

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Findings & Policies**

2013-34-JB Joint Board Criteria for Development of Board-Generated Proposal

**2015**

2015-208-BOG Resolution Establishing a Standing Delegation of Authority to the Commissioner Regarding Petitions for Emergency Regulations  
2015-207-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G provided during the Southeast Region Meeting

**2014**

2014-206-BOG Nonresident Capture, Possession, and Export of Certain Raptors  
2014-205-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Statewide Regulations Cycle A Meeting  
2014-204-BOG Customary and Traditional Uses of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd  
2014-203-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Arctic/Western Region Meeting

**2013**

2013-202-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Southcentral Region Meeting.  
2013-201-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Central/Southwest Region Meeting  
2013-200-BOG Board Direction Concerning the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

**2012**

2012-199-BOG Resolution Supporting Funding for the Outdoor Heritage Foundation  
2012-198-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy (*Policy 2011-194-BOG Revised*)  
2012-197-BOG Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
2012-196-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
2012-195-BOG Unit 24B Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
2012-194-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy (*Policy 2011-186-BOG Revised*)  
2012-193-BOG Subunit 26B Muskoxen - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
2012-192-BOG Subunit 15C Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
2012-191-BOG Subunit 15A Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
2012-190-BOG Falconry, Federal Migratory Bird Rulemaking and Delegation of Authority

**2011**

#2011-189-BOG Subunits 9C and 9# (Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
#2011-188-BOG Units 9B, 17, 19, and 19B (MCH) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2011-187-BOG Unit 16 Predation Control Area for Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2011-186-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy.

#2011-185-BOG Board of Game Wolf Management Policy (this policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)

#2011-184-BOG Game Management Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses  
(*Supplement findings to 2006-170-BOG*)

**2010**

#2010-183-BOG Harvest of Game for Customary and Traditional Alaska Native Funerary and Mortuary Religious Ceremonies.

**2009**

#2009-182-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-181-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-180-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-179-BOG Resolution Supporting Increasing Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees

**2008**

#2008-178-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

#2008-177-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, & 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2008-176-BOG Units 16A & B Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2008-175-BOG Unit 9D (South AK Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2008-174-BOG Unit 19D East Supplemental Findings

**2007**

#2007-173-BOG Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy – (*#162 Revised*)

#2007-172-BOG Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose

**2006**

#2006-171-BOG Resolution supporting a Moratorium on New Zoo Applications

#2006-170-BOG Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses

#2006-169-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-168-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-167-BOG Unit 16 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-166-BOG Unit 13 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-165-BOG Unit 12 and 20E Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-164-BOG Board of Game Bear Management and Conservation Policy

#2006-163-BOG Resolution Regarding Declining Fish and Wildlife Enforcement in Alaska

#2006-162-BOG Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy

#2006-161-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

## **2005**

- #2005-160-BOG Finding of Emergency: Methods of Harvest for Hunting Small Game in the Skilak Loop Special Management Area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- #2005-159-BOG Resolution in Support of Allowing Guides to Take Wolves while Under Contract to Clients
- #2005-158-BOG Resolution in Support of Public Education Program on Predator Control
- #2005-157-BOG Reauthorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
- #2005-156-BOG Supporting Joint Federal and State Deer Harvest Reporting
- #2005-155-BOG Supporting Governor's Lawsuit Against Federal Government; Extent and Reach of Subsistence Regulations in State Navigable Waters

## **2004**

- #2004-154-BOG Supporting Increasing Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees
- #2004-153-BOG Increase FY06 Budget for Boards of Fisheries and Game and State Advisory Committees
- #2004-152-BOG Predator Control in Portions of Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area
- #2004-151-BOG Bear Baiting Allocation
- #2004-150-BOG Authorizing Predator Control in Central Kuskokwim Area, Unit 19A
- #2004-149-BOG Signage for Traplines on Public Lands
- #2004-148-BOG Authorizing Predator Control in Western Cook Inlet, Unit 16B
- #2004-147-BOG Bear Conservation and Management Policy
- #2004-146-BOG Americans with Disabilities Act Exemptions

## **2003**

- #2003-145-BOG Authorization of Airborne Shooting in Unit 19D East Predation Control Program
- #2003-144-BOG Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
- #2003-143-BOG Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
- #2003-142-BOG Resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning a Statewide Bear Baiting Ballot Initiative
- #2003-141-BOG Request for Commissioner's Finding Regarding Same-Day-Airborne Wolf Hunting in Game Management Unit 13
- #2003-140-BOG Guidelines for a Unit 19D East Predation Control Program
- #2003-139-BOG A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning Management of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Mortality

## **2002**

- #2002-138-BOG Request to US Forest Service re: Management of Guided Brown Bear Hunting in Unit 4
- #2002-137-BOG Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings
- #2002-136A-BOG Unit 1D Brown Bear Drawing Hunt Finding
- #2002-136-BOG Government to Government Relations with Tribes in Alaska

## **2001**

#2001-135-BOG Resolution concerning Unit 19D-East Adaptive Management Team Work

## **2000**

#2000-134-BOG Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team Findings

#2000-133-BOG Habituation of Wildlife (unsigned – left in draft)

#2000-132-BOG Reaffirm Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process

#2000-131-BOG Finding of Emergency: Unit 19D-East (Wolf Control Implementation Plan)

#2000-130-BOG Resolution re: Support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999

## **1999**

#99-129-BOG Snow Machine Use in the Taking of Caribou

## **1998**

#98-128-BOG Findings on Elk Management in Region I

#98-127-BOG Findings on Commercial Guiding Activities in Alaska

#98-126-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 25B and Unit 25D

#98-125-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 21D

#98-124-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 18

#98-123-BOG Emergency Findings – Caribou in Unit 9

#98-122-BOG 1998 Intensive Management Findings: Interior Region

#98-121-BOG Findings: HB 168, Traditional Access

#98-120-BOG Resolution re: Ballot Initiative Banning Use of Snares

#98-119-BOG Trapping and Snaring of Wolves in Alaska

#98-118-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox in Northwest Unit 23

## **1997**

#97-117-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox on the Seward Peninsula

#97-116-BOG Dall Sheep Management in the Western Brooks Range

#97-115-BOG Resolution supporting Co-management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources

#97-114-BOG Resolution re: Dual Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources

#97-113-BOG Resolution re: Methods and Means of Harvesting Furbearers and Fur Animals Including Wolves

