.

I OPPOSE proposals 38 & 39 which legalise selling of bear parts and hides. Common sense tells us this will promote poaching for profit in Alaska and nationally. In addition, the black market trade industry would be empowered. Our own wildlife agencies in Alaska have held this position as well.

I SUPPORT proposal 47 which removes the snowy owl from the unclassified game definition. Owls are an important part of the arctic environment contributing to the creation of fertile microhabitants in desert tundra with scarce turf and nitrogen poor soil. Alaska is the only breeding ground for the snowy owl in all od the United States. This proposal will ensure protection of the bird under the Federal Migratory Species Act.

Thank you for your attention in these matters

Sincerely,

Kate Swift

12110 Business Blvd., 6-126

Eagle River, AK 99577

RC 67 -



To the Members of the Board of Game,

It is my distinct pleasure to again come before you as the representative of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife.

Attached you will find the most current copy of the Sportsmen's Voice magazine. The Alaska section is usually very informative.

As I have indicated in the past, SFW is interested in abundance management of our Alaska States wildlife and fisheries resources in accordance with the Article VIII of the Alaska State Constitution and Title 16 authorizing the Department to make this abundance possible for the residents and other consumers of our wildlife resources.

I would first like to thank the Board for the exceptional job over the past few years in making the hard decisions and supporting proposals that have helped promote abundance. I would like to congratulate the Board and those within the Department of Fish and Game that worked with SFW and Sportsmen for Habitat on the Unit 16 moose restoration project. The project has been successful in turning around the moose population to the point of allowing a resident moose hunt in GMU 16 that has been closed for many years. This is one of the best coordinated efforts of a NGO and the Department of Fish and Game in years and I thank you on behalf of our membership and other consumptive users. This cooperation has also gone a long way to help rebuild the trust between Alaskans and the Department. Please keep up the good work.

The proposal book is fairly light this year and I will only address the issues that speak to abundance management.

Proposal #32 and #33

SFW supports the efforts of the Department to take active management roles in the game resource that the State of Alaska has obligations to manage. The Statehood compact is clear that the responsibility and the right to manage fish and game resources is that of the State's regardless of land ownership. I hope that the Department will be emboldened to take this concept and apply it to all parts of the State in order to bring about more abundance in areas needing it.

Proposal #23 and other similar proposals

Proposal #23 seeks to hamstring the efforts of the Department to cost effectively manage predators. Guide/guide pilots are some of the most accomplished aviators in Alaska today and have a vested interest in the proper management of our resources. SFW does not support this proposal or any like it set to undermine and weaken what has become a very effective and successful predator management program. It was predicted that Alaska foray into predator management would cause a ground swell of protest and boycotts; clearly that is not the case.

SFW is working closely with many of the other wildlife groups in Alaska to see that the agenda of access and abundance management is being met at the AC level, the Board of Fish and Game level, the Departmental level and with our legislature and current administration. A ground swell is building in Alaska but it is of the consumptive users demanding a little bit more than what has traditionally been the norm. I am happy to report to our membership that many within the Department are working on our behalf and am doing a good job to create the abundance we are all looking for.

I would like to thank the palmer office of Fish and Game for being a great partner over the past two years in the GMU 16 project and we look forward to continuing to build partnerships with the staff and the staff in other areas.

Dane Crowley
SFW-Alaska
Executive Director

RC62

From: SFW Alaska [mailto:info@sfwalaska.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2010 1:55 PM
Subject: More Hunting Restrictions near Anchorage?



Dear Martin,

Wade Willis, formerly with Defenders of Wildlife (too radical even for them?), and now with the Alaska Wildlife Alliance is the current Secretary of the Anchorage Advisory Committee.

Mr Willis and his radical friends have opposed every effort that SFW and other pro-hunting groups have made to increase moose and caribou populations.

Here are just a couple of the radical proposals that Willis and his anti-hunting buddies currently have before the Board of Game:

Proposal 23: Would disallow the most successful permittees to continue assisting ADF&G in aerial predator management efforts. (5AAC 92.039)

Proposal 27: Would disallow the public from participating in certain ADF&G black bear management efforts. (5AAC 92.115)

Proposal 30: Eliminates non-resident hunting for certain big game animals in predation control areas. (5 AAC 92.116)

These are just a few of the anti-hunting proposals that have been submitted to the Board of Game by individuals with a very different agenda than you and I. These same individuals have also proposed **INCREASING** the Denali Park buffer zone, which is finally set to expire this spring, after 12 long years.

How much further does the buffer zone have to extend onto State land, before it locks you and your friends out of your hunting grounds.

This Tuesday, you have the power to stop them, and change the make-up of the AC for the better.

PLEASE!... Grab a hunting buddy or two and join us at the Anchorage School District Ed Center (5530 E. Northern Lights in the School Board room- at 6:30pm.)

There are eight current committee members whose terms are expiring, and we need them replaced. SFW, in conjunction with the Wild Sheep Foundation, Alaska Moose Federation, and several other active outdoor Alaskan groups have endorsed these eight pro-hunting, pro-access individuals.

Our gang of eight are ready to serve, & this is how it works: Every person that attends the Tuesday night meeting gets one vote for the person they want to represent those whose terms are up. Listed below are the names of the individuals that we need to get elected. Please write them down and take them with you.

The anti's will be out in force in an attempt to retain their liberal, anti-hunting agenda. The last time there was an election, they brought 175 people to the meeting and were able to load the committee with animal-rights, anti-hunting individuals, and it worked. **Now it's our turn.**

Our goal is to have 300 hunters and fisherman and to take back the Anchorage AC. Every vote is huge, so please make plans to be there.

Remember- This list of sportsmen below are willing to volunteer their time & energy to help keep Alaska, **Alaskan**. The very least you can do is come show them your support in the form of a vote. What can be more important on an otherwise boring Tuesday evening?

Here are the Eight "real" Alaskans we need to Elect:

- Robert Caywood**
- Greg Bell**
- Frank Newman**
- Ron Jordan**
- Steve Flory**
- Phil Lincoln**
- Hank Hodge**
- Mark Campbell**

If any changes to list are made between now and Tuesday evening, SFW Exec Director Dane Crowley will provide that information at the meeting.

SFW Appoints Dane Crowley as Executive Director



The combined boards of SFW and SFH Alaska have recently lured one of the founding SFH Alaska board members away from his day job to take the reins as the first executive director of SFW.

Dane is passionate about Alaskan wildlife issues, and brings with him a strong background in natural resources, namely habitat and boreal forest expertise. Dane has lived throughout the State, and truly understands the real issues facing Alaskans that rely on wildfood and fish to feed their families.

We look forward to SFW growing rapidly and becoming a very powerful machine under the daily direction of Dane Crowley.

Sincerely,

SFWAlaska

From: Dane Crowley [mailto:dcrowley@npi.alaska.com]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 11:59 AM
To: 'Dane Crowley'
Subject: Tuesday Anchorage AC meeting

You recently received an email from SFW Alaska about the elections to be held in Anchorage for the Anchorage Advisory Committee, I am adding a personal email to you as well. The Anchorage AC represents the largest number of people in the state and has significant swing with the Board of Game. The Anti-hunting folks are planning to show up in force, I would be greatly saddened if we as the primary users who pay for the resource don't show up. If you do not attend any other meeting, this is the one to attend.

Dane Crowley
SFW-Alaska

The meeting will be at 6:30 Tuesday at the Anchorage School District Education Center, located at 5530 E Northern Lights Blvd, in the School Board room. Without your vote, this advisory committee may move to Greenie control. Plan to go and vote for the slate below.

Our Candidates are:

Phil Lincoln

Ron Jordan

Robert Caywood

Col. Greg Bell

Frank Newman

Hank Hodge

Mark Campbell

Steve Flory

AK Environmental Groups Trying to Hijack Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Saturday, January 2nd, 2010 at 6:57 pm

Tags: 2ATFAlaskaAnchorage Second Amendment Task ForceAnimal Rights GroupsBoard AppointmentsEcoterroristsFish and Game

Anchorage AK Environmental Groups Trying to Hijack Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Action Alert..



Anchorage Second Amendment Task Force

Anchorage, AK --(AmmoLand.com)- Here is the Situation. The Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee will hold its election meeting January 5th at 6:30 pm at the Anchorage School District Education Center, located at 5530 E Northern Lights Blvd, in the School Board room.

There are five 3 year and two 1 year alternate seats available. Also on the agenda will be preparation of comments for Board of Game proposals, Board of Fisheries proposals, DNR state lands guide concession program information and any other business that may properly come before the committee.

For more information contact Aaron Bloomquist at 982-2471.

If you'd like to see the proposals that are under consideration by the board's, please visit the web page at: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

Advisory committees are local groups that meet to discuss fishing and hunting issues and to provide recommendations to Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game.

Advisory Committees are intended to provide a local forum on fish and wildlife issues.

Their purpose includes:

1. Developing regulatory proposals,

2. Evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board,
3. Providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat,
4. Advising the appropriate regional council on resources, and
5. Consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies.

Opposition:

Radical environmental groups have mobilized to insert their preferred candidate's in order to use the board to promote their twisted agenda, including supporting the listing of Cook Inlet Beluga's as endangered.

Support:

Those who would be supporting Alaskans right to access and manage their own resources, Members of Anchorage 2ATF as well as other conservative candidate's are in need of the public votes. A conservative slate of candidates will be made evident at the meeting. We need you there to vote for these candidates.

Time & Location:

Tuesday January 5th at 6:30 pm at the Anchorage School District Education Center, located at 5530 E Northern Lights Blvd, the School Board room is at the center of the lower floor of the Anchorage School District Education Center, near the elevator. Capacity is about 200 so come early for good seating.

Report:

Please take note and share the result of the meeting with your affiliated groups.

About:

The mission of The Anchorage Second Amendment Task Force is to provide Alaskans with the knowledge of the meaning and true purpose of the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution, with which they may conduct themselves as responsible citizens of our republic. Visit: www.anchorage2atf.com

Distributed to you by - [AmmoLand.com](http://www.ammoland.com) – The Shooting Sports News source.

<http://www.ammoland.com/2010/01/02/ak-environmental-groups-trying-to-hijack-anchorage-fish-game-advisory-committee/comment-page-1/#comment-9452>

Estimated Costs of Intensive Management in Alaska, FY09 and FY10 (dollars in thousands)

Item	Region/ Office	FY09 -- Intensive Management				FY10 -- Intensive Management			
		Predator Control		Intensive Management Total		Predator Control		Intensive Management Total	
		Percent of Time/ Effort	Predator Control Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Intensive Mgt Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Predator Control Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Intensive Mgt Cost
Commissioner	Commissioner	12%	21.3	15%	26.6	8%	14.5	10%	18.1
Deputy Commissioner	Commissioner	20%	29.3	50%	73.4	10%	15.3	25%	38.2
Assistant Commissioner	Commissioner	50%	70.9	80%	113.4	20%	29.8	80%	119.3
Communications Director	Commissioner	15%	17.6	15%	17.6	8%	10.4	10%	13.0
Information Officer	Commissioner	5%	5.2	5%	5.2	5%	5.6	5%	5.6
Administrative Costs - CO	Commissioner	12%	26.4	15%	33.0	8%	18.4	10%	23.0
Board of Game, staff & operational costs	Boards		40.0		40.0		40.0		40.0
Director	DWC-HQ	30%	45.5	35%	53.1	30%	47.1	35%	54.9
Deputy Director	DWC-HQ	40%	57.5	40%	57.5	40%	58.1	40%	58.1
Assistant Director	DWC-HQ	65%	68.9	65%	68.9	65%	77.5	65%	77.5
Wildlife Scientist	DWC-HQ	20%	30.2	20%	30.2	20%	30.6	20%	30.6
Information Officer	DWC-HQ	10%	10.6	10%	10.6	20%	21.2	20%	21.2
Program Coordinator, BOG/regulations	DWC-HQ	10%	11.4	10%	11.4	10%	12.3	10%	12.3
Publications Specialist	DWC-HQ	5%	4.3	5%	4.3	5%	4.4	5%	4.4
Administrative Costs - HQ	DWC-HQ	15%	65.2	20%	87.0	15%	66.4	20%	88.5
Department of Law - Assistant Attorney General	Dept of Law	33%	65.7	33%	65.7	33%	64.9	33%	64.9
TOTAL			1,292.7		3,776.9		1,157.7		3,881.7

NOTES: State law requires the Alaska Board of Game (Board) to identify big game populations that are especially important food sources for Alaskans, and to insure that these populations remain large enough to allow for adequate and sustained harvest. If moose, deer, or caribou populations drop below what the Board determines is needed for continued harvests by people, the Board, through regulation, may direct the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) to undertake intensive management of that population. Intensive management is a process that starts with investigating the causes of low ungulate numbers, and then involves management actions to increase those numbers. Actions can include restricting ungulate hunting seasons and bag limits (but only after other actions/considerations), evaluating and improving habitat, liberalizing harvest of predators, and predator control. Predator control is just one of many activities under the broader intensive management, and, as such, is entirely subsumed in the intensive management costs listed above. In other words, the intensive management costs include the predator control costs.

Costs estimated on this table include estimates from managers on time spent on intensive management activities, including purchases for items such as travel, aircraft charters and other operational costs. Expenditures were from multiple funding sources, including the general fund, fish and game fund, Federal Aid, and two capital appropriations (\$1.6 million in FY07 and a \$2 million in FY08). Board expenses were provided by the Boards Support Section and were based on various proportions of the costs associated with each board meeting, advisory committee meetings, and staff time. The proportions varied based on estimations of how much time was spent on predator control and intensive management issues during the fall 2008 and spring 2009 meetings. Costs for the Department of Law include salary and benefits for one assistant attorney general plus some administrative support costs.

Costs estimated above for **intensive management** include management and research efforts beyond what would be considered routine survey and inventory work normally conducted by wildlife biologists for a game population. We included only those populations and areas for which the Board of Game has adopted a plan under 5 AAC 92.125 (predation control areas implementation plans) or has seriously considered adopting such a plan, and not for all identified intensive management populations throughout the state (as required by AS 16.05.255 (e)-(g) and designated by the Board of Game in 5 AAC 92.106-108).

Costs estimated above for **predator control** include time spent developing and administering a predator control program and permit system, expenditures for Department predator control efforts, costs associated with responding to requests for public records or public information about predator control, and time spent providing reports and other materials in response to legal challenges regarding predator control.

