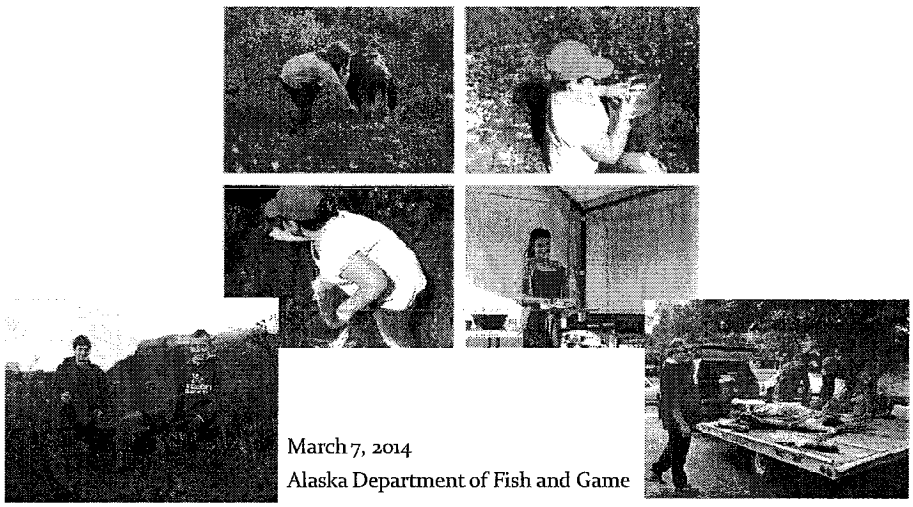
# Copper Basin Hunt Committee Work Session Assignments



March 7, 2014
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

1

# Issue I

## Increased Participation in CSH Hunts

2

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

| Regulatory Year | CSH Caribou | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Groups | Households | Participants |
| 2009 | 1 | 477 | N/A |
| 2010 | - | - | - |
| 2011 | 6 | 322 | 667 |
| 2012 | 17 | 402 | 828 |
| 2013 | 28 | 689 | 1,424 |
| 2014 | 24 | 576 | 1,109 |

3

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

| Regulatory Year | CSH Moose | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Groups | Households | Participants |
| 2009 | 1 | 246 | N/A |
| 2010 | - | - | - |
| 2011 | 9 | 407 | 814 |
| 2012 | 19 | 459 | 969 |
| 2013 | 45 | 995 | 2,066 |
| 2014 | 43 | 910 | 1,780 |

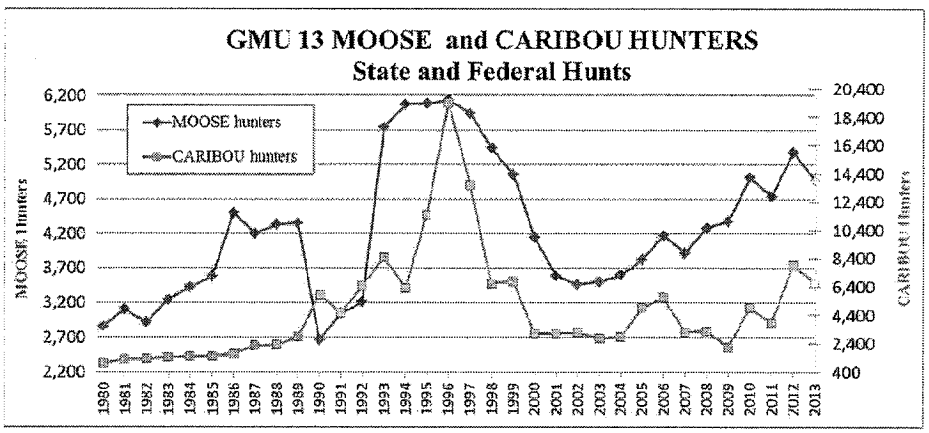
4

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

| Regulatory Year | CSH Moose Hunters | % | General Season Moose Hunters | % | All Other State Hunters Combined | % | Total State Moose Hunters |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 293 | 8% | 3,428 | 89% | 144 | 4% | 3,865 |
| 2010 | - | 0% | 4,200 | 94% | 258 | 6% | 4,458 |
| 2011 | 311 | 7% | 3,689 | 89% | 153 | 4% | 4,153 |
| 2012 | 358 | 7% | 4,325 | 90% | 122 | 3% | 4,805 |
| 2013 | 841 | 19% | 3,345 | 76% | 188 | 4% | 4,374 |