#97-112-BOG Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process

#97-111-BOG Finding to Include Unit 22 (except 22C) in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area

#97-110-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Stranded Musk Oxen

#97-109-BOG Findings re: Unit 16B-South Moose

#97-108-BOG Resolution re: Subsistence Division Budget

#97-107-BOG Findings re: Wanton Waste on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers

## **1996**

- #96-106-BOG Delegation of Authority re: Issuing Permits to Take Game for Public Safety Purposes
- #96-105-BOG Delegation of Authority to Implement Ballot Measure #3
- #96-104-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Western Arctic Caribou Herd
- #96-103-BOG Findings – Antlerless Moose in Unit 20A
- #96-102-BOG Findings – Nelchina Caribou Herd Management
- #96-101-BOG Findings – Intensive Management for GMU 19D East
- #96-100-BOG Establishment of the Nenana Controlled Use Area
- #96-99-BOG Moose Populations in Unit 26A
- #96-98-BOG Taking Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
- #96-97-BOG Forty Mile Caribou Herd Management Plan
- #96-96-BOG Finding of Emergency – Moose in Remainder of Unit 16B

## **1995**

- #95-95-BOG Resolution – Wildlife Diversity Initiative
- #95-94-BOG Resolution – Change Name of McNeil River State Game Refuge to Paint River State Game Refuge
- #95-93-BOG Requiring License Purchase in advance
- #95-92-BOG *Open Number*
- #95-91-BOG Delegation of Authority – Comply with Alaska Supreme Court Opinion in Kenaitze vs. State
- #95-90-BOG Board Travel Policy
- #95-89-BOG Findings – Noatak Controlled Use Area
- #95-88-BOG Delegation of Authority to Increase Bag Limits in Unit 18 for Mulchatna and Western Arctic Caribou Herds
- #95-87-BOG Subsistence Needs for Moose in Unit 16B
- #95-86-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 19D
- #95-85-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 20D
- #95-84-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 13
- #95-83-BOG Resolution: Subsistence Use on National Park Lands
- #95-82-BOG “No Net Loss” Policy for Hunting and Trapping Opportunities
- #95-81-BOG Resolution: Remove Federal Management of F&W on Public Lands and Waters
- #95-80-BOG Resolution to Legislature to Define Subsistence

## **1994**

- #94-80A-BOG Wolf Predation Control Program in Unit 20A
- #94-79-BOG Delegation to Commissioner to Adopt Regulations Resulting from Kenaitze Decision which Invalidates Nonsubsistence Areas
- #94-78-BOG Addendum to Findings on Unit 16B Moose
- #94-77-BOG Resolution on SB325 (Repeal Antlerless Moose Statute)

## **1993**

- #93-76-BOG Findings on McNeil River Refuge Bears
- #93-75-BOG Resolution on Adak Caribou
- #93-74-BOG Delegation of Authority for Permits to Take Furbearers with Game Meat

#93-73-BOG Delegation of Authority to Make Emergency Regulations Permanent, Moose in Unit 19D  
 #93-72-BOG Wolf Control Findings – Delta Area  
 #93-71-BOG Resolution on Round Island Walrus Hunt  
 #93-70-BOG Findings on Unit 16B Moose Seasons and Bag Limits  
 #93-69-BOG Resolution on Popof Island Bison  
 #93-68-BOG Resolution on Commercialization of Moose  
 #93-67-BOG Resolution on Elk Transplants in Southeast  
 #93-66-BOG Resolution on Clear-cut Management in the Tongass National Forest

**1992**

#92-65-BOG Findings in Units 12, 20B, D, and E on Wolves  
 #92-64-BOG Findings in Unit 20A Wolves  
 #92-63-BOG Findings in Unit 13 Wolves  
 #92-62-BOG Findings Wolf Area Specific Management Plans for Southcentral and Interior  
 #92-61-BOG Resolution on Unit 13 Moose  
 #92-60-BOG Findings Unit 13 Moose Seasons and Bag Limits  
 #92-59-BOG Findings Unit 19 A&B Moose – Holitna and Hoholitna Controlled Use Area  
 #92-58-BOG Findings on Kilbuck Caribou re Fall Hunt  
 #92-57-BOG Report of the Board of Game, Area Specific Management Plans for Wolves  
 #92-56-BOG Relating to Moose in GMUs 19A and 19B per Superior Court order in Sleetmute vs. State  
 #92-55-BOG Relating to Endorsement of State Closure of Deer Hunting in GMU 4 and Requesting Federal Closure

**1991**

#91-54-BOG Findings on Strategic Wolf Management Plan  
 #91-54a-BOG Relating to Kilbuck Caribou Management Plan  
 #91-53-BOG Relating to Taking of Walrus from Round Island by Residents of Togiak  
 #91-53a-BOG Board Direction to Committee for Strategic Wolf Plan  
 #91-52-BOG Findings on Unit 13 Moose Season and Bag Limits

**1990**

#90-51-BOG Delegation of Authority  
 #90-50-BOG Relating to the Reporting of Hunter Usage of Air Taxi Operations  
 #90-49-BOG Findings on Kwethluk Emergency Caribou Hunt Petition  
 #90-48-BOG Relating to the Use of Furbearers by Rural Alaskans, Including Alaska Natives  
 #90-47-BOG Relating to the Commercialization of Moose and other Wildlife  
 #90-46-BOG Relating to Destruction of Moose by the Alaska Railroad

**1989**

#89-45-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Waterfowl Regulations

**1988**

#88-44-BG Delegation of Authority for March 1988 Meeting  
#88-43-BG Resolution Supporting Funding for Division of Game

**1987**

#87-42d-BG Procedures for Delegations of Authority (Replacing #75-2-GB)  
#87-42c-BG Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors  
#87-42b-BG Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors Before Filing  
Regulations  
#87-42a-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (Replacing #75-3-GB)

**1986**

#86-41-BG Finding of Emergency: New State Subsistence Law  
#86-40-BG Delegation of Authority

**1985**

#85-39-GB Resolution on Resources v/s Logging  
#85-38-GB Findings: Madison vs. State Requirements  
#85-37-GB Lime Village Management Area Findings  
#85-36-GB Findings: Waterfowl hunting in and near Palmer Hayflats

**1984**

#84-35-GB Resolution on Waterfowl Stamp  
#84-34-GB Transplant of Musk Ox to Nunivak Island