12063

Estimated Costs of Intensive Management in Alaska, FY09 and FY10 (dollars in thousands)

Item	Region/ Office	FY09 -- Intensive Management				FY10 -- Intensive Management			
		Predator Control		Intensive Management Total		Predator Control		Intensive Management Total	
		Percent of Time/ Effort	Predator Control Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Intensive Mgt Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Predator Control Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Intensive Mgt Cost
Regional Supervisor, Fairbanks	Region III	10%	13.2	50%	66.2	10%	13.9	55%	76.6
Management Coordinator, Fairbanks	Region III	15%	18.8	65%	81.4	15%	19.8	70%	92.3
Research Coordinator, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	5%	5.5	0%	-	10%	11.3
WBIII/Information Officer, Fairbanks	Region III	5%	5.5	30%	33.3	5%	5.7	30%	33.9
WBIII/Asst Mgt Coordinator, Fairbanks	Region III	25%	25.6	40%	41.0	25%	26.0	45%	46.8
WBIII/Intensive Mgt Coordinator, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	90%	87.9	0%	-	90%	90.3
Wildlife Planner III, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	2%	2.1	0%	-	10%	10.8
Biometrician III, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	5%	5.5	0%	-	5%	5.7
WBIII/Research, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	90%	87.9	0%	-	90%	90.3
WBIII/Research, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	33%	35.7	0%	-	33%	37.5
WBIII/Research, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	80%	63.4	0%	-	80%	68.9
WBIII/Research, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	100%	111.9	0%	-	100%	117.5
WBII/Public Information, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	20%	17.7	0%	-	20%	18.3
Technician/Public Information, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	25%	14.1	0%	-	25%	14.8
Technician/Public Information, Fairbanks	Region III	5%	2.4	30%	14.2	5%	2.8	30%	16.8
Technician/Public Information, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	25%	13.4	0%	-	25%	11.4
Technician/Public Information, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	25%	11.3	0%	-	25%	13.9
Area Biologist, McGrath	Region III	10%	12.7	70%	89.0	10%	13.0	70%	90.9
Assistant Area Biologist, McGrath	Region III	5%	4.6	50%	45.6	5%	4.8	50%	47.7
Technician, McGrath	Region III	95%	26.6	95%	26.6	95%	33.3	95%	33.3
Area Biologist, Tok	Region III	20%	21.7	70%	75.9	15%	16.6	65%	71.8
Assistant Area Biologist, Tok	Region III	10%	8.2	45%	36.9	5%	4.2	40%	33.9
Technician, Tok	Region III	50%	28.8	75%	43.2	50%	29.6	75%	44.4
Field Office Assistant, Tok	Region III	10%	3.5	20%	6.9	10%	3.3	20%	6.6
Area Biologist, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	70%	73.4	0%	-	70%	74.9
Assistant Area Biologist, Fairbanks	Region III	0%	-	40%	34.9	0%	-	40%	35.7
Area Biologist, Delta	Region III	0%	-	20%	24.7	0%	-	20%	26.0
Area Biologist, Northeast Alaska	Region III	0%	-	30%	29.6	0%	-	30%	31.0
Asst Area Biologist, Northeast Alaska	Region III	0%	-	50%	40.5	0%	-	50%	42.5
Moose management - Region III	Region III	0%	-	30%	91.6	0%	-	30%	106.6
Caribou management - Region III	Region III	0%	-	20%	29.9	0%	-	20%	36.8
Wolf management - Region III	Region III	74%	129.9	100%	175.5	65%	100.8	90%	139.5
Black bear management - Region III	Region III	0%	-	84%	19.4	0%	-	92%	39.2
Brown bear (grizzly) management - Region III	Region III	52%	3.0	50%	2.9	0%	-	0%	-
Fortymile caribou research	Region III	0%	-	100%	1.5	0%	-	100%	2.5
McGrath moose research	Region III	0%	-	100%	124.4	0%	-	100%	119.0
Moose habitat research - Region III	Region III	0%	-	100%	29.8	0%	-	100%	39.8
Unit 21E moose movement research	Region III					0%	-	100%	25.0
Unit 20E grizzly research	Region III	0%	-	100%	37.5	0%	-	100%	33.0
Unit 20A moose research	Region III	0%	-	100%	48.3	0%	-	100%	48.3
Unit 20 moose research	Region III					0%	-	100%	40.0
Administrative Costs - Region III	Region III	15%	76.6	35%	178.7	10%	51.1	35%	178.7

Estimated Costs of Intensive Management in Alaska, FY09 and FY10 (dollars in thousands)

Item	Region/ Office	FY09 -- Intensive Management				FY10 -- Intensive Management			
		Predator Control		Intensive Management Total		Predator Control		Intensive Management Total	
		Percent of Time/ Effort	Predator Control Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Intensive Mgt Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Predator Control Cost	Percent of Time/ Effort	Intensive Mgt Cost
Regional Supervisor, Anchorage	Region II	15%	17.4	50%	57.9	15%	18.2	50%	60.8
Management Coordinator, Anchorage	Region II	20%	22.0	50%	55.1	15%	17.1	50%	56.9
Planner, Anchorage	Region II	5%	3.9	10%	7.9	10%	11.1	40%	44.2
Biometrician III, Anchorage	Region II	5%	6.1	25%	30.5	5%	6.4	15%	19.2
Information Officer, Anchorage	Region II	15%	15.0	30%	29.9	15%	15.5	30%	30.9
Information Officer, Anchorage	Region II	10%	7.7	20%	15.4	10%	7.9	20%	15.7
W Tech IV, Info Center, Anchorage	Region II	10%	5.9	20%	11.7	10%	6.1	20%	12.2
W Tech III, Info Center, Anchorage	Region II	10%	6.3	20%	12.6	10%	6.6	20%	13.2
W Tech III, Info Center, Anchorage	Region II	10%	5.9	20%	11.7	10%	5.8	20%	11.5
Area Biologist, Glennallen	Region II	20%	24.6	35%	43.1	20%	25.7	35%	45.0
Asst. AB, Glennallen	Region II	20%	17.2	35%	30.1	20%	18.5	35%	32.4
Area Biologist, Palmer	Region II	25%	22.5	40%	36.0	25%	23.4	40%	37.4
Asst. AB, Palmer	Region II	20%	15.5	35%	27.0	20%	16.1	35%	28.2
Wildlife Tech IV, Palmer	Region II	15%	10.8	25%	18.1	15%	11.7	25%	19.5
W Phys II, MRC (WB III unit 16 moose research)	Region II	10%	8.6	50%	43.2	10%	8.1	75%	60.9
Wildlife Biologist III, Palmer	Region II	10%	10.3	50%	51.5	10%	11.1	50%	55.6
Wildlife Biologist II, Palmer	Region II	10%	6.5	50%	32.3	10%	6.5	50%	32.3
Area Biologist, King Salmon	Region II	10%	11.0	35%	38.4	10%	10.6	35%	37.1
Asst. AB, King Salmon	Region II	0%	-	0%	-	10%	4.6	30%	13.8
Biometrician III, Anchorage	Region II	0%	-	20%	17.8	0%	-	5%	5.1
Area Biologist, Dillingham	Region II	0%	-	10%	12.8	0%	-	10%	13.5
Area Biologist, Soldotna	Region II	0%	-	5%	5.1	0%	-	20%	20.7
Assistant Area Biologist, Homer	Region II	0%	-	5%	4.4	0%	-	20%	17.9
Stat Tech, Palmer	Region II	5%	2.3	20%	9.1	5%	2.9	20%	11.7
GMU 16 Moose Research	Region II	25%	17.5	100%	70.0	25%	17.5	100%	70.0
Mulchatna Caribou	Region II	0%	-	50%	43.5	0%	-	50%	27.5
Northern AK Peninsula Caribou	Region II	0%	-	50%	5.0	0%	-	50%	10.0
Southern AK Peninsula Caribou	Region II	25%	28.8	75%	86.3	25%	3.8	75%	11.3
GMU 13 Bear Research	Region II	0%	-	75%	75.0	0%	-	75%	75.0
Board of Game/Regional Meeting	Region II	15%	7.7	35%	18.0	10%	4.0	35%	14.0
Moose Management - GMU 13	Region II	0%	-	50%	12.5	0%	-	50%	12.5
Caribou Management - GMU 13	Region II	0%	-	50%	18.0	0%	-	50%	20.5
Moose Management - GMU 16	Region II	0%	-	50%	5.0	0%	-	50%	5.0
Caribou Management - GMU 9	Region II	0%	-	50%	11.5	0%	-	50%	12.5
Moose Management - GMU 17	Region II	0%	-	50%	2.5	0%	-	50%	2.5
Caribou Management - GMU 17	Region II	0%	-	50%	13.5	0%	-	50%	15.0
Moose Management - GMU 15	Region II	0%	-	50%	5.0	0%	-	50%	5.0
Moose Research - GMU 13	Region II	0%	-	50%	16.3	0%	-	50%	16.3
Administrative Costs - Region II	Region II	10%	68.2	20%	136.3	10%	57.8	20%	115.6

**Proposal #2 — 5 AAC 92.010
Eliminate Black Bear Harvest Tickets
Where ungulate populations are below
IM objectives**

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

**Eliminate Black Bear Harvest Tickets
Do Not Adopt**

Harvest Ticket Data Needed

- Sealing data: only from harvested bears
- **NEEDED:**
 - Hunter effort
 - Hunting patterns
 - Seasons
 - Locations
 - Days hunted
 - Database of users

98

RC 64

Eliminate Black Bear Harvest Tickets
Do Not Adopt

More Harvest Data Needed

- Use of harvest ticket data
 - Hunter effectiveness
 - Areas of effort
 - Seasons of effort
 - Where to direct more/less effort

3

Proposal #2

Eliminate Black Bear Harvest Tickets
Do Not Adopt

- Harvest Tickets easy to obtain
 - ADF&G offices
 - License Vendors
 - Online (www.hunt.alaska.gov)

4

Proposal #2

Eliminate Black Bear Harvest Tickets Do Not Adopt

Harvest Tickets began in Fall 2009

Replace Harvest Ticket with Registration Permit

- Tight control of harvest & reporting
 - Obtain permits at limited locations & times
 - Strict reporting requirements
 - Consequences for not reporting –
 - Failure to Report list
 - ❖ Loss of any permits for 1 year
 - ❖ Fine from troopers \$\$\$

Eliminate Black Bear Harvest Tickets Do Not Adopt

Proposal 3 May be Good Option

- Allows board to consider harvest tickets case-by-case

Proposed regulation:

a person may not hunt black bear in

Units 1-7, 11-17, 19D, and 20

without a harvest ticket or permit ...

RC 64

**Proposal #2
Eliminate Black Bear
Harvest Tickets
5 AAC 92.010**

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

Proposal #3
Harvest Tickets and Reports
5 AAC 92.010

Department Recommendation

ADOPT
(Department Proposal)

Update 5AAC 92.010

Purposes

- Update reporting requirements
- Clarify possession of moose, sheep, black bear harvest reports
- Uncouple black bear harvest tickets from sealing requirement

1. Update reporting requirements

- Requires hunters to “submit” harvest report rather than “mail” a harvest report.
- Allows current options to submit a report
 - Online (www.hunt.alaska.gov)
 - In person (drop off report at ADF&G)
 - Mail
- Allows advances in hunt reporting options

2. Clarify possession of moose, sheep, & black bear harvest reports

- Current requirement: hunter must possess harvest report AND harvest ticket while hunting

The image displays two forms related to moose hunting in Alaska. On the left is the 'MOOSE HARVEST REPORT' for the 2009-2010 season, which is non-transferable and expires on June 30, 2010. It contains various checkboxes and fields for reporting hunting details, such as whether the hunter hunted, where they started walking, and how they killed the moose. On the right is the 'MOOSE HARVEST TICKET' for the same season, which is also non-transferable and expires on June 30, 2010. It includes a unique identification number (M09-0162074-LC) and instructions for validation and possession during the hunt.

3. Uncouple black bear harvest tickets from sealing requirement

- Proposed regulation:

a person may not hunt black bear in

Units 1-7, 11-17, 19D, and 20

without a harvest ticket or permit ...

- No change to where harvest tickets & sealing are required

- ❖ Same units as current regulation

7

Proposal #3

3. Uncouple black bear harvest tickets from sealing requirement

- Allows board to consider – case-by-case – whether sealing & harvest tickets should both be required.
 - 5AAC 92.165 – Sealing of bear skins and skulls
- Department proposal at spring Board meeting to eliminate sealing requirements in some Region III units where harvest tickets are required.

8

Proposal #3

Proposal #3
Harvest Tickets and Reports

Department Recommendation

ADOPT
(Department Proposal)

RC 64

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Proposal #23
5 AAC 92.039 Permit for
taking wolves using aircraft

Prevent guides from obtaining
aerial wolf control permits

DO NOT ADOPT

Proposal #23

1

Proposal #23
Predation Control

- Not an allocation issue
 - Predation control is not hunting
- Predation control increases prey populations
 - Meet objectives
 - Population
 - Harvest

2

Proposal #23

Proposal #23
Unnecessarily
Restricts Applicant Pool

- **Goal: Success & Safety**
- **Need best qualified permittees**

3

Proposal #23

Proposal #23
Wolf Population Estimates

- **Rely on a variety of data sources**
 - including permittees
- **ADF&G wolf surveys & monitoring**
- **ADF&G predator models**
- **Sealing data**
- **Other public info (trappers, hunters)**

4

Proposal #23

Proposal #23

Wolf Control Kill Data

- Strict reporting requirements for all permittees
 - Call ADF&G before & after each flight
 - 5-day reporting of kills
 - Special tags for all kills
 - GPS coordinates of all kills
 - Sealing

5

Proposal #23

Proposal #23

Wolf Control Kill Data

- Strict Reporting Requirements
- ADF&G verifies random kill sites
- Trooper collaboration
 - Background checks
 - Troopers are patrolling
 - Consequences for violation

6

Proposal #23

Proposal #23
5 AAC 92.039 Permit for
taking wolves using aircraft

Prevent guides from obtaining
aerial wolf control permits

DO NOT ADOPT

Proposal #23

7

Proposal #23
Control Permittee Selection –
Most qualified

- Familiarity with local geography
- Flight time in area
- Low-level survey & tracking experience
- Off-runway landing/take-off
- Training
- Previous wolf control permits
 - Success
- Similar experience
- Safety reputation

8

Proposal #23

Proposal #23

Control Permittee Selection

NO PERMIT

- Hunting violations within 5 years
- Any violations ever involving wolves & aircraft

RC64

Proposal #28
5AAC 92.116 Special provisions in
predation control areas

Department Recommendation

NO RECOMMENDATION

Allocation Issue

Proposal #28 No Nonresident Hunting
in Predation Control Areas

- **Current allocation method: Alaska Statute 16.05.258**
- **Proposes to replace with this:**
 - 5AAC 92.116 — amended to prohibit all nonresidents moose or caribou harvest in all areas with predation control programs
 - Until 5AAC 92.108 IM population & harvest objectives are met

**Proposal #28 No nonresident hunting in
predation control areas**

Current Allocation Method

- Case-by-case determinations
- Alaska Statute 16.05.258
 - Eliminate consumptive uses except subsistence when:
 - Positive C&T finding
 - Harvestable surplus is less than ANS
 - Not enough harvestable surplus for reasonable opportunity to harvest ANS

**Proposal #28
5AAC 92.116 Special provisions in
predation control areas**

Department Recommendation

NO RECOMMENDATION

Allocation Issue

Proposals 29 & 30
5AAC 92.116 Special provisions in
predation control areas

Department Recommendation

NO RECOMMENDATION

Allocation Issue

Proposals 29 & 30

Proposals 29 & 30 – No Nonresident
Hunting in Predation Control Areas

As in proposal #28

- **Replace current allocation method**
 - AS 16.05.258
 - C&T and ANS in 5AAC 99.025
 - Harvestable surplus
- **Prohibit nonresidents from taking moose or caribou in all areas with predation control programs.**

And also:

Proposals 29 & 30

**Proposals 29 & 30 – No Nonresident
Hunting in Predation Control Areas**

- 5AAC 92.116 — amended
 1. Redefine “active” predation control area.
 2. Require all resident demand be met before any nonresident hunting is allowed for moose, deer, elk, or caribou.