5

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation




6

## Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

- **Effect of changing seasons and bag limits to match general season hunts**
- **Effect of changing the group size definition to "25 or more households"**
- **Recommendations for evaluating applications and post-hunt reports**

7

## Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

**Effect of changing CSH seasons and bag limits to match the general season hunts**

- Easy to implement
- Requires a regulatory change
  - 5AAC 85.025 – caribou seasons and bag limits
  - 5AAC 85.045 – moose seasons and bag limits

8

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

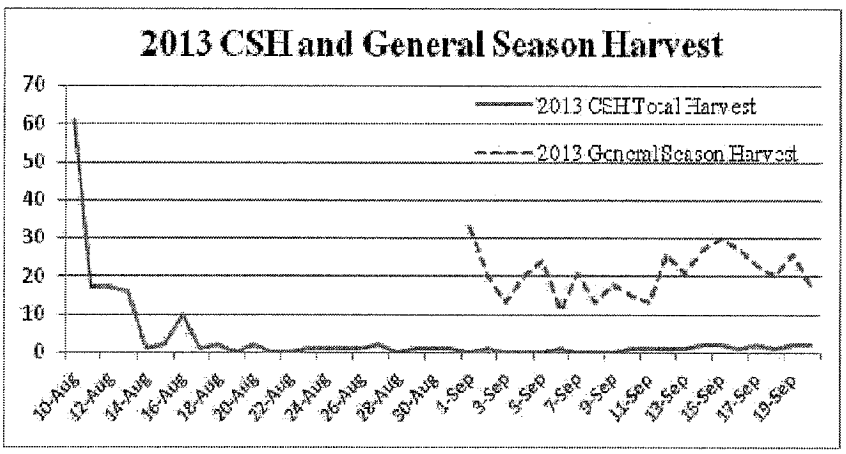
## Effect of changing CSH seasons and bag limits to match the general season hunts

| | CSH Moose Hunt | | General Season Moose Hunt | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Season | Bag limit | Season | Bag limit |
| Unit 13 | Aug 10–Sept 20 | "any bull" or S/F/50"/4 brow | Sept 1–20 | S/F/50"/4 brow |
| Unit 11 | Aug 10–Sept 20 | "any bull" or S/F/50"/3 brow | Aug 20–Sept 20 | S/F/50"/3 brow |
| CSH portion of Unit 12 | Aug 24–28, Sept 8–17 | S/F/50"/4 brow | Aug 24–28, Sept 8–17 | S/F/50"/4 brow |

9

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

## Effect of changing CSH seasons and bag limits to match the general season hunts




10

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

## Effect of changing CSH seasons and bag limits to match the general season hunts

| | CSH Caribou Season | Tier I Registration | Caribou Draw (general season) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Unit 13 (only) | Aug 10–Sept 20 | Aug 10–Sept 20 | Aug 20–Sept 20 |

11

# Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

## Effect of changing the group size definition to "25 or more households"

- Easy to implement
- More difficult for groups to meet the new definition
- Anticipate groups to reform or recruit new households
- Requires a regulatory change (5AAC 92.072)

12

## Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

Effect of changing the group size definition to "25 or more households"

| CM300 | CSH Moose Groups | No. Groups with 25+ Households | % of Moose Groups |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 2010 | - | - | - |
| 2011 | 9 | 3 | 33% |
| 2012 | 19 | 3 | 16% |
| 2013 | 45 | 7 | 16% |
| 2014 prelim. | 43 | 8 | 19% |

