

Minutes of meeting of Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee
January 5, 2013 4:15 p.m. at Alpine Lodge, Fairbanks AK
(This meeting followed a day-long Moose Management meeting on 20A moose)

Members present were Rocky Riley, Victory Lord, Rondell Jimmie, Raymond Heuer, Timothy McManus, Lou Silas, and Steve Ketzler. Also attending were ADF&G area biologists Tony Hollis and Don Young, Board of Game member, Nate Turner, and Rita St. Louis took notes.

Chairman Timothy McManus called the meeting to order. The main question that the members wanted answered was, "How do the Minto people feel about the recent hunt changes and the antlerless hunts."

The consensus was that it is better than the stand-in-line drawing hunts; furthermore the people liked the early hunting opportunity. Some of the reasons cited were that the meat is good, and kids can help hunt before school starts. It would take 3–4 years to fully assess success of the new hunts. Tony reported that 40 bulls were taken in the early any bull hunt. The winter hunt was closed on January 4, 2013 when 100 had been taken.

Steve K asked Tony why there was not an antlerless hunt in 20C. Tony responded that moose in 20C are at a lower density (.6 per sq mile). However there is good habitat with new burns. The moose are healthy with more twins so the population is probably growing. Ray H. said that bears were being taken over bait, and that there are fewer wolves. The population will probably grow.

Tony told the AC that this year ADF&G was able to survey only the eastern half of 20B, and not in the Minto Flats area. Wind and other weather conditions prevented further surveys. Therefore the Department was recommending a conservative harvest of cows. Assuming a 20,000 total population, and a 2.5% cow harvest, a maximum of 500 cows would be harvested. (This year 400 were harvested.) The Department recommended that next year's quota be the same as this year. If a survey is possible next year, then those numbers can be adjusted.

Regarding 20A and 20B Antlerless Hunt Reauthorization: The AC did authorize an antlerless hunt in 20B. (Earlier in the day during the 20A Moose Management meeting, the Minto Nenana AC unanimously approved the antlerless hunts in GMU 20A with the request that the hunt go no later than January 28th, and the number of permits be lowered in zone 1 from 50 to 25.)

Members of the committee talked about the need for educating outside hunters about the use of traditional camp sites. People need to move on and give others a chance at the good sites. They also talked about trespass being a bigger issue as time goes on and that people need to mark their private property. There was also concern about horseback hunters taking too many moose.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.