

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**98-121-BOG**

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game regarding HB 168,  
An Act relating to the use of traditional means of access to assist in taking game or fish and to  
traditional means of access for traditional outdoor activities on land and water set aside for fish  
and game purposes.

The Board of Game uses access restrictions that often affect areas larger than 640 acres, in the  
form of Controlled Use Areas.

One of the principle actions available to the board for protection of wildlife, habitat, broadest  
possible hunter opportunity, and hunt quality in areas of heavy harvest pressure and user conflict  
is the establishment of Controlled Use Areas. Controlled Use Areas allow separation of user  
groups and modes of hunting in space and time, thus reducing conflicts between them while  
maximizing hunter opportunity as a whole.

By their nature, however, Controlled Use Areas restrict access. For that reason, the board  
considers their establishment in cases where significant conflict between user groups or  
particular resource considerations have reached a level where separation of uses is less restrictive  
of overall opportunity than other alternatives available to the board, such as adjustment of season  
and bag limits, limiting participation through drawing hunts, or area closures.

Some examples of conflicting groups include motorized versus nonmotorized, aircraft versus  
boat, airboat versus prop boat, bowhunters versus rifle hunters. Separating hunter groups by  
restricting access in space and/or time has been used to the mutual satisfaction of the groups  
involved. Generally, there has been broad public support for these actions.

The Board of Game has not done a complete analysis of this bill, therefore it is unclear to us how  
this legislation would affect the board's ability to resolve user conflicts and protect wildlife  
habitat and populations in the future for the benefit of users. If, however, the bill's effect is to  
remove the board's ability to establish controlled use areas or their equivalent, it would greatly  
compromise the board's ability to maintain overall hunter opportunity. It would force the more  
frequent employment of more restrictive actions such as shorter seasons, lower bag limits and  
area closures in order to protect the resource and resolve user conflicts.

DATE: March 30, 1998  
Fairbanks, AK

Lori Quakenbush  
Lori Quakenbush, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0