13

## Issue I – Increased CSH Participation

Effect of changing the group size definition to "25 or more households"

| CC000 | CSH Caribou Groups | No. Groups with 25+ Households | % of Caribou Groups |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| 2010 | - | - | - |
| 2011 | 6 | 2 | 33% |
| 2012 | 17 | 3 | 18% |
| 2013 | 28 | 8 | 29% |
| 2014 prelim. | 24 | 6 | 25% |

14

# Division of Subsistence

15

## CSH Workgroup Assignment

Present an option for evaluating post hunt reports from CSH communities/groups to ensure participation meets the intent of the Board of Game's findings for the program

Annual report – 16

## CSH Hunt Conditions and basis for Written Report Review Process

- CSH Hunt Conditions require that each **group** submit a written report describing the group's efforts to participate in a manner consistent with the customary and traditional use pattern described in the board's findings (2006-170-BOG)
- Under 5 AAC 92.072 (f), the Department has the authority to disapprove an application for a CSH permit from a community or group if it has not complied with (c) (1)
- In 2011, ADF&G developed an internal method to evaluate compliance with CSH permit conditions based on written reports

Annual report – 17

## CSH Hunt Conditions and basis for Written Report Review Process

- CSH Hunt Conditions state that prior to a group's participation:
  - *"Subscribers need not have already established the pattern of community use...by applying, subscribers will be certifying that they have read, understood, and will voluntarily attempt to participate in and establish the pattern of subsistence use described in the Unit 13 board findings..."*
- The written report scoring process was designed to monitor group progress and evaluate compliance with the hunt conditions
- CSH reports that failed to demonstrate progress in establishing the pattern are assigned "Conditional Approval" status
- Evaluation process has been internal to ADF&G. Evaluation scores have not been reported to groups

Annual report – 18

## Status

- Many of the groups have submitted CSH written reports that consistently display full commitment to the intention of the hunt as described by the board findings
- Several groups have placed a great amount of effort in producing high quality, commendable CSH written reports but still have failed to provide evidence of a commitment to all 8 elements in the board findings
- Some groups have put very little effort into producing adequate written reports, providing little evidence of a commitment to the board findings

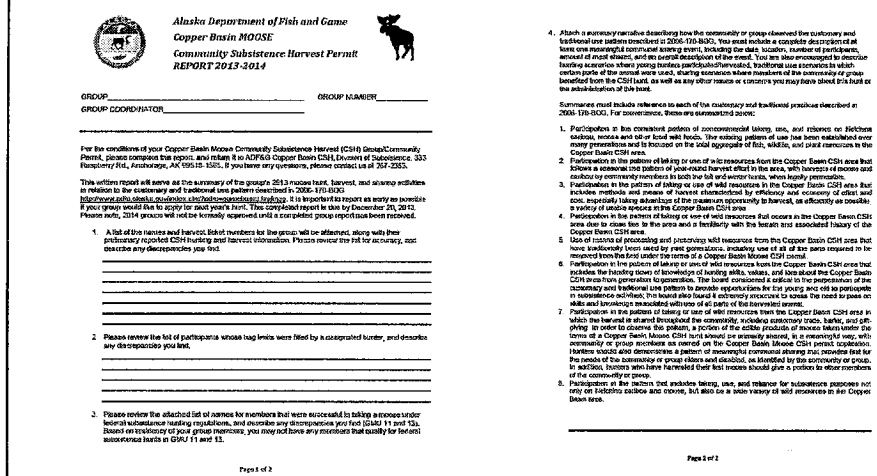
Annual report – 19

## Challenge

- Subjective nature of written reports makes them difficult to analyze and score
- Lower threshold of compliance is not clear

Annual report – 20

# Current Form



*Alaska Department of Fish and Game*
*Copper Basin MOOSE*
*Community Subsistence Harvest Permit*
*REPORT 2013-2014*

GROUP_____ GROUP NUMBER_____
GROUP COORDINATOR_____

Per the conditions of your Copper Basin Moose Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH) Group/Community Permit, please complete this report, and return it to ADF&G Copper Basin CSH, Division of Subsistence, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518-1565. If you have any questions, please contact us at 267-2353.