**1983**

#83-33-GB Resolution on Guide Board  
#83-32-GB Findings on Moose in GMU 16B

**1982**

#82-31-GB Supplement to Wolf Population Control

**1981**

#81-30-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Nelchina Caribou  
#81-29-GB Finding and Policy for Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou  
Herd  
#81-28-GB Letter of Intent: Wolf Reduction in Alaska

**1980**

#80-27-GB Letter of Intent Regarding Use of Alaska's Game for Religious Ceremony  
#80-26-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Bowhunting  
#80-25-GB Standing Committee II on Deer  
#80-24-GB Regarding Advisory Committee Coordinators

## **1979**

#79-23-GB Authorization to Export Animals from Alaska  
#79-22-GB Staff Directive to Subsistence Section  
#79-21-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4  
#79-20-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4  
#79-19-GB Brown Bear, GMU 4  
#79-18-GB Relating to Muskoxen

## **1978**

#78-18-GB Statement of Direction: Use of Airplanes in Controlling Predation by Wolves  
#78-17-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources  
#78-16-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

## **1977**

#77-15-GB Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Address Petitions  
#77-14-GB Repeal of Regulations Relating to Registration of Camps by Guides for Hunting Bears  
#77-13-GB Regarding Closed Season for Caribou (rescinded November 30, 1977)  
#77-12-GB Regarding the 17(d)(2) Land Settlement

## **1976**

#76-11-GB Trapping Wolves by ADF&G  
#76-10-GB Request for Public Safety Involvement in Enforcement of Caribou Regulations  
#76-9-GB Management Goal: Western Arctic Caribou  
#76-8-GB Export of Live Game Animals Outside of Alaska  
#76-7-GB Musk Ox to Anchorage Children's Zoo (rescinded November 30, 1977)  
#76-6-GB Taking of Wolves by Helicopter  
#76-5-GB Regarding the Taking of Wolves in Units 23 and 26A

## **1975**

#75-4-GB Endorsement of Trapping as a Legitimate Use of Renewable Resources  
#75-3-GB Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (See #87-42a-GB)  
#75-2-GB Procedures for Delegations of Authority (See #87-42d-GB)  
#75-1-GB Effectuating Delegation of Authority



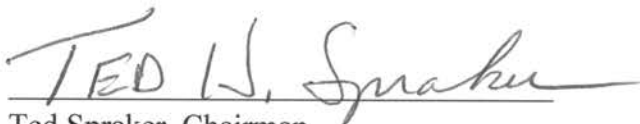
ALASKA JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME

CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD-GENERATED PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that criteria need to be established to guide the Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, Board of Fisheries, and Board of Game (boards) members when deliberating on whether or not to develop a board-generated proposal. The boards will consider the following criteria when deliberating the proposed development and scheduling of a board-generated proposal:

1. Is it in the public's best interest (e.g., access to resource, consistent intent, public process)?
2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?
3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board's attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?
4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?

Findings adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013.



Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game  
Vote: 6-0



Karl Johnstone, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Vote: 7-0

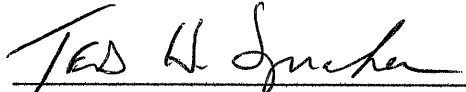
**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2013-202-BOG  
Board Direction to the Department of Fish and Game  
Provided during the Southcentral Region Meeting  
March 19, 2013**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department of Fish and Game staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board directed the department to take the following actions:

1. Unit 14C sheep, expand the DS123 hunt area to include Ram Valley and Falls Creek drainage.
2. Establish a human-caused mortality quota of no more than 70 brown bears per calendar year beginning after January 1, 2014, for Units 7 and 15.

Vote: 7-0  
March 19, 2013  
Kenai, Alaska

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game  
2012-198-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,  
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Expiration Date: June 30, 2016**

**Purposes of Policy**

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

**Goals**

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as trophy, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

**Background**

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, trophy species for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, problem animals in rural and urban settings, and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board and the Department will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing opportunities.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps, and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears has

been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management problems. The department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. Statewide, an average of about six bear encounters a year result in injuries to people. Most attacks now occur in suburban areas and do not involve hunters. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. An average of about 1,500 brown and grizzly bears is harvested each year. The trend has been increasing, probably because of both increased demand for bear hunting and increasing bear numbers. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g. Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department have begun to take a more active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, but the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

### **Brown and grizzly bears**

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62<sup>nd</sup> parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after as trophy species and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have

expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (450 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1,420 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (100 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (12 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g. Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

### **Black bears**

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (175 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (750 bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi<sup>2</sup>).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also important as trophy animals, predators of moose calves, and for their fur. The Board recently classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders), and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if trophy quality of bears is to be preserved, and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

### **Guiding Principles**

**The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:**

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
3. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
6. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
7. Primarily manage most brown bear populations to maintain trophy quality, especially in Game Managements 1 through 6, and 8 through 10.
8. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
9. Simplify hunting regulations for bears, and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.

10. Recognize the increasing value of brown bears as a trophy species and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
11. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

### **Conservation and Management Policy**

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as a trophy species, food animals, or for viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily as trophy animals, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. However in some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

#### **Monitoring Harvest and Population Size**

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and trophy quality is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

### **Managing Predation by Bears**

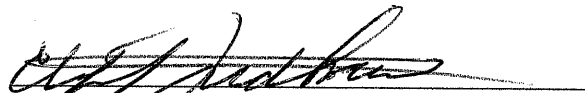
In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255 the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may elect to work with the Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons, or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state, and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: 7-0  
March 9, 2012  
Anchorage, Alaska

  
Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game




**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2012-192-BOG  
Subunit 15C Moose  
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
January 18, 2012**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Subunit 15C. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and 5AAC 92.125.