**Proposals 29 & 30 – No Nonresident
Hunting in Predation Control Areas**

5AAC 92.116 — amended

2. Redefine “active” predation control area.

From this: predator control permits have been issued for the referenced predation control area during the current year

To this: any predator control program as defined by an intensive management plan found in 5 AAC 92.125 that is conducting predator control during the current *regulatory* year.

- Control permits would need to be issued July 1 in order to allow sale of bear hides under (a) and (b) of this regulation
 - Regardless of current need for these permits
 - First control permits often issued in October, after bear hunting season

**Proposals 29 & 30 – No Nonresident
Hunting in Predation Control Areas**

Current Allocation Method

- Case-by-case determinations
- Alaska Statute 16.05.258
 - Eliminate consumptive uses except subsistence when:
 - Positive C&T finding
 - Harvestable surplus is less than ANS
 - Not enough harvestable surplus for reasonable opportunity to harvest ANS

5

Proposals 29 & 30

**Proposals 29 & 30
5AAC 92.116 Special provisions in
predation control areas**

Department Recommendation

NO RECOMMENDATION

Allocation Issue

6

Proposals 29 & 30

RC64

**Proposal #35 — 5 AAC 92.165 Sealing of
bear skins and skulls**

— Allow hunters the option of sealing bear
hides & skulls themselves.

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

**Allow hunters the option of sealing
bear hides & skulls themselves**

Current Process

- Bring hide and skull to sealer
 - ADF&G
 - Troopers
 - Appointed (trained by ADF&G)
 - Taxidermists
 - Appointed person in remote villages
- Hunter has 30 days to seal the bear

Allow hunters the option of sealing bear hides & skulls themselves

If Hunter can't go to sealer

- **Temporary Sealing Certificate**
 - **Hunter fills it out**
 - **Hunter signs it**
 - **Important for troopers**
 - **Friend takes hide & skull to sealer**

3

Proposal #35

Allow hunters the option of sealing bear hides & skulls themselves

Reason appointed sealers are used

- **Quality Control**
 - **Consistent & accurate data**
 - **Measurements taken same way everywhere**
 - **Teeth collected properly**

4

Proposal #35

**Proposal #35 — 5 AAC 92.165 Sealing of
bear skins and skulls**

— Allow hunters the option of sealing bear
hides & skulls themselves.

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

RC64

Proposal #49 — 5 AAC 92.047 Permit for using radio telemetry equipment.

— Require radio telemetry permittees to medicate (treat) all captured lice-infested wolves

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

Require radio telemetry permittees to medicate captured lice-infested wolves

Proposal

1. **Permittees must report to AD&FG when wolves they capture are infested with dog lice.**
2. **Permittees must use ADF&G's recommended method of treatment to treat these wolves.**

Require radio telemetry permittees to medicate captured lice-infested wolves

ADF&G Currently Has This Authority

- Authority Granted by Statute:
- AS 16.05.930(a)
 - The department may prescribe the terms of these permits.

3

Proposal #49

Require radio telemetry permittees to medicate captured lice-infested wolves

Future permits will

- Require permittee to report lousy wolves
- ADF&G will consider treatment case-by-case
 - Consult with permittee
 - Treatment will depend on
 - Feasibility
 - Conservation Concerns

4

Proposal #49

Proposal #49 — 5 AAC 92.047 Permit for using radio telemetry equipment.

— Require radio telemetry permittees to medicate (treat) all captured lice-infested wolves

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

STATE BOARD OF FISH-N-GAME TESTIMONY

POTLACHS FUNERAL POTLACH THERE IS

NO PLAN AS TO WHEN OR WHERE THIS HAPPENS SO THE REQUEST FOR A MOOSE OR ANY GAME WILL BE ABOUT 3 TO 4 DAYS BEFORE THE POTLACH ENOUGH WORK FOR 4 PEOPLE TO PREPARE THE MEAT FOR COOKING.

MEMORIAL POTLACH - FAMILIES WHO INTEND TO PUT ON A MEMORIAL POTLACH HAVE THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE POTLACH UNLESS HUNTING DURING REGULAR HUNTING SEASON WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, THEN THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE A REQUEST FOR A POTLACH MOOSE OR GAME

SUBSISTANCE - THE INTENT OF SUBSISTANCE HUNTING WAS TO OFFSET THE RUSH OF SPORT HUNTERS BY ASKING ^{FOR SUBSISTANCE} ~~FOR FIRST~~ HUNTING, BEFORE THE REGULAR SEASON STARTS REASONS RURAL RESIDENTS ARE MOSTLY SEASONABLE WORKERS AND WORK USUALLY OVERLAPS HUNTING SEASON, THE PEOPLE THE LIVE IN URBAN AREAS THAT HAVE A VALID ARGUMENT FOR THIS TYPE OF HUNTING MOST LIKELY CANNOT AFFORD TO

822 3503 TRAVEL 1-2 HUNDRED MILES FOR THIS HUNT

CHEESHNA TRIBAL COUNCIL

Jerry Sunton

BACK →

RC 66



ALASKA CENTER *for the* ENVIRONMENT

807 G Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

907-274-3632 valerie@akcenter.org www.akcenter.org

January 30, 2010

Board of Game Comments

Dear Chair Judkins and members of the Board of Game,

I would have preferred to testify in person, however my schedule did not allow for me to be present on Saturday. Please accept these written comments in lieu of verbal testimony. I present these comments on behalf of the Alaska Center for the Environment and our nearly 7,000 Alaskan members who value wildlife not only as a potential source of wild food, but who also deeply appreciate wildlife on its own merits. Many of our members are wildlife viewers, small business owners, and recreationalists who rely on a vibrant and diverse environment for their security and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on statewide proposals today. As you deliberate over these proposals, which will have a tremendous influence over how our wildlife resources are utilized and managed, I urge you to use your discretion and make sound and sustainable decisions that will benefit **all** Alaskans.

I was pleased to hear the chairman on Friday declare his support for "providing for, protecting and understanding" the subsistence needs of Alaskans. For that is precisely the premise for three proposals before you: numbers 28, 29 and 30.

Proposal 28 submitted by the Alaska Center for the Environment, asks the Board of Game to adopt a regulation that would prohibit non-resident hunters from outside Alaska from taking big game from a district that is currently being managed as a predator control area. We support this proposal for the following reasons:

- The Alaska Legislature recognized the importance of wild game meat to Alaskans when it passed the Intensive Management Law in 1994. This law requires the Alaska Board of Game to identify moose and caribou populations that are especially important food sources for **Alaskans** and to insure that these populations remain large enough to allow for adequate and sustained harvest.* Once an area has been identified as an area of inadequate supply for harvest and intensive management practices are employed, we believe that the best and highest use for this limited resource is to put clean, wild food directly onto the plates of Alaskans. The Legislature has expressly given the Board

20 28

authority to restrict non-resident hunting so that the maximum benefit and common use clauses of the Alaska Constitution are satisfied.

- Predator control programs are currently deployed in six specific areas in Alaska, covering approximately 10% of the state's land mass. These programs are designed to reduce predation by wolves or bears and increase depressed moose or caribou populations that **are a needed food source of Alaskans.***
- Since the entire premise for Intensive Management is based on putting food on the table of Alaskans, how then can the board justify allocating moose and caribou to non-resident hunters?
- If the Board decides **not** to restrict non-resident hunting in predator control areas and in other areas where only a limited number of permits are granted to Alaskans to hunt, it must explain why it is making that decision so that the public can assess whether the Constitutional and statutory mandates have been met.

The bottom line is that Alaska residents who rely on wild meat to feed their families should not have to compete with out-of-state hunters. Please support Proposal # 28.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Connor
Conservation Director
Alaska Center for the Environment
807 G St. STE 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

*Taken from the Fish and Game website.

**intelligent
and exotic**

RC 67



**SAVANNAH
KITTENS**

**T.I.C.A. registered, kittens available.
\$800 - trades and terms accepted**

SAVANNAH KITTIES

262-4590

SAVANNAH KITTIES

262-4590

SAVANNAH KITTIES

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April 9 Odd

SAVANNAH KITTIES

262-4590

SAVANNAH KITTIES

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SAVANNAH KITTIES

262-4590

Submitted by Ted Spraker

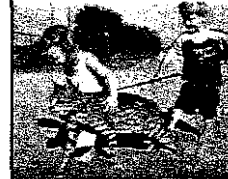
Proposals 20 – 22

Add Bengal, Savannah, Chausie and other cat hybrids to the clean list

Department Recommendation:

Do Not Adopt

Savannah cat



Savannah cat



Savannah cat Serval



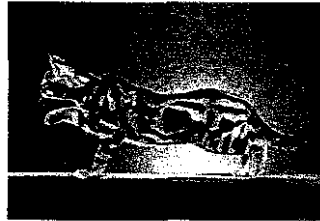
Serval
(*Leptailurus serval*)

- Weight: 10-30 lbs
- Accepted by TICA as Advanced New Breed in 2001
- Not yet eligible for Championship class

Bengal cat



Asian leopard cat
(*Prionailurus bengalensis*)



Bengal cat

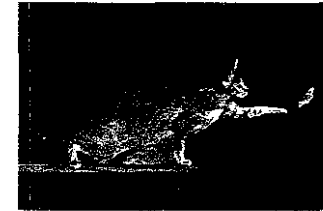


- Weight: 6-18 lbs
- Accepted by TICA as new breed in 1986
- F4 generation eligible for Championship class since 1991

Chausie cat



Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*)



Chausie cat



- Weight: 15-30 lbs
- Accepted as Foundation Breed by TICA in 1995
- Considered Advanced New Breed since 2003; not yet eligible for Championship class

RC68

Adding a "species" to the clean list requires clear and convincing evidence that it:

Is not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska	Cats easily adapt to temperate regions, particularly with supplemental feeding. Feral cats have survived winter in Fairbanks.
Is not capable of causing genetic alteration of indigenous species	Highly improbable. More likely to be prey of lynx and mountain lions.
Is not capable of causing significant reduction in population of indigenous species	Unlikely to successfully compete with indigenous cats; however, feral cats have reduced populations of prey species, contributing to extinction of some insular species.
Is not capable of transmitting a disease to an indigenous species	Can transmit many diseases to indigenous cats and rabies to any mammal. Rabies vaccine not approved for 1 st generation hybrids.
Does not otherwise present a threat to health or population of indigenous species	Competition from large numbers of stray and feral cats has affected populations of predators outside AK

Other considerations

Source of animals as pets	Breeders in Alaska. Popular breed in other states. However, high price of pedigreed cats limits demand.
Conservation concerns for source populations	Populations of indigenous or exotic wild cats are not threatened or endangered by the hybrid cat pet trade.
Special husbandry or care requirements	May exhibit a high level of hunting instinct and skill. Breeders recommend a raw, whole prey diet.
Threat to human health and safety	May be more difficult to handle, more likely to act 'wild' by scratching and biting, especially early generations.
Transmit diseases to humans	Harbor same diseases as domestic cats. Lack of approved rabies vaccine increases risk to humans. Increased risk of cat scratch fever. Any pet cats fed raw meat or allowed to catch wildlife increase risk of toxoplasmosis in humans (fetal death or deformity).

Proposed regulation

5 AAC 92.xxx. Possession of cat hybrid prohibited. (a) It is unlawful, without a permit issued by the department, for a person to possess, transport, sell, advertise or otherwise offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase a cat hybrid, including but not limited to Savannah, Bengal, and Chausie breeds.

(b) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for illegal possession of a cat hybrid under this section that

- (1) the breed is recognized by The International Cat Association as a breed eligible for championship class;
- (2) the animal is licensed as required in the jurisdiction of residence, has a registered pedigree showing the previous four generations, and these records are available for inspection by animal control officers and other government or regulatory officials; and
- (3) the animal is at least four generations removed from a wild ancestor.

(c) For the purposes of this section "cat hybrid" includes

- (1) the offspring from a mating of a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) or cat hybrid with any species of wild cat or hybrid of a wild and domestic cat; and
- (2) an animal represented to be a cat hybrid by any name or description.

Wild ancestry vs. filial generations

wild cat x domestic cat = F1 or 1st generation hybrid (50% wild)

With no new wild genes...

- F1 x domestic cat = F2 or 2nd generation hybrid (25% wild)
- F2 x domestic cat = F3 or 3rd generation hybrid (12.5% wild)
- F3 x domestic cat = F4 or 4th generation hybrid (6.25% wild)

However, hybrids may be backcrossed...

- F1 x wild cat = F1 (75% wild)
- F4 x F3 = F4 (9.375% wild)

Letter designators: F1 = "A", F2 can be "A" or "B", F3 can be "A", "B" or "C". F4 is first generation that can be designated "SBT" (stud book tradition)

* F1 – F3 and A – C are considered "founder generations"

**For Public Testimony: Proposals to be Supported or Opposed
at the Board of Game Meeting, Anchorage,**

RC69

January 30-31, 2010

Submitted by: Barbara Reilly

38- OPPOSE – The proposed sale of black bear gall bladders; sale of bear gall bladders and other wildlife parts has always been prohibited, for good reason. Trade in bear gall bladders is one of the largest illegal global black market practices. Such sales will only encourage increased poaching and black market trade.

#39 – OPPOSE – The propose legal sale of bear hides, because common sense tells us that it will promote poaching for profit in Alaska and nationally. In addition, our own wildlife agencies here in Alaska have always held this position.

23 SUPPORT - Do not allow commercial hunting guides to carry out aerial killing of wolves. It is entirely inappropriate to allow the for-profit commercial guiding industry to conduct predator control! Rationale behind predator control (where it may be necessary) is intended to benefit residents who are dependent upon subsistence. Otherwise predator control is being used to prop up commercial guiding operations to the detriment of the resource and the subsistence users.

#29/30 SUPPORT - Nonresident hunting must be eliminated for big game animals in predator control areas. Where moose and caribou populations are depressed, no non-resident hunting should take place (see Alaska Stat. 1605 255 13D). If there is sufficient game to liberalize harvest, then liberalized harvest should be provided first to residents .

#31 – OPPOSE - Snaring of black bears in GMU 16 or in any other unit; this practice is inconsistent with fair chase principles and unethical. Also strongly oppose residents using helicopters to assist any bear snaring activity.

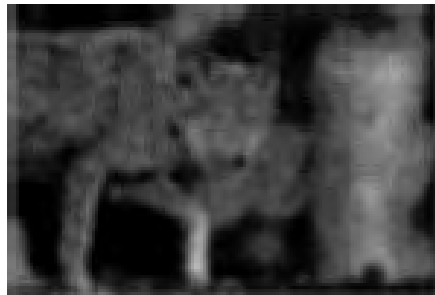
32 - OPPOSE - Predator control for the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd because these animals have been shown to be nutrient-limited, there are disease issues and there is significant unreported harvest of this herd. In addition, for predator control to be successful here, it would require that it be conducted on a federal wildlife refuge. However, predator control is not appropriate activity for the nation's wildlife refuges which have a mandate to protect natural diversity and intact ecosystems within their boundaries. In addition, the present management priority for unit 9 is for bears; however this priority is wrong, since it is commercially motivated. Nowhere in the in constitution is there provision for commercial exploitation of game; in fact, this is expressly prohibited.

