

FINDINGS OF THE BOARD OF GAME REGARDING CHANGES TO 5 AAC 92.125

The Board of Game met on November 9, 1994 to consider revisions to the regulations governing the wolf predation control program in Game Management Unit (GMU) 20A. Based on information presented to the Board by the Department the Board makes the following findings:

1. The original boundary of the wolf control area was established to provide protection to the Headquarters and Savage Wolf packs from state-conducted control activities. These packs' territories were excluded to avoid impact on Denali National Park.
2. During the first year of implementation of 5 AAC 92.125 the Department determined that a large pack of wolves, now referred to as the Lower Yanert pack, ranges in the lower Yanert River, Moody and Dick Creek drainages. This pack's territory is distinct from those of the Headquarters and Savage packs and is bisected by the original control area boundary. Recent information indicates that this pack is a major source of predation on Delta caribou calving within the Yanert valley. Removal of this pack is important to accomplishing the objectives of 5 AAC 92.125.
3. Department monitoring indicates that the Lower Yanert pack spends significant portions of time outside the original control area. Unless the control area boundary is adjusted, predation by this pack cannot be adequately controlled.
4. Information obtained over the past year by both the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service (NPS) on wolf pack movements in southwestern GMU 20A demonstrate that the boundary can be adjusted without jeopardy to the Headquarters and Savage wolf packs. Biologists with the NPS reviewed the proposed boundary adjustment and had no objection. The Department and NPS will continue to communicate and coordinate to ensure that the Savage and Headquarters packs are not adversely affected by state control activities.
5. Time is of the essence. Weather conditions, day length and the many variables that affect trapping success demand immediate action. Expedited adoption of a boundary change is necessary to provide adequate opportunity to control predation by the Lower Yanert pack.
- 6 Results of the first year's efforts to control predation in GMU 20A indicate that the overall population level of 100 wolves specified in 5 AAC 92.125 is too high to permit


effective control of predation. Prior experience in GMU 20A demonstrates that the viability of the wolf population would not be threatened by adoption of a lower population size.

7. Accordingly, 5 AAC 92.125 is modified as follows:

5 AAC 92.125 WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. (a) A Unit 20(A) wolf predation control area is established and consists of Unit 20(A) except for: the Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely Military Reservations, Clear Air Force Station; and that portion of Unit 20(A) south and west of a line beginning at the confluence of Lignite Creek and the Nenana River, then along the north bank of Lignite Creek to the mouth of Sanderson Creek, then in a direct line to the top of Dora Peak, then in a direct line to the top of Mount Fellows, then in a direct line to the top of Pyramid Mountain, then in a direct line south to the southern boundary of Unit 20(A)....

5 AAC 92.125(a)(2)...

(A) for up to 3 years beginning October 1, 1993, the commissioner may reduce the wolf population in Unit 20(A); however, the commissioner may not reduce the late winter wolf population within [THE UNIT 20(A) WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA TO FEWER THAN 35 WOLVES OR WITHIN] all of Unit 20(A) to fewer than [100] 75 wolves;

  
Richard Burley, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game  
Fairbanks, Alaska

9 November 94  
Date

NOTE: 7-0