1. The moose in Subunit 15C has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 2,500 - 3,500 moose and an intensive management harvest objective of 200 - 350 moose annually for the herd.
2. The population size of the Subunit 15C moose herd is currently estimated to be 2,919 moose ( $\pm$  277) which is within the intensive management population size objective of 2,500 – 3,500 moose.
3. The harvestable surplus of moose in Subunit 15C is currently estimated at about 180 moose, which is less than the harvest objective of 200 – 350. The harvest objective was not achieved in 2011.
4. Low moose calf recruitment has resulted in a reduction in harvestable moose that is predicted to continue without intensive management, and additional hunting restrictions in 2011 further reduced the harvest to only 23 bulls. The bull:cow ratio measured in 2010 and 2011 was 9 bulls and 14 bulls:100 cows respectively and remains below objectives of 20 bulls:100 cows. The decreased moose harvest from Subunit 15C has resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.
5. Recovery of the bull:cow ratio in Subunit 15C to provide adequate harvest will be prolonged unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment.
6. Habitat is not suspected as a limiting factor. Nevertheless, harvest objectives were not achieved in 2011 because of substantial harvest restrictions. Wolf and bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Mortality from predation has contributed to both the problems with calf recruitment and low bull/cow ratios. Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
7. Increases in moose recruitment and abundance in the Subunit 15C population are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management techniques including predator control in combination with recent habitat improvement from forestry practices, wild land fires and land clearing by land owners.

8. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to help achieve and help maintain a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: 7-0  
January 18, 2012  
Anchorage, Alaska

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2012-191-BOG  
Subunit 15A Moose  
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings  
January 18, 2012**


The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Subunit 15A. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and 5AAC 92.125.

1. The moose in Subunit 15A has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 3,000 - 3,500 moose and an intensive management harvest objective of 180 - 350 moose annually for the herd.
2. The population size of the Subunit 15A moose herd is currently estimated to be 2,088 moose ( $\pm 264$ ) which is lower than the intensive management population size objective of 3,000 – 3,500 moose. The population size objective had not been achieved during the past 12 years.
3. The harvestable surplus of moose in Subunit 15A is currently estimated at about 104 moose, which is less than the harvest objective of 180 – 350. The harvest objective has not been achieved during the last 10 years.
4. The moose population in Subunit 15A remains depleted due, in part, to poor calf survival. The poor survival of calves on all lands has resulted in low calf recruitment, which is measured in the fall using calf:cow ratios. Fall calf:cow ratios have ranged between 13 to 31 calves per 100 cows since 2001.
5. The low moose calf recruitment has resulted in a lack of harvestable moose, and additional hunting restrictions in 2011 further reduced the harvest to only 4 bulls. The absence of moose harvest from Subunit 15A has resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.
6. Recovery of the moose population in Subunit 15A will be prolonged unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment. Because the majority of calves are born on Refuge lands managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service management actions designed to significantly increase calf survival should be conducted on both state and Refuge lands.
7. Habitat and predation are the main limiting factors. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf and bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Mortality from predation has contributed to both the problems with calf recruitment and low bull/cow ratios.

and these lands are available for bear control. Total land available for bear control is 72–74 percent of the unit.

7. Reducing predation is in the best interests of subsistence users because no harvest is currently taking place. An increase in the population that results in sustainable harvest will benefit all Alaska residents.

Vote: 7-0  
January 18, 2012  
Anchorage, Alaska



Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game  
2011-185-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY  
(Policy duration: Date of finding through June 30, 2016.  
This policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and
4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

## Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases, seasons will be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September and April, and opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

## Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are declared "depleted" or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced and these

populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish before an adequate level of population control is achieved. In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

#### Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

#### Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

#### References Cited

- Boertje, Rodney D.; Valkenburg, Patrick, and McNay, Mark E. 1996. Increases in moose, caribou, and wolves following wolf control in Alaska. *Journal of wildlife management*. 1996; 60(3):474-489.
- Boertje, R. D., K. K. Kellie, C. T. Seaton, M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, B. W. Dale, L. G. Adams, A. R. Aderman. 2007. Ranking Alaska moose nutrition: signals to begin liberal antlerless moose harvests. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71(5): 1494-1506.
- Boertje, R. D., M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, K. A. Kellie, and C. T. Seaton. 2009. Managing for elevated yields of moose in Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 73 (3): 314-327.

National Research Council. 1997. Wolves, bears, and their prey in Alaska. National Academy Press, Wash., D.C.

Vote: 6-0-1

March 25, 2011

Anchorage, Alaska



Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game



**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game  
2011-184-BOG**

**Game Management Unit 13  
Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses**

These findings supplement 2006-170-BOG as to uses of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose. In the 2006 finding, the Board indentified the specific pattern of subsistence uses upon which the positive customary and traditional use finding for Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose, set forth in 5 AAC 99.025, were based. This pattern of uses originated within the communities of the indigenous Ahtna Athabascan inhabitants of the Copper River Basin. Among other things, the findings emphasized the “community-based” nature of this traditional pattern of use. As described in those findings, this community-based subsistence pattern:

- Links families in widespread networks of sharing that are shaped by traditional norms of behavior;
- Provides a context in which skills, knowledge, and values are passed across generations; is accomplished efficiently with thorough, non-wasteful use of the harvested game and often by hunters who specialize in harvesting meat for the community; and
- Occurs within a broader pattern of use of and dependence upon a variety of locally-harvested wild foods that is a key element of the way of life of the local area.

The board has also noted that this community-based pattern as established by the Ahtna has been adopted and modified by other local settlers and, to a more limited degree, by other Alaska residents. This community-based, local use pattern was contrasted to a largely nonlocal, Rail belt based pattern that was probably most properly characterized as a non-subsistence use pattern. Thus, the 2006 findings addressed and discussed two basic use patterns for Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose.

The Board finds that there is need to recognize the range of uses within the previously-described subsistence use pattern that have developed as individuals, families, and other social groups, both within and outside the local area, have adapted to changing economic, demographic, and cultural conditions. Differences have developed concerning the level of organization of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose, such that the traditional uses are practiced among households and families in addition to the community-based pattern established by the Ahtna. The Ahtna community-based pattern persists within close-knit communities that are also widespread both within and outside the basin. Other basin residents and some nonlocal residents who are not part of the traditional Ahtna community engage in subsistence uses at a more individual, household, or extended family level. Both sub-patterns exhibit, with some variation, most of the criteria listed in 5 AAC 99.010(b), but different regulatory options may be necessary to provide reasonable opportunities for each. The range of uses that characterize these sub-patterns are as follows.

Since the beginning of the towns and settlement areas within the range, or with easy access to, the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose, individuals, households, and families from

those towns and settlements have hunted the herd to provide for their basic necessities of life, especially food, and not just for recreational or trophy purposes. This relatively small use is not community based in nature, in that these individuals, households, and families are not linked to extensive networks of cooperation and sharing or are not part of larger social groups that organize and promote traditional knowledge and behavior, but is focused primarily on procuring food and has, as of the date of these findings, existed now for at least three generations in some of these areas. As set forth in greater detail below, this use has at least a few identifiable characteristics which separate it from the larger Rail belt based, non-subsistence use patterns.