#34 - OPPOSE- Predator Control Areas Implementation Plans; establish a new intensive management plan in Unit 15A. The habitat enhancement plan does not have to be placed into an intensive predator management plan; fire management is already managed by the DNR. If a decision is made to support this plan, the plan should not be in place for 10 years, standard protocol is for a 5 year plan.

#47 – SUPPORT – Removal of the snowy owl from the unclassified game definition. This will ensure protection of this already-protected bird under the Federal Migratory Bird Species Act.

RC 70

Predator Control in Unit 16

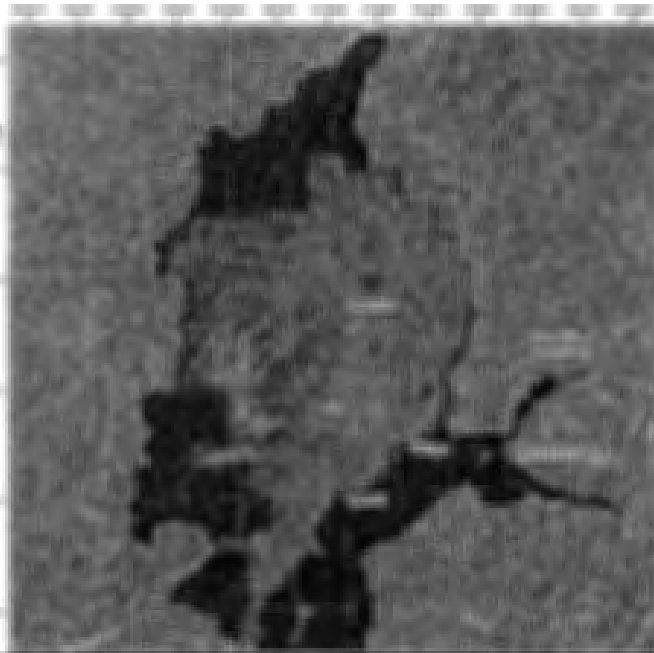
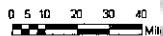


Predation
Control
GMU 16
2006 to Present



Legend

- Roads
- Unit boundaries
- Land closed to SDA
- ▭ Unit 16 PCA boundary
- ▨ Lakes
- Rivers



Unit 16 PCA Wolf Harvest & Statistics

Year	Fall Estimate	Harvest and SDA	Spring Estimate	Population objective
2004-05	180-200	115	65-85	22-45 (16B)
2005-06	85-114	42	43-72	22-45 (16B)
2006-07	98-145	47	51-98	30-60 (16)
2007-08	105-113	33	72-80	30-60 (16)
2008-09	86-105	33	53-72	30-60 (16)
2009-10	74-109	3*	?	30-60 (16)

* Reported as of 1/26/2010

Bear Management Objectives for GMU 16

- **Maintain a black bear population largely unaffected by human harvest**
- **3-year average harvest > 270 black bears (45 in 16A, >225 in 16B) with > 30% being female**

Black Bear Population Estimates

16A	400 - 500
16B	2000 - 2500

Unit 16 Black Bear Control Program

- **Black Bear Control Permits issued to licensed residents**
- **No bag limit and no closed season**
- **Allow for up to four bait stations per control permit**
- **Allow for the taking of cubs or sows with cubs**
- **Permittees may take black bears the same day they have flown, provided that they are at least 300 feet from the airplane**
- **Raw hides, tanned hides, or skulls may be sold with an ADFG issued permit to sell as long as the sale tag remains attached**

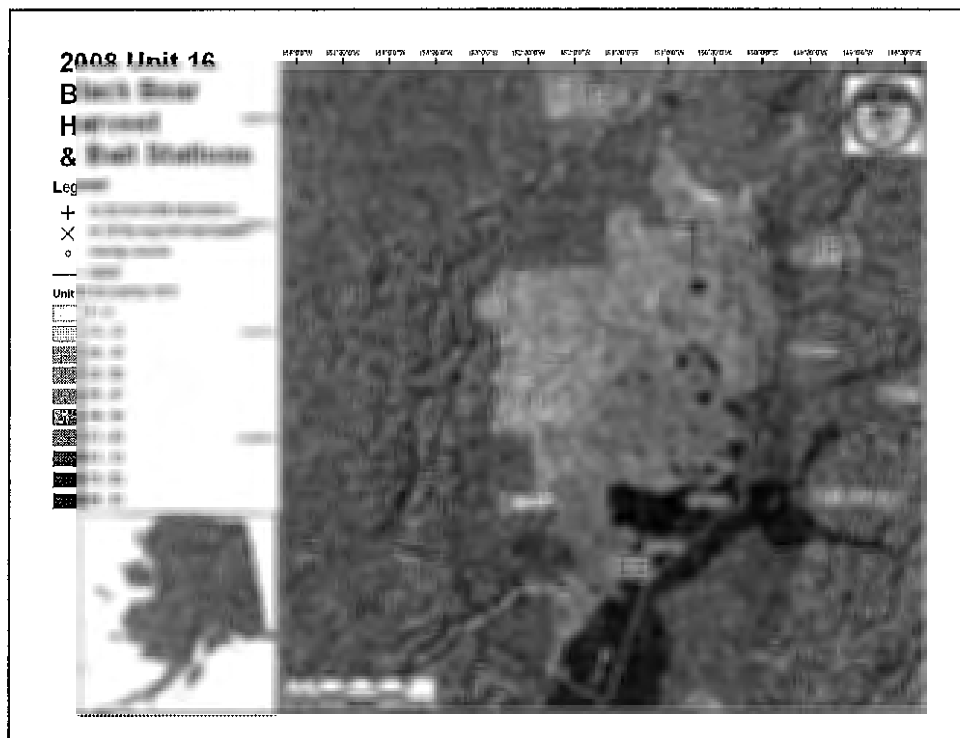
Black Bear Control since Fall 2007

- **Issued 283 ML202 Control Permits - Fall 2007**
- **Issued 487 ML212 Control Permits - Spring 2008**
- **Issued 233 ML202 Control Permits – Fall 2008**
- **Issued 621 ML212 Control Permits – Spring 2009**
- **Issued 258 ML202 Control Permits – Fall 2009**
- **Tracking numbers of bears taken complicated**
 - Male or Female, adult, yearling, COY**
 - By GMU (16B,16A) and PCA (inside, outside)**
 - Taken on general hunting license or Control Permit**
 - Over bait or other method (includes SDA w/Control Permit)**
 - Sale Permit issued or not requested**
 - Snare Permit documents unavailable electronically**
- **Requires cooperation of DWC in Anchorage, Soldotna, and Homer**
- **Reviewing sealing reports from taxidermists and other fur-sealers**
- **Assistance from Mike Harrington, Lynn Delane, and Corey Rossi**

Recent Bear Harvest and Take

2005-2006	Unit 16 total black bear harvest (General Hunt harvest only)	235
2006-2007	Unit 16 total black bear harvest (General Hunt harvest only)	414
Mar 2007	BOG – Approved black bear control	
2007-2008	Unit 16 total black bear take (Gen Hunt and Control take combined)	501
Mar 2009	BOG – Approved snaring of black bears under a control permit	
2008-2009	Unit 16 total black bear take (Gen Hunt and Control take combined)	510 *

* as of 1/27/09 - WINFONET



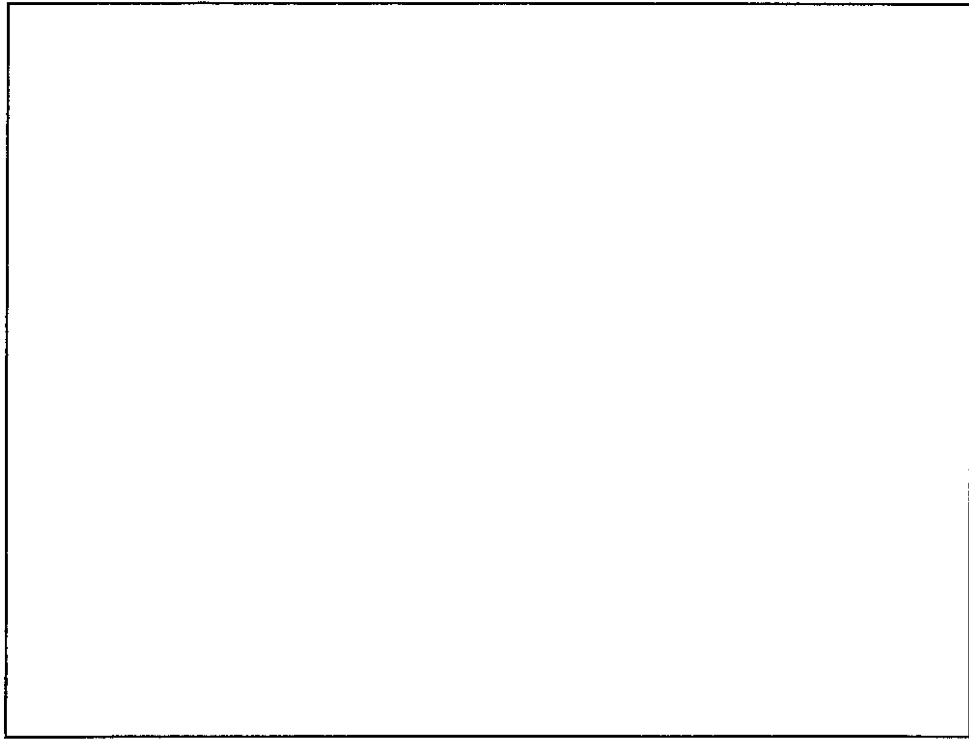
Black Bear Harvest vs. Control Take

Fall 2007 through Spring 2009

- **1009 Black Bears taken in Unit 16**
- **784 in GMU 16B, 225 in GMU 16A**
- **782 Resident vs. 227 Non-resident**
- **646 Males vs. 363 Females**
- **51% taken over bait vs. 49% other methods**

Black Bear Snaring Control - 2009

- **17 total applications received for snaring control**
- **8 total applicants participated in training and orientation**
- **8 snaring control permits issued**
- **7 snaring control permittees participated in program**
- **89 total bears snared**
- **81 total black bears**
- **8 brown bears snared (9% of total)**
- **3 of the 8 browns were euthanized, 5 were released**
- **0 non-target catch other than brown bears**
- **4 ADF&G staff from outside Region 2 participated in training and orientation**



RL71



Proposal 26

This proposal would *only* allow for the use of bucket snares for black bear that are placed above ground level and have a break-away release suitable for allowing adult brown bears to escape if caught in the snare

_____ Do Not Adopt _____

16 PCA Snaring 2009

- **There were 7 snare control permits issued in 2009**
- **Total bears snared – 89**
- **Black bears snared – 81**
- **Brown bears snared – 8 (2 mature bears, 1 M, 1F)**
- **All snaring occurred during June, July, and the first two weeks of August**

Proposal 27

This proposal would *only* allow for the use of cable snares for bear capture by trained Alaska Department of Fish and Game employees

_____ Do Not Adopt _____

Proposal 31

This proposal would change the dates that helicopters and snaring may be used in the Unit 16 the Predation Control Area

_____ Amend and Adopt _____

Rationale and Considerations

- **Amends dates for snare control of black bears and use of helicopters in the Unit 16 PCA to coincide with dates for control bait and regular (general NR) bait season dates**
- **Concerns about helicopter use will be minimized by only allowing use outside of the traditional moose, caribou, and Sheep hunting seasons**
- **Provides for the desire by permittees to take bears after the moose hunting season when the hides are in prime condition**
- **More opportunity for snare control permittees who may also moose hunt in Unit 16**

Proposal 24

This proposal would modify the number of bait stations that a licensed guide-outfitter and his assistant guides may register in the Unit 16 the Predation Control Area

_____ Adopt _____

Rationale and Considerations

- **The intent of the original proposal in March 2009 was to allow the registered guide to have the opportunity to maintain up to 10 bait stations simultaneously, independent of the number of sites registered by the assistant guide**
- **This proposal would allow a registered guide and his assistant guides operating in the Unit 16 PCA to maintain more than 10 bait sites simultaneously**
- **EXAMPLE:**
 - Current regulation - Reg. Guide + 4 Asst. Guides would be allowed a maximum of 10 bait sites**
 - Proposed regulation – Reg. Guide + 4 Asst. Guides would be allowed a maximum of 18 bait sites**

Proposal 37

This proposal would modify the sheep horn sealing requirement in GMUs 11 and 13-17 so that the seal would be a non-permanent mark.

_____ Do Not Adopt _____

Rationale and Considerations

- **Consistency issue: The sealing program is now consistent among all sport and most subsistence hunts statewide. This program seeks to change the sealing regulation in only a portion of the state, which will eliminate that consistency.**
- **Primarily an enforcement issue, because nonpermanent seals have a higher potential for abuse than permanent seals**

