

**BOARD OF GAME  
CENTRAL/SOUTHWEST REGION  
NUSHAGAK AC Comments  
February 8 – 15, 2013**

*Dillingham Area - Unit 17*

**PROPOSAL NO. 45**      **Carried**      **ACTION: Supported - Unanimous**

**DESCRIPTION:** Change the hunting regulations for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd in Units 9, 17, 18 and 19.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:**

Robert move Joe C 2nd.

After hearing the Area Biologist's explanation for the proposal, the AC agreed that better harvest data is needed. Currently the harvest card return rate is real poor. Bethel area is threatening to close caribou for lack of data.

Main problem is the lack of harvest reporting up in GMU 18 with the normal harvest tickets. But they do fine with a moose registration hunt up there - good reporting.

Question, under a registration hunt would seasons and bag limit changes have to go before the BOG or could ADFG change as needed?

Woolington: Only in very serious emergencies, special situations can I do an EO. So no, all others go before the BOG.

**PROPOSAL NO. 46**      **Failed**      **ACTION: 5 Support - 6 Opposed**

**DESCRIPTION:** Modify the caribou hunting season dates in Unit 17.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:** Robert H move, Joe C 2nd.

Originally AC proposed this to get a little more hunting in late March when caribou are near villages and everybody needs meat.

Frank: we hoped closing October portion hunt would compensate.

ADFG: hardly any harvest in Oct ( 6 in 2010, 8 in 2011) to be any compensation. Caribou are in the general area all winter.

Robert: If we get the area into a registration hunt (proposal 45), could we also give EO authority to ADFG to extend the spring closure depending on harvest and weather conditions?

How about if we adopt a longer season but give ADFG authority to close early as needed?

ADFG: that's a pretty rare situation and a drastic move (EO's); I doubt the BOG would authorize such a thing for use on a regular basis.

What about allow EOs to adjust from season to season based on harvest info of previous season and to compensate for over or under harvest?

ADFG - I'm not so sure. There are still the petition tools for requesting season extension and ADFG does have some EO authority.

Jon moved to amend 46 to remove the October closure language - no second - motion died.

**BOARD OF GAME  
CENTRAL/SOUTHWEST REGION  
NUSHAGAK AC Comments  
February 8 – 15, 2013**

Joe C: If we adopt 45 it will be a helpful tool and with the herd improving and with predator control still going it might be too early to change season dates.

Peter C: lately caribou have come close to town late in the season, I've tried to get extensions.

Robert H: I understand intent of our proposal but prefer to use petition if needed. If we could work out a mechanism that ADFG likes for EO's we could try it but I'm inclined to stick w the petition process at this time.

Pete: I've tried for last 2 years to get extensions no luck. Last year about 4-5 days before the season ended. In late March we can have caribou around and good travel conditions. When we ask for extension its a real need.

**PROPOSAL NO. 47            Failed                            ACTION: **Opposed - Unanimous****

**DESCRIPTION:** Open a nonresident caribou season in Unit 17B with certain conditions.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:**

Robert Move Joe C 2nd

ADFG- most of proposal out of ADFG and BOG authority; only item we can address is nonresident season.

Robert, I support the staff comments and refer to our comments on proposal 46.

**PROPOSAL NO. 48            NO Action                            ACTION: **9 in Support of Taking No  
Action - 1 Opposed****

**DESCRIPTION:** Establish a nonresident registration hunt in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 17A.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:** .

Robert move Joe C 2nd- Take No Action on Proposal 48.

We worked hard to develop the 17A Moose Mgt Plan (January 8 final language) and it should be used to replace Proposal 48 language.

Key points of plan: goal is to maintain a population of about 1,000 moose, up to 25 cows to be harvested, stepped harvest levels based on population estimate and trends, 31 day winter moose hunt sometime from Dec 1 - Jan 31, winter bag limit up to 2 moose when conditions allow, nonresident fall hunt 9/5-9/15, phase in nonresident opportunity starting at 5 but allow up to 20 according to pop status, a 2 mile corridor Togiak R & Lake and up selected tributaries no aerial access to spread hunt effort across habitat and reduce potential for conflicts.

AC supports requirement for Nonresident orientation.

It is the AC's understanding that ADFG is drafting amended language for 48 that would implement the Moose Mgt Plan. Several items of the plan would be part of the terms of the permit.

**BOARD OF GAME  
CENTRAL/SOUTHWEST REGION  
NUSHAGAK AC Comments  
February 8 – 15, 2013**

Frank, supports no action in light of Nushagak AC participation in developing and supporting the 17A Moose Mgt Plan.

Joe C. Feds and State are supporting the plan, the subcommittee did a lot of work, the plan has a good chance, I support it.

Jon I support the plan and the Togiak AC supported the plan unanimously on January 10.

Robert, I'm not concerned in times of plenty but what if the herd is small, this might not address all communities with Federal C&T.

Tom O. this plan is pro-active so moose won't overgraze, I don't want the population to collapse.

**\*\*PLEASE REVIEW THE: Unit17A Moose Management Plan: FOUND IN RC 2 Tab 1\*\***

**PROPOSAL NO. 49      Failed      ACTION: **Opposed - Unanimous****

**DESCRIPTION:** Decrease the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 17B.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:**

Robert moved Joe C 2nd.

Tom, its arguable if the 2 bear limit made a difference - what do you do with more than 1 hide?

Joe W, it really helped in Clark Point when we had bear trouble.

Dan I think I can speak for Chris who has left but I think he would oppose this from all the bear activities he describes around Portage.

Dan spoke in support for 2 bear limit and no tag - its less hassle even tho I have not used the opportunity yet.

**PROPOSAL NO. 50      Carries      ACTION: **Support - Unanimous****

**DESCRIPTION:** Allow the sale of brown bear in Unit 17.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:**

Robert move Joe 2nd

This is an effort to provide economic incentive to take more bears.

Discussion on what is allowed by State now - sale allowed where there is bear predator control. Other concerns for bootlegging bears from other areas, getting accurate harvest data, excessive harvest.

Dan - feds allow sale of handicrafts and it hasn't become a problem, if it does we can change regulation

**BOARD OF GAME  
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**PROPOSAL NO. 51**                      **Failed**                      **ACTION: Opposed - Unanimous**

**DESCRIPTION:** Change hunting regulations for black bear in Unit 17 to a bag limit of three bears per year and no closed season.

**AMENDMENTS:**

**DISCUSSION:**

Robert move Joe 2nd

ADFG generated at request of BOG. Designed to make consistent with adjacent GMU where there is concerns for abundant black bears killing moose.

Robert is opposed based especially on concerns he's heard from Koliganek area regarding black bears not as abundant, it sends wrong message and may attract nonlocal hunters.

Some discussion of when we asked BOG to reduce black bear bag limit because of guides taking a lot in upper Nushagak in the 90's.

Peter C, rumors of lots of bears on Nuyakuk this year but most tracks he saw didn't look like black bears, but he didn't see the bears.

Tom O, its ok to be different from adjacent GMUs.

END NUSHAGAK AC BOG SUMMARY