Since at least the early 1930's, hunting of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose have been regulated by season and bag limits. Nonlocal hunters interviewed in the 1980's by the Subsistence Division of ADF&G confirmed that most hunt in the fall, with fewer participating in winter hunts. All hunters currently tend to focus their harvest efforts during the late summer and early fall, when caribou and moose are in their best physical condition and relatively accessible from the road system. Winter hunts have been an important back-up opportunity for the community based subsistence use pattern described in the 2006 findings, and may also be relied on by other subsistence users, to a somewhat lesser extent. The winter hunts do not appear to be important to non-subsistence users.

Regarding efficiency of hunting effort, the Board has not been presented with any information that would distinguish non-local subsistence users from other users based primarily from the Rail belt. Compared to community-based and other local users who hunt close to home, non-local users tend to travel greater distances (typically 200-300 miles), thereby incurring greater costs, to harvest Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose, making their use less efficient. However, data from the 1980's illustrates that even non-local subsistence users tend to hunt in the areas most accessible to their communities. Thus, Fairbanks-area hunters tended to hunt near the Denali Highway, and Anchorage-area hunters tended to hunt near the Glenn Highway. Also, efficiency by non-community based subsistence users may be fostered to some extent by limiting hunting to a few well-known areas year after year, within relatively easy, and predictably economical, reach of participants.

Non-local subsistence users of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose and others who are not organized at the community-level have testified, and Board members know from experience, that they prefer to return year-by-year to one or more well-known and long-established camping/hunting sites. These are traditional "caribou," "moose," or "caribou and moose" camps for these individuals and their families. If caribou or moose are not obtained during these forays, chances are they will not be obtained at all because subsistence users, unlike non-subsistence users, tend not to travel around the state to experience a wide variety of hunting opportunities. Unlike subsistence users who are organized at the community level, many other users tend to travel further into the backcountry, away from major roads and rivers, often using off-road vehicles to get to the remotest locations possible.

The Board has not been presented with any information that would distinguish the handling, preparing, preserving, and storing techniques used by individuals, households, families outside the traditional community-based context to distinguish them from their neighbors who hunt for recreation. Most users of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose based along the Rail belt

freeze their harvested meat and use modern methods of handling, preparing, preservation, and storage. Compared to those who follow traditions established by the Ahtna and adopted by some other users, there is less use of organ meats, and almost no use of the hide and bones; and the roles in handling and preparing harvested animals are less formal and not based on longstanding, widely-understood rules of proper behavior towards the animals taken, as is the case for those who follow the Ahtna, community-based traditions.

Because households and families engaged in subsistence uses tend to hunt from long-established, multi-generational camps, lore about how and where to hunt is handed down from generation to generation. This intergenerational transmission of knowledge is less formalized than the way knowledge is passed on within the Ahtna community based use pattern, but it is more apparent and traditional than is the case for non-subsistence uses, in which knowledge is clearly passed from one generation to the next but very little in the way of a formal and traditional transmission system exists, and knowledge is not necessarily tied to any particular location.

All subsistence users tend to share their harvests within their families and with close friends and, to some extent, this sharing is expected from year to year, and plays parts in traditional meals and celebrations. Non-local hunters interviewed by the Division of Subsistence in the 1980's confirmed that they shared mostly within their own households, while approximately 1/3 also said they shared with friends. Sharing among nonlocal hunters, as well as among some hunters who live in the local area, is less formal than is true under the community based use pattern as practiced by the Ahtna and some other local residents, and community and peer pressure to share is far less pronounced, but it is greater than is generally the case for the non-subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose. Some long-established families living in close proximity to, and with a well-established history of hunting the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose, do expect that, if a family member successfully harvests a Nelchina caribou, the meat will be shared.

Some nonlocal hunters have testified that, as is generally the case in a subsistence use pattern, they prefer to consume wild foods over purchased foods, and often obtain the majority of their protein needs from Alaska's fish and game resources, as well as pick berries and harvest other wild foods. These preferences are sometimes expressed by non-subsistence hunters as well. Such users often travel to different, favored locations to harvest fish and game and other wild foods, but many of these locations are outside of the range of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and/or Unit 13 moose. Most non-local residents interviewed by the Division of Subsistence in the 1980's reported that moose was more important than caribou in their harvesting priorities, and often travelled to other locations to obtain moose. Locally-based users, on the other hand, tend to concentrate all of their wild food harvests in close proximity to the herd's range, and often try to harvest more than one resource per trip. Non-subsistence users tend to rely on wild foods to a much lesser degree, or not at all, compared to both groups of subsistence users.

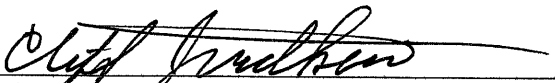
Based on public testimony provided during the Board's last several meetings addressing the Nelchina Caribou Herd, on the Board's own experience, and on the above finding and 2006-170-BOG, the Board, applying its expertise and judgment, concludes that, at most, a few thousand people use the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose in accordance with the identified subsistence use patterns, and that, therefore, a range of 600-1000 caribou and 300-600

moose are necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for both identified subsistence uses of this herd. This finding may be updated as appropriate and as additional data on the uses is gathered.

Vote: 6-1

March 7, 2011

Wasilla, Alaska

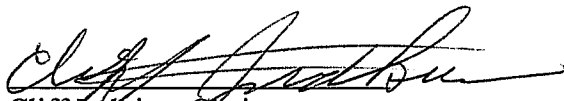
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

Finding for the Alaska Board of Game  
2007-173-BOG

Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy  
March 12, 2007

At the March 2007, Southcentral/Southwest Region meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Game modified the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, #2006-162-BOG, by adding item #4 to the guidelines that shall be applied when determining the allocation percentage for drawing permits to nonresidents:

1. Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years.
2. Each client shall provide proof of having a signed guide-client agreement when applying for permits.
3. Contracting guides shall be registered in the area prior to the drawing.
4. When a guide signs a guide-client agreement, the guide is providing guiding services and therefore must be registered for the use area at that time.