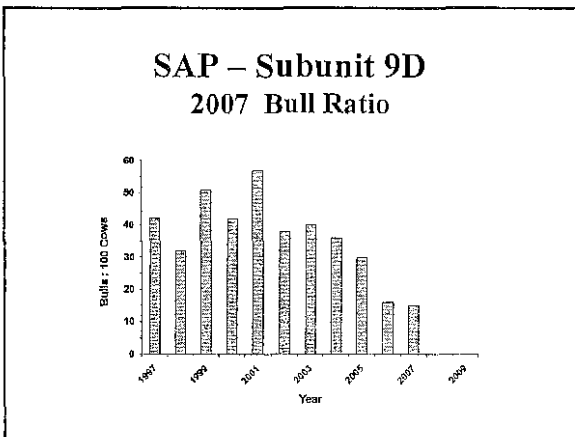
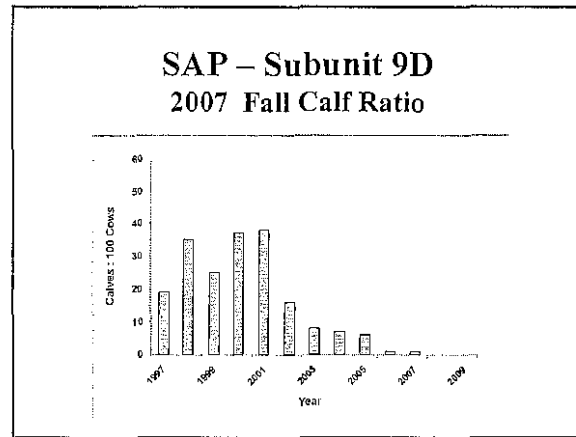
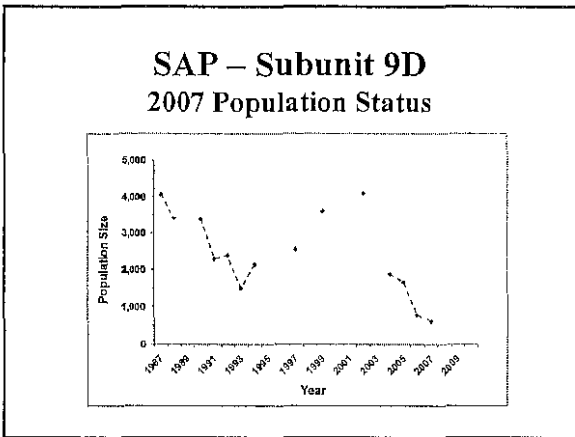
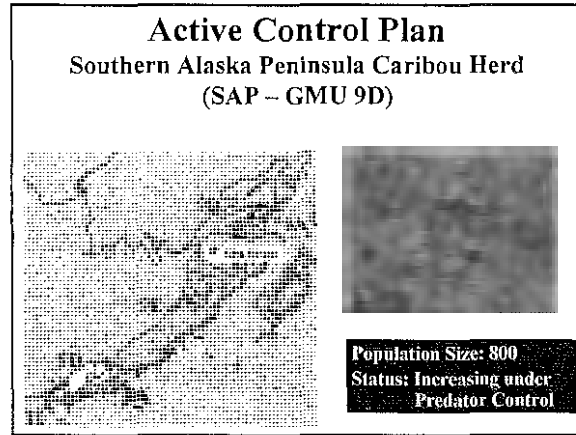
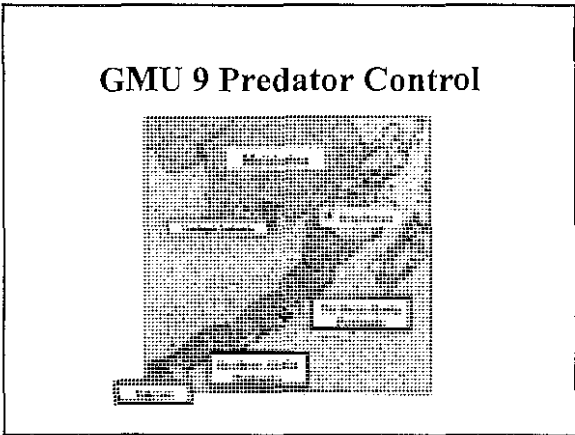
Proposal 48

This proposal would modify the definition of a full curl ram to include a ram whose horn tips have grown past a line drawn between the lowest point of the front bases of both horns as viewed from the front (AKA “Stick Method”).

_____ Do Not Adopt _____

Rationale and Considerations

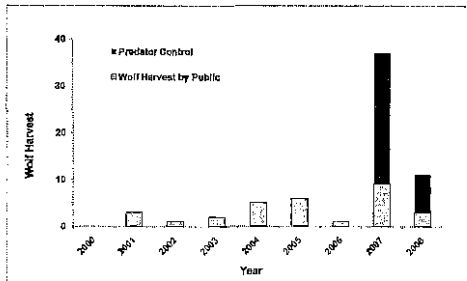
- **We understand the challenges faced by sheep hunters in the field**
- **This proposal would likely not increase the number of sheep available for harvest**
- **Not consistent to the extent necessary to be legally defensible**



SAP - GMU 9D Good Candidate for Predator Control

- Calving occurred in traditional areas on State lands
- Adult female pregnancy rates are good (88% - 2 year average)
- High calf mortality
 - 99% of calves died annually
 - Reasonable to believe that 94% of calves died due to predation prior to predator control (inferred)

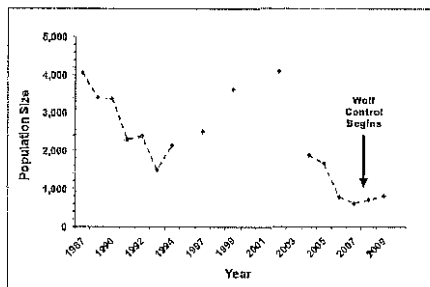
Wolf Harvest – GMU 9D



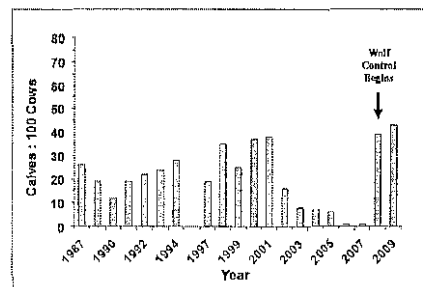
SAP – GMU 9D Calf Survival Increase

	Pre-Wolf Control		Wolf Control	
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Calf Survival to 1 month of age	-	< 1%	57%	71%
Fall Calf Ratio (calves:100 cows)	1	< 1	39	43

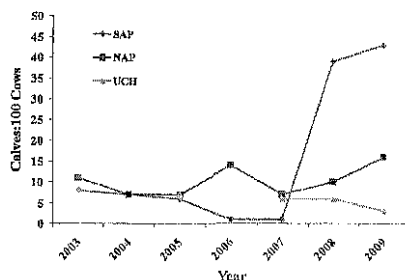
SAP – Subunit 9D Population Status Reversed



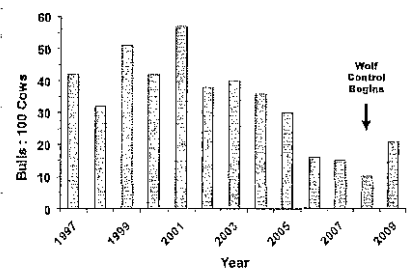
SAP – Subunit 9D Fall Calf Ratio Measureable



Neighboring Caribou Herds Calf Ratio Comparison



SAP – Subunit 9D Bull Ratio Increasing



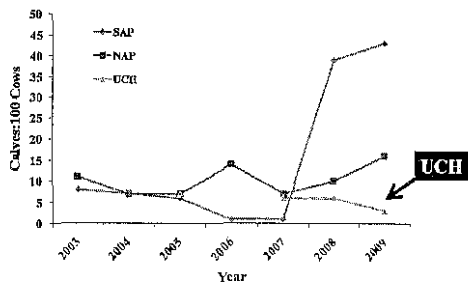
Active Control Plan Conclusions SAP – GMU 9D

- Predation was additive
- Wolf control was beneficial
 - Increased calf survival
 - Increased calf recruitment
 - Improved age distribution
 - Increased bull ratio
 - 13% annual increase in population size

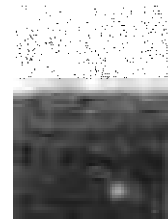
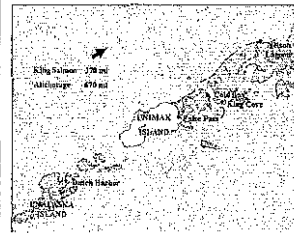
Active Control Plan Conclusions SAP – GMU 9D

- Predation was additive
- Wolf control was beneficial
- Continue Project
 - Objectives have not been reached yet
 - Bull ratio below objectives
 - No harvests authorized
 - Incorporate periodic evaluation of thresholds and capacity (k)
 - Nutritional Indices
 - Evaluate survival and recruitment of calves without controlling wolf predation

Unimak – Control herd New Crisis

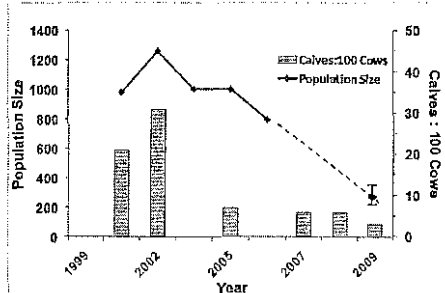


Unimak Caribou Herd (UCH)

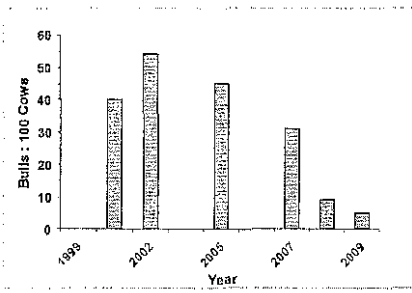


Population Size: 300+
Status: Critical
No hunting

UCH – GMU 10 Population Status



UCH – GMU 10 Bull Ratio



UCH – GMU 10 Recommendations

- Discuss options with USFWS (primary landowner)
 - No action
 - Relocate bulls from SAP
 - Predator control on federal lands
 - Predator control combined with relocation

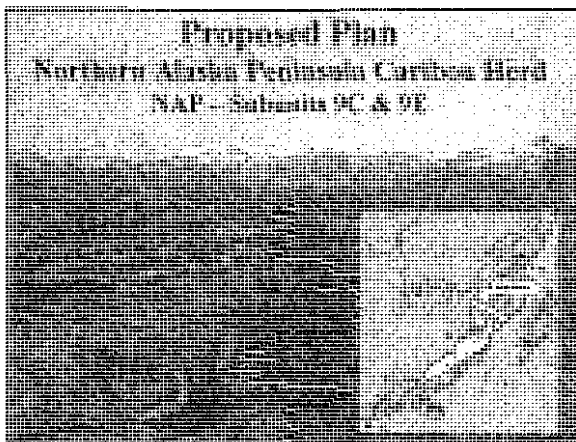
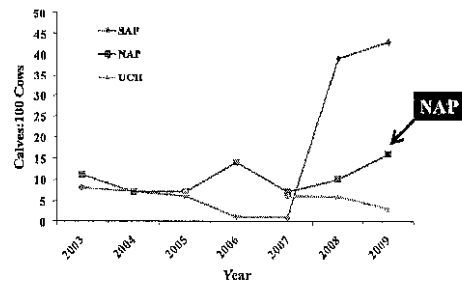
UCH – GMU 10 Recommendations

- Discuss options with USFWS
- Discuss Predator Management with BOG
 - Not an IM herd
 - Important resource for human use (subsistence and other)
 - Federal lands
 - Potential loss of the population

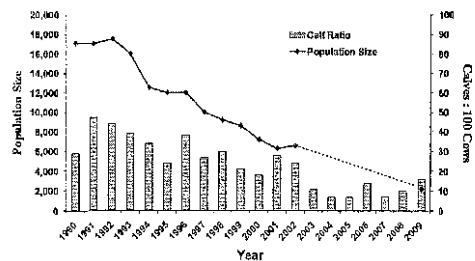
UCH – GMU 10 Recommendations

- Discuss options with USFWS
- Discuss Predator Management with BOG
- ACR approved by BOG
 - March 2010 BOG
 - Proposes creating an Unimak Wolf Management Area

Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd - NAP



NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Population Status



Status: Slow Decline

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Proposed Plan

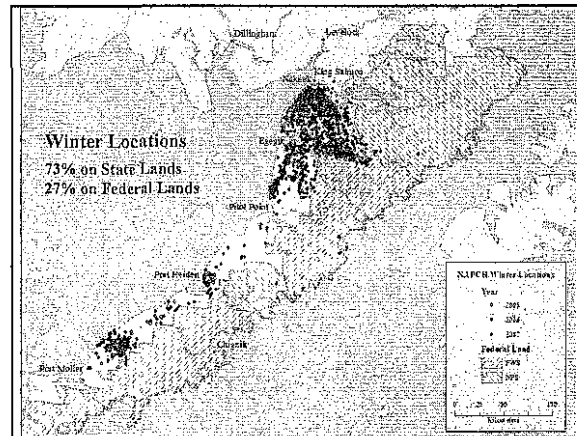
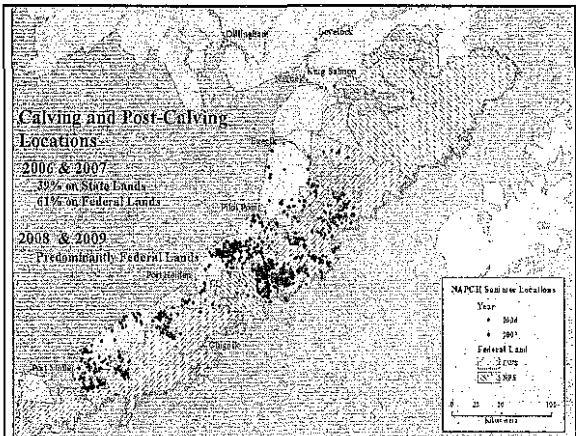
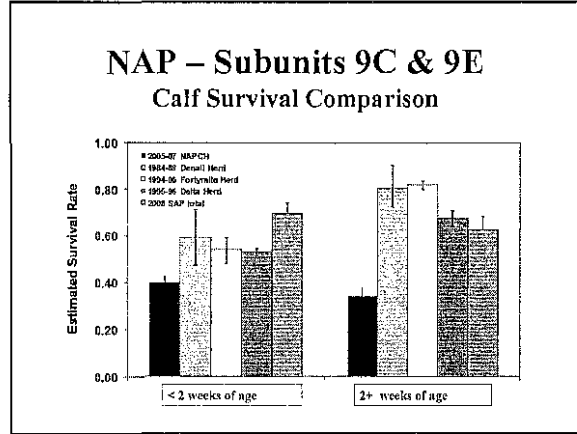
- Repeatedly requested (1999-2009)
- IM Herd
- Below IM Objectives
 - Population Size
 - Harvest (no hunting since 2005)

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Research Projects

- Health Assessment (2005-2006)
- Calf Mortality Study (2005 - 2007)
- Parasite Study (2005 - 2007)

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Factors Influencing Recruitment

- Poor Body Condition
- Low Pregnancy
 - 54% to 80% in Cows \geq 2 years of age
- Calf Mortality (2005 - 2007)
 - Calf weights
 - Males 7.9kg
 - Females 7.5kg
 - Calf Survival
 - 40% \leq 2 weeks of age
 - 34% $>$ 2 weeks of age



NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E IM Options

- **Predator Management**
 - **Bears**
 - Only important during first 2 weeks of life
 - Significant mortality for calves 2+ weeks of age that is not caused by brown bears
 - Reduction not feasible
 - Relocation from calving grounds not practical
 - Predation varies with location
 - **Wolves**
 - Reduction is potentially feasible
 - Significant limitations imposed by federal lands
 - Improve calf and/or over-winter survival
 - Improve adult survival

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E State Lands

- **Wolf Reduction conducted on State lands only**
 - **Calves**
 - No significant increase in early calf survival
 - Late Mortality is not likely to change significantly
 - No significant change in overall survival rate
 - Currently 14% survival
 - Best case 18% survival
 - Difference is not statistically significant
 - **Adults**
 - Prime aged animal have good survival

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E State and Federal Lands

- **Wolf Reduction on both Federal and State lands**
 - Main benefit is reducing predation on calving grounds
 - **Calves**
 - Max: 10% increase in early calf survival
 - Late Mortality may not change significantly
 - Some improvement in overall survival rate
 - Currently 14% survival
 - Best case 30% survival
 - Calf recruitment is still low (20-24 calves/100 cows)
 - **Adults**
 - Prime aged animal have good survival

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Recommendations

- Verify improved nutritional status
- Investigate late calf mortality
- Evaluate feasibility of a wolf management program

NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E Recommendations

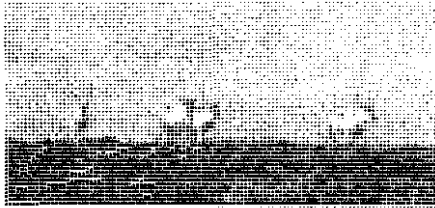
- **Proposed Plan:**
 - Implement only if Federal lands are included
 - Implement in phases
 - Initially implemented on primary range (80% of herd)
 - Expand to secondary range (20% of herd)
 - Primary work done by public – aerial control
 - State “mop up”
 - Monitor nutrition indices (k) and response

Intensive Management NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E

<i>Findings</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Estimate</i>
Population Size	12,000 - 15,000	2,000
Harvest	800 - 1,500	0

<i>Season</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Bag Limit</i>	<i>Reduction</i>
Residents	Closed	-	Yes
Nonresidents	Closed	-	Yes

GMU 9 Predator Management Proposals 32 & 33

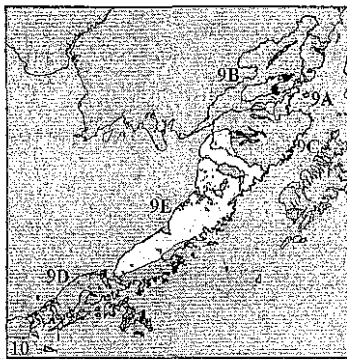


Proposal 32 Wolf – Subunits 9C & 9E

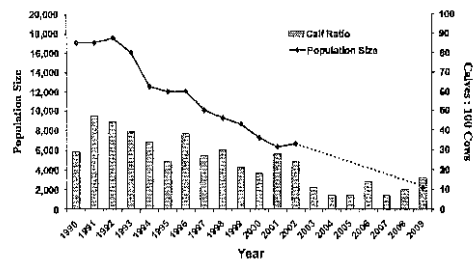
Predator Control Implementation Plan to benefit caribou in Subunits 9C and 9E

Adopt

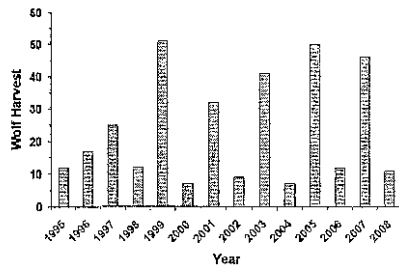
Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd NAP Range



NAP– Subunits 9C & 9E Population Status

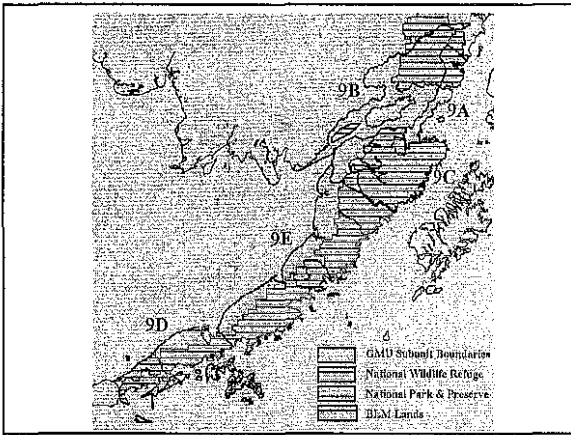


Proposal 32 Wolf Harvest – NAP Range



Proposal 32 Intensive Management Wolves – Subunits 9C & 9E

- Intensive Management Options Evaluated by BOG at least 6 times since 1999
- Prior Board of Game Decisions
 - Predator control was not considered feasible
 - Extent of Federal lands
 - Caribou - Nutrition was a key factor in the population decline



Proposal 32

Intensive Management Steps - NAP

Statutory Considerations

- Has the big game populations been identified as important for high levels of human consumptive use (i.e. intensive management)?
 - Yes
- Has the board established population and harvest objectives?
 - Yes
- Have the population and harvest objectives been achieved?
 - No
- Has there been a significant reduction in take?
 - Yes
- Is predation an important cause of the failure to achieve population or harvest objectives?
 - **Predation is a Factor**
- Can a reduction in predation reasonably be expected to aid the reaching of the objectives?
 - Yes

Proposal 32

Intensive Management Steps - NAP

Other Considerations

- Reduced seasons, reduced bag limits, elimination of non-resident hunting, etc.
 - **Yes - Closed All Hunting Seasons**
- Feasibility and cost effectiveness (i.e., what are the effects of weather, terrain, land ownership).
 - 70% Federal Lands
 - Weather Conditions
 - Poor Snow Cover
 - High Winds
 - Fuel Costs

Proposal 32

Wolf -- Snbunits 9C & 9E

Predator Control Implementation Plan to benefit caribou in Subunits 9C and 9E

Adopt

Proposal 33

NAP -- Snbnnits 9C & 9E

Adjusts the Intensive Management Population Objective for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd

Adopt

NAP -- GMU 9C & 9E

IM Objectives

	Current	Recommended
Population Size	12,000 – 15,000	6,000 - 15,000
Harvest Objective	800 – 1,500	800 – 1,500
ANS	1,200-1,900	???

Proposal 33
NAP – Subunits 9C & 9E

**Adjusts the Intensive Management
Population Objective for the
Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd**

Adopt

END

Proposal XX
Intensive Management Steps - NAP

Statutory Considerations

- Has the big game populations been identified as important for high levels of human consumptive use (i.e. intensive management)?
 - Yes
- Has the board established population and harvest objectives?
 - Yes
- Have the population and harvest objectives been achieved?
 - No
- Has there been a significant reduction in take?
 - Yes
- Is predation an important cause of the failure to achieve population or harvest objectives?
 - Predation is a Factor
- Can a reduction in predation reasonably be expected to aid the reaching of the objectives?
 - Yes

Proposal XX
Intensive Management Steps - NAP

Other Considerations

- Reduced seasons, reduced bag limits, elimination of non-resident hunting, etc.
 - Yes - No Hunting Season
- Feasibility and cost effectiveness (i.e., what are the effects of weather, terrain, land ownership).
 - 70% Federal Lands
 - Weather Conditions
 - Poor Snow Cover
 - High Winds
 - Fuel Costs

Is it captured from the wild for use as pets?

Is there a conservation concern for the animal in their native habitats outside Alaska?

Can it reasonably be maintained in good health in private ownership?

Is there a likelihood that concerns about, or threats to human health and safety will lead to adverse consequences to captive animals?

Add the following species to the clean list

Elk (except feral and wild elk) (*Cervus canadensis*)

Bison (except feral and wild bison) (*Bison bison*)

Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen)

RC 75

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME *Boards Support Section*

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

1255 W. 8TH Street
P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526

PHONE: (907) 465-4110
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MEMO

TO: Vince Webster, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: January 31, 2010

Cliff Judkins, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

SUBJECT: Petition to Joint Board of
Fisheries and Game from
the Alaska Wildlife
Alliance re AC
regulations

FROM: Jim Marcotte, Director
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Action Requested

A petition from the Alaska Wildlife Alliance dated January 11, 2010 was submitted to the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game. The petition seeks six specific actions:

- 1) that the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meet jointly as the Joint Board to act on the petition,
- 2) that the Joint Board remove all the individuals elected onto the Anchorage Fish and Game Fish and Game Advisory Committee during its January 5, 2010 meeting,
- 3) that the Joint Board designate seats by user group for the Anchorage Fish and Game Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
- 4) that the Joint Board adopt regulations to provide user group representation on advisory committees statewide,
- 5) that the Joint Board repeal 5 AAC 96.060(e)(3) which provides for electing advisory committee members by the public in attendance at advisory committee meetings and adopt new regulations to provide for membership by appointment from the Commissioner of Fish and Game, and
- 6) that the Joint Board adopt new election procedures if direct elections are maintained.

Background

The petition asserts that there were numerous problems with the January 5, 2010 election for seats on the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The petition asks that Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee members elected on January 5, 2010 be removed because of alleged problems with the room size, distribution of ballots, a lack of consideration of user group representation, voting by non-residents, and a lack of safeguards preventing individuals casting multiple votes.

The petition also asserts that there are problems with the current rules for advisory committee elections. The petition asks that the Joint Board adopt new regulations to prohibit individuals from voting in more than one advisory committee election, guarantee proportional representation of all interests in each community, and delete the provision for electing members by a majority vote.

The advisory committees regulations (5 AAC 96, 5 AAC 97, and 5 AAC 98) were established by the Joint Boards of Fisheries of Game under authority found in AS 16.260. The specific regulations describing the uniform rules operations are found in 5 AAC 96.010 and the section on committee elections is found in 5 AAC 96.060(e)(3).

Discussion

The Joint Board Petition Policy (5 AAC 96.625) was developed by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game and describes the standards for addressing petitions submitted to either of the two boards. This petition asks for action by both boards acting jointly. Specifically, it seeks the removal of recently elected advisory committee members and the modification of advisory committee regulations on election procedures. Holding a joint meeting to consider these actions would be at the discretion of the two boards.

Specific elements of the petition are addressed below.

1) Convening a Joint Board meeting.

Convening a Joint Board meeting would be at the discretion of the two boards. If both boards found a basis for holding a joint meeting, the scope of topics to be considered should be identified well in advance of the meeting to facilitate public participation. In scheduling the October 2007 Joint Board meeting, over a year was needed to identify which topics to include, allow time for proposals to be submitted, and allow time for public review and comment.

2) Removing recently elected members of the Anchorage Fish and Game Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

The two boards acting jointly would need to find a basis to rescind the results of the January 5, 2010 election. The election turnout was greater than previous election meetings of this committee. A total of 527 ballots were cast and six regular and two alternate seats were filled. A variety of stakeholder groups organized in advance of the meeting and promoted their own slate of candidates. Department staff compiled a list of voter names and addresses and found

that none of the voters resided outside the area of committee jurisdiction as specified in 5 AAC 96(e)(3) and 5 AAC 97.005. Department staff found no evidence that individuals obtained multiple ballots or cast multiple votes. The activities identified on the new member forms from the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee indicate that the committee contains representation of at least three user groups, as recommended in the regulations.

3) Designating user group seats for the Anchorage Fish and Game Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

The Joint Board has the authority to assign seats to represent a specific *user group* or specific *community* (see 5 AAC 96.060(e)(1)). To date, it has only assigned seats by *community*.

Note that three advisory committees have acted to develop their own internal policies on user group seats, including the Juneau-Douglas AC, Kenai-Soldotna AC, and Kodiak AC. These committees have found that this approach has alleviated problems with a single user group creating an imbalance in committee make up. Having these informal internal policies has allowed these committees to maintain a balance of memberships consistent with the interests present in the area, and has allowed the committee to make adjustments without having to wait for Joint Board action.

4) Adopting regulations to provide user group representation on advisory committees statewide.

There is no "one size fits all" solution. For example, a committee in a coastal fishing community may need representation from a variety of gear groups such as drift gillnet, set gillnet, purse seine, subsistence, charter, and sport fishing along with hunting, trapping, and non-consumptive use. A committee composed of villages in western Alaska would need representation from a different mix of hunting, fishing, and trapping interests. The Joint Board should solicit public review and comment before considering such regulations.

5) Repealing 5 AAC 96.06(e)(3) which provides for electing advisory committee members by the public in attendance at advisory committee meetings and adopt new regulations to provide for membership by appointment from the Commissioner of Fish and Game.

The idea of using a majority vote by eligible voters in attendance has proven to be a successful method of electing members. There are over 900 volunteer members on local fish and game advisory committees throughout the state, and in any one year, one third of the terms are up for election. Developing a basis for informed appointments by the commissioner for some 300 seats a year would be administratively burdensome and would remove the control of committee membership from the local level.

6) Adopting new election procedures if direct elections are maintained.

Department staff could work with individual advisory committees in advance of election meetings to assist advisory committees with articulating their own procedures for holding elections consistent with the codified regulations. Procedures appropriate for committees in large population centers may be inappropriate in small rural communities.

Recommendation

The department recommends that each board independently review this petition during the currently scheduled January 2010 board meetings and assess the need for a joint meeting of the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.

If both boards conclude a joint meeting is necessary to address the issues identified in this petition, the department recommends that each board select three members to meet with department staff after March 2010 to 1) compile a list of potential topics for consideration, 2) develop a schedule for issuing a Call for Proposals, and 3) set a time for a Joint Board meeting within budget limitations.

If one or both boards conclude a joint meeting is not warranted to address the issues identified in this petition, the department should be instructed to send a letter to the petitioners that the petition is denied.

5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans.

(d) Unit 16 Predation Control Area

...

(4) the permissible methods and means used to take predators are as follows:

(D) the commissioner may reduce the black bear population within the Unit 16 Predation Control Area by means and direction included in the Board of Game Bear Conservation and Management Policy (2006-164-BOG), dated May 14, 2006, and incorporated by reference, including the following conditions, methods and means under a department developed control permit:

...

(iii) same-day-airborne taking of black bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the use of any type of aircraft, including helicopters to access black bear baiting stations and associated camps from April 15 through October 15, **except that helicopters may not be used from August 5 through September 25;**

...

(vi) same-day-airborne taking of black bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, such as a fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter, to access black bear foot-snaring camps from April 15 through **October 15 [AUGUST 15], except that helicopters may not be used from August 5 through September 25.** A helicopter may be used only to transport resident permittees, gear, and harvested bears and parts of bears directly to and from a foot-snaring camp; up to 10 helicopter permits may be issued at the discretion of the department and a permittee must attend a department-approved orientation course;

(vii) taking of black bears **by foot-snaring** by permit only **from April 15 through October 15;** if foot-snaring is based out of remote camps, no more than five foot-snaring camps may be in operation at any time, and at least two permittees must be present in each camp when foot-snares are in the field; foot snaring permits will be issued at the discretion of the department based on previous trapping experience, ability to help train other participants, and length of time available for participation in a snaring program; a selected foot-snaring permittee must successfully complete a department-approved training program, must be a resident 16 years of age or older, and report all animals taken by the permittee to the department within 48 hours of taking;