Cliff Jenkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0  
Amended: March 12, 2007  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2006-170-BOG**

**Game Management Unit 13  
Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses**

**Background**

Virtually since its inception, the Tier II subsistence permit system has been plagued with public complaints about inequities, unfairness, and false applications. Over the years, the Alaska Board of Game (Board) has amended its regulations numerous times to try to address management and legal problems, but the controversy continues and the system remains rife with problems. Public complaints have been primarily directed at the Tier II permitting system—particularly those near urban areas like the Minto moose hunt and the Nelchina Tier II caribou hunt.

The Board has primarily focused on the Nelchina basin caribou and moose hunts because these have generated the vast majority of the interest and complaints from the general public. In addition, Board members are concerned the hunting patterns no longer meet the Board's intent when these subsistence hunts were originally established in regulation. A review of these hunts question whether the current hunts are consistent with the Board's customary and traditional use findings based on the eight criteria the Joint Boards of Fish and Game established (5 AAC 99.010) for implementing the state subsistence law (AS 16.05.258(a)).

Statistics associated with the Nelchina caribou hunt illustrate some troubling trends. Permits have been slowly shifting away from local Alaskan residents the Board identified as the most dependent on the wildlife resources in the region and towards less subsistence dependent urban residents. Testimony from some local residents of Unit 13 indicated they no longer participated in the state subsistence program. The present Tier II scoring and permit allocation system has made it more difficult for long-time, resource-dependent residents of the area to compete for permits, forcing them to rely more heavily on the federal system to provide for subsistence opportunities. The system also makes it almost impossible for area newcomers and younger Alaskans to ever qualify for the limited permits despite their subsistence dependence on wildlife resources for food. In addition, many of the traditions associated with a subsistence way of life are being sidestepped and avoided, such as the traditional teaching of the art of hunting, fishing and trapping to younger generations; and the processing, utilization, and other long-term social and cultural relationships to the resources being harvested and to the land that produces those resources.

The Board's long-term goal is to design a system to accommodate subsistence-dependent users in such a manner that permits can be virtually guaranteed from year to year. The reliability of available hunting opportunities is critical to the maintenance of the subsistence way of life. This could be similar and complementary to the federal subsistence permit system. The federal program allows any Alaska resident living in the Copper Basin and several communities outside

of GMU 13 to harvest two caribou and one moose per year, there is no limit per household except in Unit 13(E) for moose, harvest of caribou by gender is also generally unrestricted in units 13(A) and 13(B), and moose hunters may only take any antlered bull under the federal system.

Bag limits may not be accumulated across both state and federal systems, so hunters can take a total of only one moose and two caribou for the year. State regulations allow all Alaskan residents to harvest a bull moose with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines on at least one side from September 1 – 20. In addition, up to 150 Tier II permits are issued for any bull moose, August 15 – 31, with only one permit being allowed per household. The moose seasons for federally qualified users on federally-managed lands are much longer from August 1 – September 20.

Under the state system, all caribou permits are issued under Tier II regulations and were limited to 3 per household. The Board recently changed the limit to 2 per household. The bag limit is one caribou, although in recent years, harvest under state regulation has been limited to bulls only. The caribou season for federally qualified users on federal land is 10 days longer in the fall, ending September 30 rather than September 20.

State regulations do not jeopardize a qualified federal subsistence hunter from hunting under a federal permit. However, if there are too many state applicants, controlling statutes mandate that permits be issued under the Tier II criteria, with all of its attendant problems.

The Board intends to explore subsistence hunt provisions that reflect and accommodate the customary and traditional use patterns of Nelchina caribou and moose in Game Management Unit (GMU) 13, while distinguishing those uses from other uses.

In accordance with the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game eight criteria for implementing the state subsistence law, the following findings are made:

### **Findings**

When the Board originally determined there were customary and traditional uses of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and moose in GMU 13, it recognized these subsistence uses were established by Ahtna Athabascan communities within the Copper River basin, and were later adopted by other Alaska residents. Due to the importance of, and high level of competition for subsistence permits in this area, the Board has undertaken, as precisely as possible, the task to identify the particular characteristics of these customary and traditional use patterns. Although they have changed over time due to limited access associated with demographic, economic, and technological factors, the patterns are characterized by traditional fall and winter hunting seasons, efficient methods and means, thorough use of most of the harvested animal, harvest areas traditionally associated with local communities, traditions about harvesting and uses that are passed between generations orally and through practice, and reliance on other subsistence resources from within these same traditional harvest areas

**Criterion 1. A long-term consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over a reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.**

This criterion presupposes that an identifiable, consistent “pattern” of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance is characteristic of subsistence use. The Board finds, even though there are many similarities among all users of the moose and caribou resources in the area, there continue to be identifiable distinctions, constituting a unique pattern of subsistence use, that is traceable in direct line back to the original Ahtna Athabascan and later non-native customary and traditional use.

The Board has concluded that the pattern of moose and caribou subsistence use for this region was originally defined by the Ahtna Athabascan residents and then adopted and modified by other local settlers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This pattern of use was established over many generations and focused on the total aggregate of fish, wildlife, and plant resources locally available to the area residents.

The greatest dependency on subsistence resources occurred prior to the completion of the existing road system in the 1940s. After about 1950, historical use patterns changed rapidly, especially with the introduction of more mechanized access methods. The mobility of the subsistence and non-subsistence users, the availability of seasonal and part-time employment, increased human populations, increasing competition for wildlife resources, and fluctuating game populations (particularly moose and caribou) caused major shifts in subsistence dependency of people within and adjacent to the region. Nevertheless, aspects of the traditional Ahtna Athabascan use pattern are present today, but subsistence-dependent families engaged in that pattern now account for a smaller percentage of all users than a half-century ago.

Most of the long-term subsistence patterns in this area are community-based. The area's communities tend to be long-established, by Alaskan standards, and the residents of these communities tend to be long-term residents, descending from multi-generational families with long ties to the area. These communities tend to exhibit a use of local resources that stretches back to well before Euroamerican contact. In contrast, the use pattern based out of nearby urban areas tends to involve much more recently established communities, a high degree of turnover among residents, short-term residency and, generally, a relatively brief history of use.