Proposal 45A

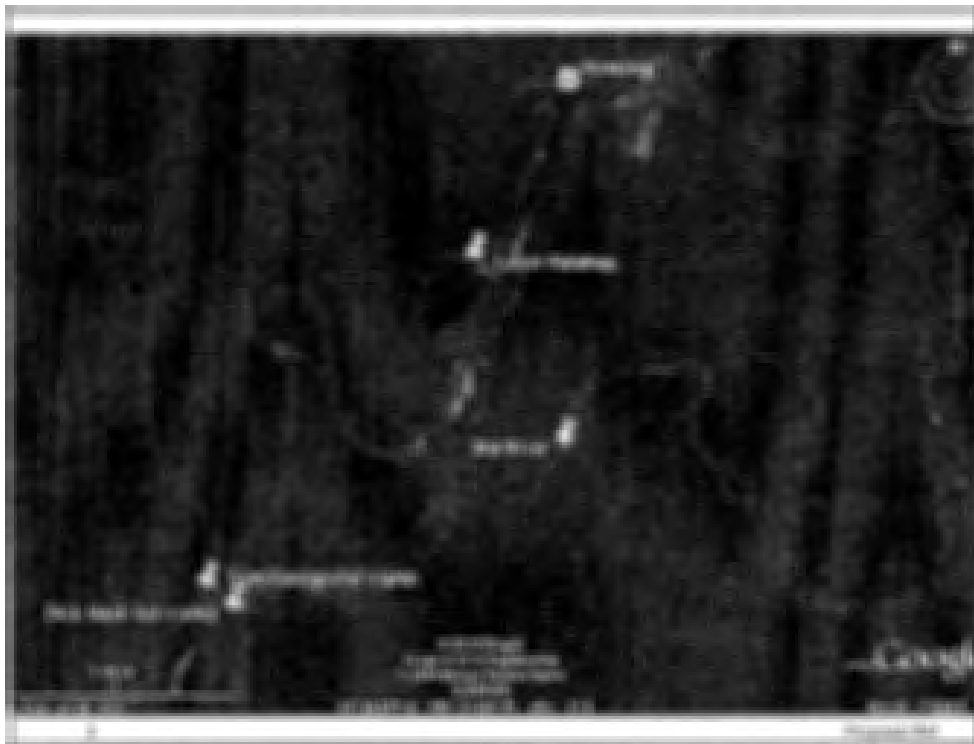
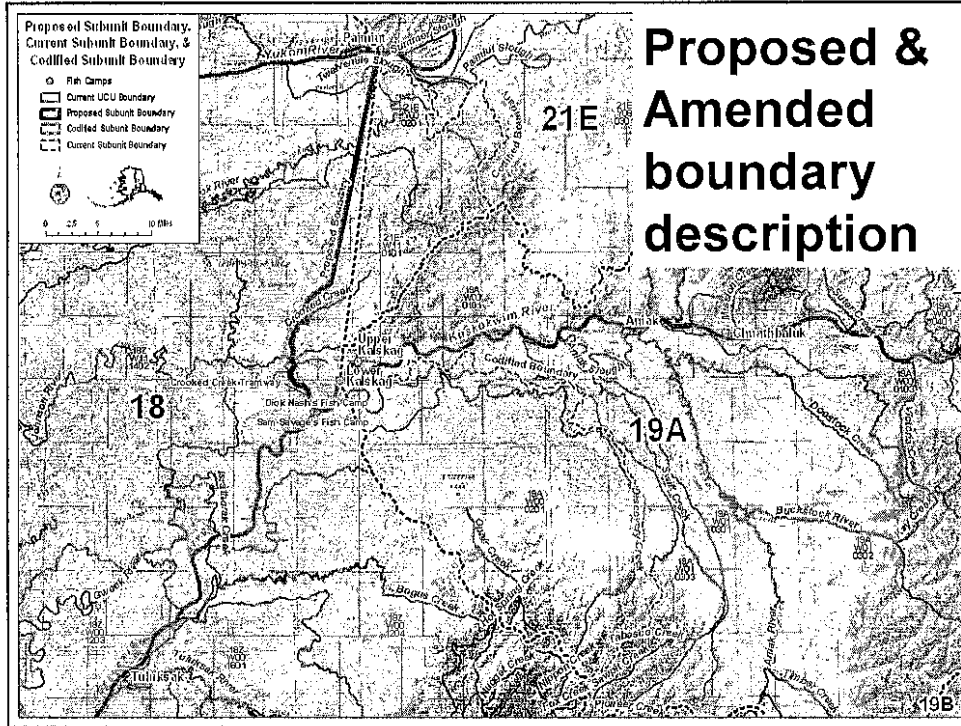
RC77

In addition to the changes found in proposal 45, we would like to add amended language to clarify state jurisdiction of offshore waters (and in the case of hunting, islands within those boundaries) in areas with coastline,

In Units 1-10, 14-18, 22, 23 and 26, the phrase "and all waters and lands within 3 miles of these coastlines" would be added to the description of the game management unit.

Proposal 44

RC 78



Sea Ducks and Harvest in Alaska Considerations for Kachemak Bay

- Life History
- Population Indices
- Harvest



Alaska Board of Game

Dan Rosenberg
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Feb 2010

Proposal 117 (2009) Proposal 52 (2010)

The resident and nonresident bag limit for sea ducks in Unit 15C, Kachemak Bay area is 2 per day and 4 in possession

Steller's and Spectacled Eiders Closed

Proposals 117 (2009) and 52 (2010)

Changed From

Residents **10 per day, 20 in possession**, Limited to 6 per day, 12 in possession of harlequin and long-tailed ducks

Nonresidents **8 per day, 20 per season** (Limited to 4 of each harlequin, long-tailed duck, scoters, eiders)

Steller's and Spectacled Eiders Closed

Advisory Committees

Homer: Support as Amended¹ 13-0-3

Kenai/Soldotna: Support as Amended² UC³

Central Pen: Support 10-1

Seldovia: Oppose 0-7

Cooper Landing: Oppose 0-9-1

¹ Close until management plan developed

² 6 per day/12 possession: 1 Common eider, 2 of other spp., Management Plan, Studies

³ Unanimous Consent

Department Recommendation

Amend

- Return to 2009 regulations
- Focus management efforts at a population level over broad geographic scales

Sea Ducks

- 13 species (7 Genera) in Kachemak Bay
- Most have broad ranges over western North America and several migrate to Eastern Asia to breed, molt or winter
- Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common) and Bufflehead are 'Taxonomic' sea ducks but not included in sea duck regulations (Federal Framework)

Sea Duck Status and Trends

- Few species have reliable population indices or estimates of abundance.
- Trends indicate long term declines in many species. Eiders, Scoters, and Long-tailed Ducks have > 50% long-term declines (since 1970's). Cause is unknown.
- Most populations seem to be stable or increasing in recent years (since mid 1990's). Over 500,000 Sea ducks winter Alaska.
- Current survey design is unable to accurately estimate sport harvest or model effects of regulatory changes.
- No populations at imminent risk. Spectacled and Steller's eiders listed as threatened.

Sea Duck Restrictions Implemented Since 1999

Reduced bag limits

- Residents:
 - Daily limit: reduced from 15 to 10
no more than 6 harlequin or 6 long-tailed ducks.
- Non-residents:
 - Daily limit: reduced from 15 to 8
 - Season limit: 20 sea ducks
 - Species limit: Maximum 4 each of Eiders, Scoters, Harlequin, Long-tailed per season

Pacific Population Status

Most Concerned

- Common Eider
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Ducks

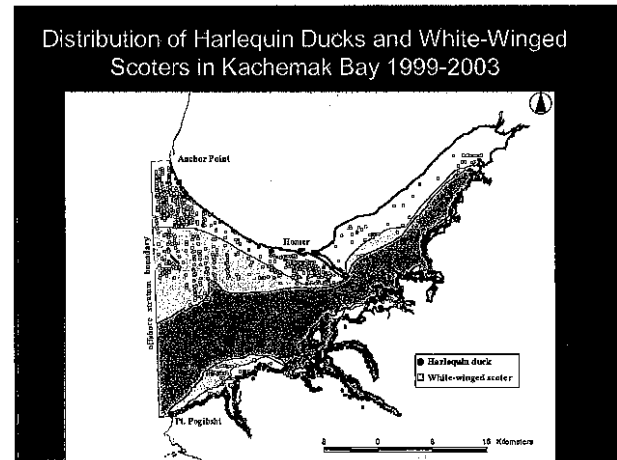
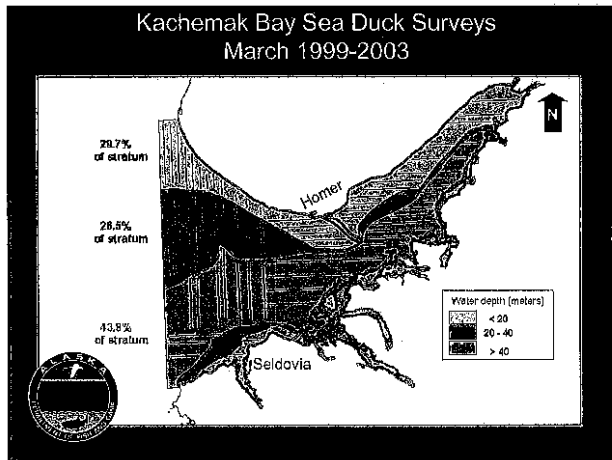
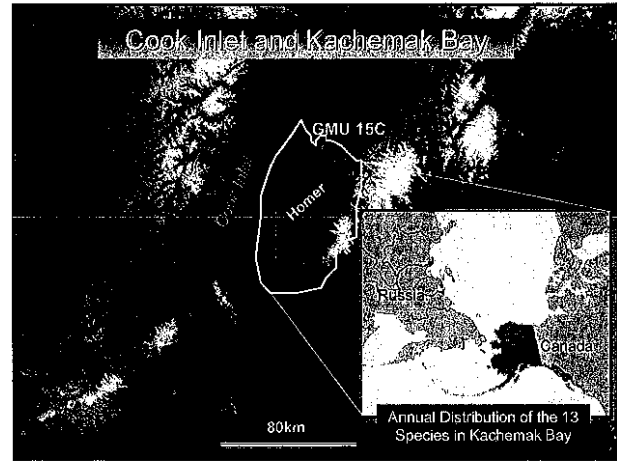
Threatened/Endangered

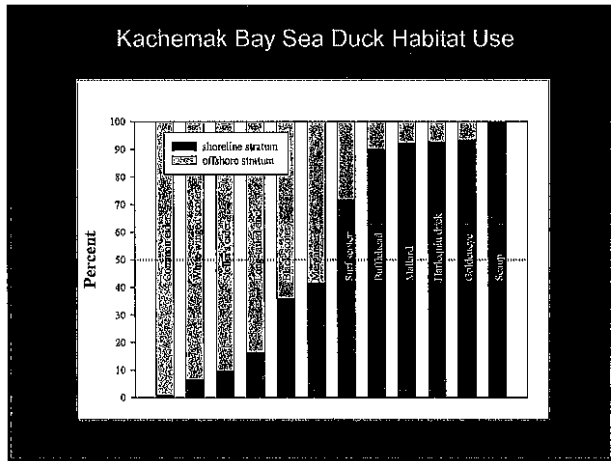
- Steller's Eider
- Spectacled Eider



OK for Now

- King Eider
- White-winged Scoter
- Surf Scoter
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Harlequin Duck
- Barrow's goldeneye
- Common goldeneye
- Bufflehead

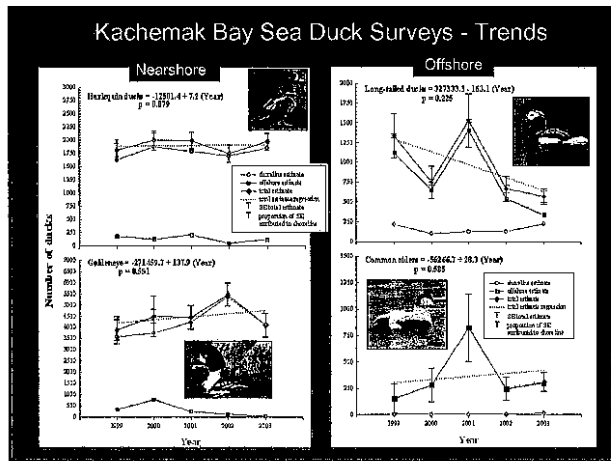




Total Sea Ducks in Kachemak Bay

including Goldeneyes and Buffleheads

	Year	Number
FWS	1994	37,214
ADFG	1999	20,216
	2000	14,905
	2001	16,206
	2002	16,719
	2003	15,641
MEAN		16,719



Winter Abundance Kachemak Bay 1999 - 2003

Species	Mean	Low Estimate	High Estimate
Harlequin Duck	1,900	1,750	2,000
Mergansers spp.	1,220	830	1,800
Surf Scoter	1,700	1,120	2,080
White-winged	2,270	1,750	2,810
Black Scoter	2,450	700	6,370
Long-tailed Duck	970	600	1,520
Common Eider	360	150	820
Taxonomic Sea Ducks			
Goldeneye spp.	4,480	3,880	5,470
Bufflehead	700	570	810

Kachemak Bay

Major Change from 1994 to 1999-2003 Surveys

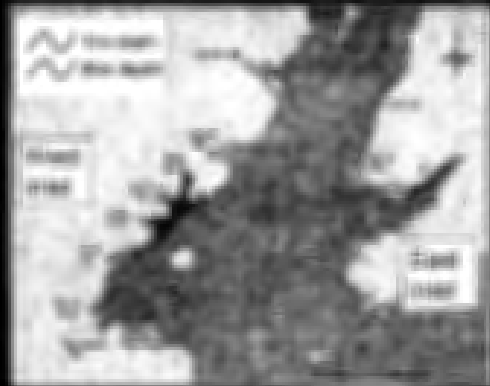
Numbers in Kachemak Bay declined > 60%
for these 3 species

SPECIES	1994	1999-2003 Mean
White-winged Scoters	18,500	2,750
Long-tailed Ducks	4,100	900
Common Eiders	2,400	400

Petrucci et al. 2006 (1999-2003)

Agler et al. 1995

Cook Inlet Aerial Surveys March 2005-2005



Cook Inlet Aerial Surveys March 2005-2005

Species	East Inlet		West Inlet	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Common Eider	271	267	143	318
Long-tailed Duck	315	536	4,352	8,131
Black Scoter	1,635	1,439	1,631	7,519
Surf Scoter	169	788	351	300
White-winged Scoter	922	455	197	59

W. Larned USFWS 2006

Alaska Duck Harvest

State and Federal Data - 1971-1997

Mean Statewide Duck Harvest

Period	1970's	1980's	1990's	2000's
Active Hunters	11,640	11,002	8,871	5,450
Harvest	87,833	85,693	70,052	71,870

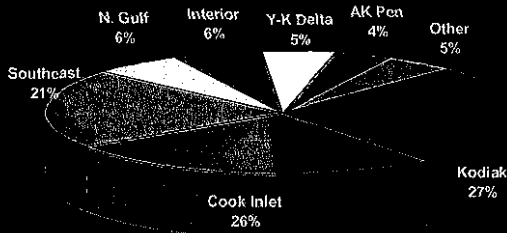
Mean Statewide Sea Duck Harvest¹

Active Hunters	?	?	?	867
Harvest	5,747	7,002	5,813	6,090
% Total Harvest	6.5	8.2	8.3	8.5

¹ Does not include Goldeneyes and Buffleheads

Fall/Winter Sea Duck Harvest Distribution

State Harvest Survey Data - Average 1982-94



Estimated Annual Sport Harvest: 1,500 Sea ducks in Cook Inlet (not including Goldeneyes and Buffleheads)

Average Composition of Fall/Winter Harvest in Cook Inlet

SPECIES	%Sport Harvest ¹	%Subsistence Harvest ²
Goldeneyes	57	24
Bufflehead	17	6
Scoters	15	54
Mergansers	6	14
Harlequin	3	2
Long-tailed duck	<1	<1

Common Eiders do not show up in Sport or Subsistence Harvest Records

¹ Federal Parts Collection Survey 1966-2000. ² Paige and Wolfe 1997. ADF&G Community Subsistence Information System

Summary

- Sea ducks are managed within the Cook Inlet and Gulf Coast Regional Zones at much broader scales than Kachemak Bay.
- Current surveys at any scale cannot adequately assess short-term changes in sea duck populations.
- ADF&G has no immediate population-level concerns about numbers of sea ducks. For Kachemak Bay we lack good historical data.
- Common eiders, Long-tailed ducks are not abundant in Kachemak Bay and may be declining.
- Cannot adequately assess the harvest at a local level. Reduced harvest will effect resident and customary and traditional hunting opportunities.