**Criterion 2. A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.**

Local communities established a tradition of hunting caribou, moose, and other big game species in the late summer and early fall following subsistence fishing, and again hunting in the winter as fresh meat was needed and game was available. Winter hunts have always been critical to subsistence users, as very few other subsistence resources are available during this time. This need for, and use of, winter hunting opportunities is different from use patterns developed by residents of Alaska's more developed and urban areas, where almost all big game hunting takes place exclusively in the fall and is controlled largely by regulations. Thus, as late as 1984, over 60% of the caribou harvest taken by local residents was taken during the winter. Recent changes in that pattern can be largely attributed to regulatory changes, competition from non-local



hunters and shifting migratory patterns of the caribou herd. The seasonal use pattern was based on the traditional Ahtna seasonal movements and the general availability of game. For example, the fall hunt traditionally followed the salmon harvest, whereas the winter hunt took place whenever meat was needed and game was available.

**Criterion 3. A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.**

Before the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Ahtna Athabascan hunters tended to rely on boat access along the area's major waterways in fall, on foot along established trails, and by dog team along winter trails after freeze-up. With the opening up of the Nelchina basin to highway access, and the introduction of off-road vehicles, snowmachines, four-wheelers, and other transportation innovations, a shift in the use pattern occurred. Now, local residents tend to utilize roads as hunting corridors in place of rivers in the fall, and use snowmachines to access the backcountry in winter. Recently, expensive off-road vehicles have been purchased and used by many non-local users and a few more affluent local residents in an attempt to compete with non-local hunters and to increase their opportunity for success. The use of all terrain vehicles may create their own hunting efficiencies as hunting effort and transportation take advantage of labor-saving devices. Hunting methods have changed over the last 75 years. Automobiles, snowmachines, and less expensive all terrain vehicles may make hunting more effective because local and non-local residents can now cover larger areas when hunting caribou or moose. Local hunters can, when animals are available, make relatively short trips that fit into a contemporary work schedule. On the other hand, the use of highway, off-road, and similar vehicles has promoted more frequent short trips with considerable transportation costs for depreciation, fuel, and maintenance. What are being lost are the multi-resource harvest efficiencies associated with long subsistence-oriented summer and fall camping trips traditionally engaged in by Ahtna communities. Thus, recent transportation improvements and fuel prices may have changed traditional subsistence activities to the point where it is unlikely that there is a positive cost/benefit (from an economic standpoint) associated with some of the hunting techniques, especially in cases involving the use of expensive recreational motor vehicles. Overall, the use of some motorized vehicles such as ATVs has blurred the distinction between true customary and traditional patterns and recreational activities.

Residents of local communities—those with the longest histories of use of moose and caribou in the region—have traditionally traveled shorter distances to hunt than do non-local participants; and generally utilize less technology in doing so. Most Ahtna elders testified they still prefer to walk in to hunting areas and maintain permanent camps, whenever possible, in accordance with longstanding means and methods. On the other hand, most non-local users must travel at least 125 miles just to get to the area and have tended to be reliant on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), aircraft and other expensive off-road and recreational vehicles.

As late as 1984, Copper Basin residents utilized only highway vehicles for hunting access over 65% of the time. It is the Board's conclusion that many of these newer technologies have been adopted based on a perceived need to compete with technologically-oriented recreational hunters from Alaska's urban areas. This may be a direct effect of the 1984 regulations.

Historically, much of the taking of caribou, moose, and small game was done as part of a seasonal round of subsistence activities throughout defined areas used by the community. Family dependence on these resources required a commitment of considerable time and effort to accumulate adequate subsistence resources to meet annual protein requirements and other customary and traditional uses.

Another example of subsistence efficiency in the customary and traditional use pattern has been that specialized hunters tend to provide for the community at large, sometimes or often taking more than necessary for their own family's use in their capacities as community providers, and to fulfill social and cultural obligations. Community subsistence activities are then divided among members and further introduced into traditional patterns of barter and exchange. Thus, some harvest and others process, distribute, receive and utilize the results of the harvest. Each member of the community has a defined role and specialty.

A third example of subsistence efficiency, historically, has been the effort to keep hunting as close to home as reasonably possible, minimizing cost and effort necessary to obtain the wild food resources needed by families and communities. The Board believes that, if competition among users can be reduced, this efficiency is likely to be easier for subsistence users to realize.

In these community efforts, special emphasis has been placed on allowing the maximum opportunity to harvest as many animals and the widest variety of useable species as efficiently as possible. Emphasis was also placed on food gathering activities and other traditions associated with Ahtna Athabascan communities.

**Criterion 4. The area in which the noncommercial long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock or game population has been established.**

The Board is examining the area where the subsistence hunting of big and small game occurred prior to the significant change in uses and activities that occurred after approximately 1950 in Game Management Unit 13.

Subsistence uses involve an intimate and exclusive relationship between the user and a very particular set of places generally in close proximity to the hunter's residence. The user is tied to the land. Other types of uses do not exhibit these close, long-term, multi-generational ties to a particularly locality. Even as late as 1981, hunters from Copper Basin communities did not report traveling out of the basin to hunt, while urban-based hunters named alternative areas if they could not hunt Nelchina caribou and moose. Testimony from Ahtna elders emphasized their reliance on local fish and game, and their reluctance, for practical and cultural reasons, to travel outside of their traditional areas for subsistence purposes. Likewise, they described the longstanding family and community use histories and patterns for such areas. Consistently, lifelong residents of the local areas did not share the attitude of utilizing other areas. When Nelchina caribou were not available to them they either added emphasis on moose, and/or use of the Mentasta caribou herd. Resident lake fish species and small game were other alternatives commonly mentioned as alternative and supplemental wild food resources. Families in the range of the Nelchina caribou who harvested little or no wild game mentioned receiving donated meat as an alternative. This differs markedly from the use patterns found in Alaska's urban areas,

where traveling to, and exploring, new game country is deemed a virtue and an essential part of many outdoor experiences.

The Ahtna pattern exhibits a familiarity with terrain and landscape including the associated history of the region transmitted through oral traditions and Ahtna geographic placenames.

**Criterion 5. A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.**

The traditional pattern has been to salvage and use all parts of the harvested animal, in conformance with traditions prohibiting waste. Lifelong residents of the Copper Basin testified they still practice their traditional methods of harvest by retrieving the entire carcass and all bones, hide, head, heart, liver, kidneys, stomach, and fat. Only the antlers were often left behind. This also differs from patterns based out of urban areas, where hunters tend to focus on the meat and antlers, usually leaving most organs, bones, and the hide in the field.