Thank You



RC 80

**(1-31-10) SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT ON PROPOSED BOARD OF GAME
PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND CYCLE CHANGE**

Advisory Committee	Comment number, BOG Jan. 2010 meeting	AC meeting date(s)	A. Annual proposal deadline	B. Three-year cycle
Southeast Region				
Angoon (inactive)				
Craig	AC 29	Jan. 29	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
East Prince of Wales				
Edna Bay	AC 4	Jan. 12	no comment	no comment
Elfin Cove (inactive)				
Hydaburg (inactive)				
Hyder (inactive)				
Icy Strait				
Juneau/Douglas	AC2	Jan. 8	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Kake (inactive)				
Ketchikan	AC1	Jan. 13	no comment	no comment
Klawock				
Klukwan				
Pelican (inactive)				
Petersburg	RC8			COMMENT
Port Alexander (inactive)				
Saxman	AC 13	Jan. 12	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Sitka	AC5	Jan. 7	no comment	SUPPORT
Sumner Strait				
Tenakee (inactive)				
Upper Lynn Canal				
Wrangell	AC3	Jan. 12	no comment	OPPOSE
Yakutat				
Southcentral Region				
Anchorage	RC23	Dec. 29, Jan. 5	SUPPORT w/Am	OPPOSE
Central Peninsula	AC18	Jan. 13	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Cooper Landing	AC22	Jan. 15	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Copper Basin	AC17	Jan. 5	no comment	no comment
Copper River/PWS	AC30	Nov. 2	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Denali	AC14	Dec. 30, Jan. 19	no comment	no comment
Homer	AC28	Jan. 12	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Kenai/Soldotna	AC19	Jan. 13	no comment	no comment
Matanuska Valley	AC13, AC16, AC32	Dec. 9	comment	comment
Mount Yenlo				
Paxson				
Seldovia	AC11, AC28	Dec. 8	no comment	no comment
Seward	AC24	Jan. 14	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Susitna Valley				
Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road				
Tyonek	AC31	Dec. 4	comment	comment
PWS/Valdez				
Whittier				

Advisory Committee	Comment number, BOG Jan. 2010 meeting	AC meeting date(s)	A. Annual proposal deadline	B. Three-year cycle
Southwest Region				
Chignik				
False Pass				
King Cove (inactive)				
Kodiak				
Lake Iliamna				
Lower Bristol Bay				
Naknek/Kvichak	AC27	Jan.11 letter	no comment	no comment
Nelson Lagoon				
Nushagak	AC33	Jan. 6	no comment	no comment
Sand Point				
Togiak				
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor				
Western Region				
Central Bering Sea				
Central Kuskokwim				
Lower Kuskokwim				
Lower Yukon	AC6	Oct. 7	no comment	no comment
Stony-Holitna	AC15	Dec. 28	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Arctic Region				
North Slope	AC8	Jan. 14	no comment	no comment
Kotzebue	AC21	Jan. 12	no comment	no comment
Lower Kobuk	AC23	Dec. 1	no comment	no comment
Noatak/Kivalina	AC20			
Northern Norton Sound	AC12			
Northern Seward Penn.	AC16			
Southern Norton Sound				
St. Lawrence Island (inactive)				
Upper Kobuk	AC20			
Interior Region				
Central				
Delta	AC26	no date listed	no comment	no comment
Eagle				
Fairbanks	AC32	Jan. 13	no comment	no comment
GASH				
Koyukuk River				
Lake Minchumina (inactive)				
McGrath				
Middle Nenana River	AC7	Jan. 4	no comment	no comment
Middle Yukon River				
Minto/Nenana				
Ruby				
Tanana/Rampart/Manley				
Upper Tanana/40 Mile	AC25	no date listed	no comment	SUPPORT
Yukon Flats				

(a) The hunting and taking of [BIG] game **species having a positive finding** [,CUSTOMARILY AND TRADITIONALLY TAKEN OR USED FOR SUBSISTENCE AS IDENTIFIED] in 5 AAC 99.025, outside the seasons or bag limits established in 5 AAC 85 for use as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies within 12 months preceding the ceremony is authorized if consistent with sustained yield principles.

(b) The department shall publicize a list of **game** [BIG GAME] populations and areas, if any, for which the taking of **game** [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] would be inconsistent with sustained yield principles. **It is the hunter's responsibility to contact ADF&G to find out which game populations and areas are excluded from taking under this regulation.**

(c) A written permit from the department is not required for taking **game** [BIG GAME] under this section, **except that in nonsubsistence areas and Game Management Unit 13, a ceremonial harvest report form, provided by the department, must be obtained from a tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, or designee for the village associated with the religious ceremony.**

(d) Before **game** [BIG GAME] is taken under this section[;]

[(1)] a tribal chief, village council president, **clan leader**, or the chief's, [OR] president's, **or clan leader's** designee for the village **associated with** [IN WHICH] the religious ceremony [WILL BE HELD], must notify the nearest office of the department that a hunt for **game** [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] will take place; the notification must include the number of animals expected to be taken[,] and the location where the taking will occur; the tribal chief, village council president, **clan leader** or designee must maintain records of the successful hunters and the decedents for the [VILLAGE OR TRIBAL] ceremony, and make that information available to an authorized representative of the department upon request; the tribal chief, village council president, **clan leader** or designee must notify the department of the location, [OF THE KILL, AND THE] species, sex, and number of animals taken under this section as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the taking of **game** [BIG GAME].

[(2)] A HUNTER OUTSIDE OF A VILLAGE OR TRIBAL ORGANIZED CEREMONY, MUST NOTIFY THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT A BIG GAME ANIMAL WILL BE HARVESTED, THE TIME FRAME WHEN, AND LOCATION WHERE THE HARVEST WILL OCCUR, AND THE NAME OF THE DECEDENT; THE NOTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE THE HUNTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND THE SPECIES OF BIG GAME ANIMAL TO BE HUNTED; A SUCCESSFUL HUNTER MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE LOCATION OF THE KILL, AND THE SPECIES, SEX, AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN UNDER THIS SECTION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, BUT NOT MORE THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING.]

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for hunting or taking of [BIG GAME] **game** outside the season or bag limit restrictions established in 5 AAC 85 that:

- (1) the person is an Alaska resident;
- (2) the hunting or taking was authorized under this section and the meat was used in a customary and traditional Alaska Native religious ceremony; and
- (3) if the person took [BIG GAME] **game**, the requirements of (d) of this section have been met.

(f) This section does not authorize the taking of game in areas where hunting is prohibited or when prohibited by a federal law that preempts state laws on point.

5 AAC 92.104. AUTHORIZATION FOR METHODS AND MEANS DISABILITY EXEMPTIONS. (a)

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision in this title, the department may issue a permit to take brown bears with the use of bait during established seasons and with established bag limits, to applicants who are permanently wheelchair-bound or similarly disabled to the extent that use of bait is the only reasonable option the applicant would have to harvest a brown bear, provided the provisions of (a) and (b) of this section have been met.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**2010-183-BOG****Harvest of Game for Customary and Traditional
Alaska Native Funerary and Mortuary Religious Ceremonies**

1. Throughout the State of Alaska, Alaska Native cultures continue to rely on many species of fish, game, and other wild resources as important components of customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies.
2. Although customs and traditions vary across the state and from culture to culture, the Board has been able to determine that a few principles appear to be consistent in all such ceremonies.
3. One consistent principle is that each ceremony is associated with a particular village, clan, or other group recognized as a cohesive unit by Alaska Native people. A ceremony is not a “customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremony” unless it is associated with a particular village, clan or other Alaska Native group and performed in accordance with their self-defined customs and traditions.
4. Another consistent principle is that these ceremonies involve consumption of, ideally, a wide variety of wild foods that are customarily and traditionally consumed by members of the village, clan, or other Alaska Native group in their particular locality. While store-bought foods are also often important, hunters for these ceremonies tend to focus their efforts on obtaining species that are viewed as customary and traditional foods with spiritual and cultural meaning, rather than introduced species. The species listed with “positive” findings in 5 AAC 99.125 are a comprehensive list of species that are more or less important for customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies outside of non-subsistence areas where such findings are not made. A similar range of species are traditionally harvested for these ceremonies in non-subsistence areas, however.
5. A third consistent principle is that participants where hunting to provide food for these ceremonies participate because of relationships they have to the deceased and the deceased’s family, clan, or community through birth, marriage, adoption, or other social processes recognized by Alaska Native groups.

6. Although traditions vary by community and cultural groups, throughout Alaska, traditional laws govern the initiation and organization of customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies. For example, these traditional laws stipulate who may initiate and organize these ceremonies based upon genealogical or other social relationships with the deceased.

7. The Board of Game recognizes that customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies are constitutionally protected activities that must be accommodated, absent a contrary and compelling state interest that may not otherwise be served. When presented with requests to accommodate specific ceremonies, the Board will attempt to develop regulations specific to those ceremonies. 5 AAC 92.019 is the Board's effort to accommodate customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies that have not yet been specifically provided for.

Vote: _____

Date: _____

Anchorage, Alaska

Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

(a) The hunting and taking of [BIG] game species having a positive finding [CUSTOMARILY AND TRADITIONALLY TAKEN OR USED FOR SUBSISTENCE AS IDENTIFIED] in 5 AAC 99.025, outside the seasons or bag limits established in 5 AAC 85 for use as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies within 12 months preceding the ceremony is authorized if consistent with sustained yield principles.

(b) The department shall publicize a list of game [BIG GAME] populations and areas, if any, for which the taking of game [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] would be inconsistent with sustained yield principles. It is the hunter's responsibility to contact ADF&G to find out which game populations and areas are excluded from taking under this regulation.

(c) A written permit from the department is not required for taking game [BIG GAME] under this section, except that in nonsubsistence areas and Game Management Unit 13, a ceremonial harvest report form, provided by the department, must be obtained and jointly completed by the hunter and the tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, traditional native head of family, or designee for the village associated with the customary and traditional Alaska Native Funerary or mortuary religious ceremony.

(d) Before game [BIG GAME] is taken under this section[;]

[(1)] a tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, traditional native head of family, or the chief's, [OR] president's, traditional native head of family, or clan leader's designee for the village associated with [IN WHICH] the religious ceremony [WILL BE HELD], must notify the nearest office of the department that a hunt for game [A BIG GAME ANIMAL] will take place; the notification must include the number of animals expected to be taken[,] and the location where the taking will occur; the tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, traditional native head of family, or designee must maintain records of the successful hunters and the decedents for the [VILLAGE OR TRIBAL] ceremony, and make that information available to an authorized representative of the department upon request; the tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, traditional native head of family, or designee must notify the department of the location, [OF THE KILL, AND THE] species, sex, and number of animals taken under this section as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the taking of game [BIG GAME].

[(2)] A HUNTER OUTSIDE OF A VILLAGE OR TRIBAL ORGANIZED CEREMONY, MUST NOTIFY THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT A BIG GAME ANIMAL WILL BE HARVESTED, THE TIME FRAME WHEN, AND LOCATION WHERE THE HARVEST WILL OCCUR, AND THE NAME OF THE DECEDENT; THE NOTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE THE HUNTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND THE SPECIES OF BIG GAME ANIMAL TO BE HUNTED; A SUCCESSFUL HUNTER MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE LOCATION OF THE KILL, AND THE SPECIES, SEX, AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN UNDER THIS SECTION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, BUT NOT MORE THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING.]

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for hunting or taking of [BIG GAME] game outside the season or bag limit restrictions established in 5 AAC 85 that:

(1) the person is an Alaska resident;

(2) the hunting or taking was authorized under this section and the meat was used in a customary and traditional Alaska Native religious ceremony; and

(3) if the person took [BIG GAME] game, the requirements of (d) of this section have been met.

(f) This section does not authorize the taking of game in areas where hunting is prohibited or when prohibited by a federal law that preempts state laws on point.

(g) In this section, "traditional Native head of Family" means a person who, according to the Alaska Native tradition, would be viewed as a head of a family unit such that the person is charged with duties similar to those of a tribal chief, village council president, or clan leader regarding funerary or mortuary rites.

Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Inc.

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907-822-3755 rfithian@alaskaprohunter.org

RC85

February 1, 2010

Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Amended comments regarding proposed Board of Game meeting cycle and proposal deadline.

Dear Chairman Judkins and Members of the Board of Game:

After many years of participation within the Alaska Board of Game and Advisory Committee process the Alaska Professional Hunters Association has the following recommendations regarding changes to the Board of Game meeting cycles and call for proposals.

We support the change to a three year cycle primarily for the better science gathering it will bring but also for the inherent reduced staff workload preparing for the two year cycle meetings, less conflicting meeting dates, less travel expense for staff and the AC's as well as our members who have to pay a substantial amount of money for travel, room and board to attend these meetings.

We support the one annual call for proposals and have no problem with March or April deadlines.

However, in order for these changes to work we suggest the need to have additional changes to the existing process. For your consideration we recommend the following:

1. Divide "Region 2" into two regions making Southwest Alaska "Region 2" and Southcentral Alaska "Region 4"
2. Hold fall meetings for Statewide, Region 1 and Region 5 during the three year cycle.
3. Hold Spring meetings for Region 3, Region 2, and Region 4 during the three year cycle.
4. Recommend maximum seven day meetings.
5. The inherent ability to respond to important biological needs at any time.

The above suggested concept would allow the Board and ADF&G staff to more effectively address the complexity of issues and concerns that come before the Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully



Robert Fithian
Executive Director

RC 86

26-LS1207R

HOUSE BILL NO. 267

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KELLY AND NEUMAN

Introduced: 1/8/10

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to travel by snow machine within five miles of the right-of-way of the
2 James Dalton Highway."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 19.40.210 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 19.40.210. Prohibition of off-road vehicles.** Off-road vehicles are
6 prohibited on land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway. However, this
7 prohibition does not apply to

8 (1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration,
9 development, production, or transportation;

10 (2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway
11 and who must use land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway to gain
12 access to the mining claim; or

13 (3) the use of a snow machine to travel across the highway between
14 October 1 and April 30 [CORRIDOR FROM LAND OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR

1 TO ACCESS LAND OUTSIDE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CORRIDOR; THIS
2 PARAGRAPH DOES NOT PERMIT THE USE OF A SNOW MACHINE FOR ANY
3 PURPOSE WITHIN THE CORRIDOR IF THE USE BEGINS OR ENDS WITHIN
4 THE CORRIDOR OR WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE HIGHWAY OR IF
5 THE USE IS FOR TRAVEL WITHIN THE CORRIDOR THAT IS PARALLEL TO
6 THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE HIGHWAY; IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "HIGHWAY
7 CORRIDOR" MEANS LAND WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY
8 OF THE HIGHWAY].

RC 87

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Statewide Regulations Meeting
January 29 – February 1, 2010
Anchorage, Alaska**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AGENDA

Taking of sub-legal moose – Pat Valkenberg

House Bill 267 – An act relating to travel by snow machines within five miles of the right-of-way of the James Dalton Highway Corridor

Petition to the Joint Board of Fisheries & Game