Ahtna elders also emphasized that preparation and storage are viewed as essential components of their overall use. Women traditionally look forward to practicing their roles as preparers and preservers of harvested game every bit as much as men looking forward to harvesting and providing the game. These traditions and roles are passed on by older relatives to younger family members through in-the-field training and a system of *engii* (rules of appropriate behavior or taboos) that teach traditional means of harvest, handling, and preparation. These “engiis” emphasize traditional Ahtna views of the human place within the natural world and a respectful treatment of animals.

**Criterion 6. A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.**

The Board has concluded that the subsistence traditions of handing down the hunting and fishing knowledge, values and skills through family oriented experiences are an important aspect of the subsistence way of life in this region. Providing the opportunities for the young and old to participate in subsistence activities is critical to the perpetuation of traditional knowledge about hunting locations, hunting methods, methods of handling harvests, and respectful treatment of wildlife. To increase hunting opportunities for youth, a recent provision adopted by the Board allows a resident hunter between the ages of 10 and 17 to hunt on behalf of a resident permit holder. The youth hunter must have completed a certified Basic Hunter Education course and be in direct supervision of the permit holder, who is responsible for ensuring all legal requirements are met.

Ahtna elders have passed this knowledge on to the next generation in the context of community-based traditions that included relatively long summer and fall camping trips described above. As mentioned previously, teaching roles and lessons tend to be more formalized through the system of “engiis” than is the case for uses based out of the urban areas. Skills emphasized included not only those needed to harvest each species, but also the art of field preparation and care for a wide

variety of species and the utilization, preparation, and distribution of game. Most local users learned how to hunt in the local area from other family members in the local area. Most older, local users have also taught other family members. On the other hand, most non-local users learn about hunting in the area by personal experience or from fellow non-local, unrelated hunters. Also, non-local users tend to be controlled primarily by applicable statutes and regulations rather than long-term oral traditions and community-based values.

The Board considers it extremely important to stress the need to pass on skills and knowledge associated with utilization of all parts of the animal taken, as well as preservation of the traditional, cultural rules and family values associated with these subsistence users in this area. Field skills need to be perpetuated for handling not only the meat but the hides, internal organs, stomach, and intestines. This is consistent with the customary practice of maximizing the use of animals taken characteristic of subsistence uses.

**Criterion 7. A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.**

Widespread community-wide sharing is customary in local communities, involving all family members, elders, others in need, and taking place in formal settings such as during ceremonial potlaches. As such, sharing has associated social, cultural, and economic roles in the community. Sharing is expected and follows well-understood community standards that are structured on kinship relations and obligations. As an example, young hunters are required by Athabascan tradition to give all or most of their first harvested animal to elders and others in need. Also, traditional barter and exchange follow these standards. Successful Ahtna harvesters traditionally share some of their moose and caribou meat with other families and communities to meet their social obligations and for ceremonial purposes. This, again, is in contrast to the uses arising out of the urban areas where hunters are completely free to share, or not share, as they see fit and there is not a system of sharing, barter, and exchange. In addition to the key social and cultural roles of sharing in the local rural community, sharing of subsistence resources plays a key economic role in distributing essential food supplies throughout the community. The Board has concluded it is imperative to accommodate the customary and traditional family and community harvest sharing practices as part of the subsistence way of life to the maximum extent possible.

Use of the state authorized proxy system has provided a limited opportunity for individuals to harvest for permittees who are personally incapable of participating in the field but who have a personal history of subsistence use. Proxy hunters are not required to fully accommodate the customary and traditional practices. Non-local users, on the other hand, tend to have few established rules or traditions requiring sharing, and seldom share outside of their own households. External sharing, when it occurs, is usually with friends and co-workers, and extensive kinship networks are absent. There are no non-local traditions of community-wide meat distribution.

**Criterion 8. A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of the fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.**

The Board has concluded it is critical to emphasize the values associated with the reliance and dependence on a wide variety of fish and wildlife resources as an important element of the subsistence way of life for this region. Subsistence use patterns historically required a significant dedication of time and effort towards the harvesting of adequate fish and game resources to meet the protein and nutritional requirements of the subsistence harvesters, their families, and their communities.


This differs markedly from the more recreational type of uses arising out of the Alaska's more urban areas, where a single, focused effort to harvest only one resource in any given location, and then salvage only what is legally required from that resource, tends to be a predominant characteristic. To the extent that other foodstuffs are harvested, they are often harvested in completely separate areas, far removed from the fall hunting area. Also, different hunting areas are explored in different years. This separation of the interconnected diversity of resource uses also seriously undermines the principles reflected in Criterion 3. As more and more emphasis is placed on single species harvesting patterns, cost is increased, and efficiency is reduced. Such practices do not reflect the customary and traditional use pattern.

Reliance on most, or all, locally available sources of wild food is characteristic of a traditional subsistence way of life where maximum economic and nutritional benefits typically must be derived from the hunt and harvests. The local harvest of salmon has historically been the most important wildlife resource in terms of useable pounds per subsistence-dependent family in Unit 13. Alaska residents are allowed to use a fish wheel in the Copper River between Slana and the Copper River bridge at Chitina to harvest salmon—permits are issued free of charge. The limit is 500 total salmon for a household with two or more members and 200 for a household with one member, with no limit on the number of Chinook salmon in the total harvest by fish wheel. The salmon run in the Copper River is primarily comprised of sockeye and Chinook salmon.

Use of moose and caribou by local communities is embedded in a wide range of other fish and wildlife uses. It is also embedded in a mixed, subsistence-cash economy characterized by seasonal employment and relatively low cash incomes. A wide variety of subsistence foods are still critically important in these local economies. Almost all hunting, fishing, and gathering takes place locally and the majority of meat and fish consumed tends to come from local sources.

Big game species are taken for food and not for their trophy value by families engaged in subsistence uses. The Board may undertake efforts to reduce or eliminate the trophy values of the resources taken to focus entirely on the inherent subsistence values.

Vote: 6/0  
November 12, 2006  
Anchorage, Alaska

  
Ron Somerville, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

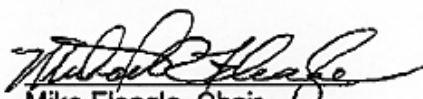
**Alaska Board of Game  
2003-139-BOG**

**A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning  
Management of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Mortality.**

**Be it resolved** that the Board of Game recommends that the Department manage brown bears in Game Management Units 7 and 15 so that total human-caused mortality does not exceed twenty bears per year.

Vote: 7-0

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003  
Anchorage, Alaska



Mike Fleagle, Chair  
Alaska Board of Game