This written report will serve as the summary of the group's 2013 moose hunt, harvest, and sharing activities in relation to the customary and traditional use pattern described in 2006-170-BOG (http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=specialhunt.boghome). It is important to report as early as possible if your group would like to apply for next year's hunt. The completed report is due by December 31, 2013. Please note, 2014 groups will not be formally approved until a completed group report has been received.

1. A list of the names and harvest. Select members for the group will be attached, along with their preliminary reported CSH hunting and harvest information. Please review the list for accuracy, and describe any discrepancies you find.

2. Please review the list of participants whose bag limits were filled by a designated hunter, and describe any discrepancies you find.

3. Please review the attached list of names for members that were successful in taking a moose under federal subsistence hunting regulations, and describe any discrepancies you find (GMU 11 and 13). Based on testimony of your group members, you may not have any members that qualify for federal subsistence hards in GMU 11 and 13.

Page 1 of 2

4. Attach a summary narrative describing how the community or group observed the customary and traditional use pattern described in 2006-170-BOG. You must include a complete description of at least one meaningful communal sharing event, including the date, location, number of participants, amount of meat shared, and an overall description of the event. You are also encouraged to describe hunting scenarios where young hunters participated/harvested, traditional use scenarios in which certain parts of the animal were used, sharing scenarios where members of the community or group benefited from the CSH hunt, as well as any other reasons or concerns you may have about this hunt or the subsistence of the hunt.

Summaries must include reference to each of the customary and traditional practices described in 2006-170-BOG. For convenience, these are summarized below:

1. Participation in the consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on Nelchina caribou, moose and elk or local wild foods. The existing pattern of use has been established over many generations and is focused on the total aggregate of fish, wildlife, and plant resources in the Copper Basin CSH area.
2. Participation in the pattern of taking or uses of wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area that follows a seasonal cycle pattern of year-round harvest effort in the area, with harvests of moose and caribou by community members in both the fall and winter hunts, when legally permissible.
3. Participation in the pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the Copper Basin CSH area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost, especially taking advantage of the maximum opportunity to harvest, as efficiently as possible, a variety of usable species in the Copper Basin CSH area.
4. Participation in the pattern of taking or use of wild resources that occurs in the Copper Basin CSH area due to close ties to the area and a familiarity with the terrain and associated history of the Copper Basin CSH area.
5. Use of means of processing and preserving wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area that have traditionally been used by rural communities, including use of all of the parts required to be removed from the field under the terms of a Copper Basin Moose CSH permit.
6. Participation in the pattern of taking or uses of wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the Copper Basin CSH area from generation to generation. The board considered a critical to the perpetuation of the customary and traditional use pattern to provide opportunities for the young and old to participate in subsistence activities; the board also found it extremely important to stress the need to pass on skills and knowledge associated with use of all parts of the harvested animal.
7. Participation in the pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area in which the harvest is shared throughout the community, including customary trade, barter, and gifting. In order to observe this pattern, a portion of the edible products of moose taken under the terms of a Copper Basin Moose CSH hunt should be shared, in a meaningful way, with community or group members as named on the Copper Basin Moose CSH permit application. Hunters should also demonstrate a pattern of meaningful communal sharing that provides first for the needs of the community or group elders and disabled, as identified by the community or group. In addition, hunters who have harvested their first moose should give a portion to other members of the community or group.
8. Participation in the pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes not only on Nelchina caribou and moose, but also on a wide variety of wild resources in the Copper Basin area.

Page 2 of 2

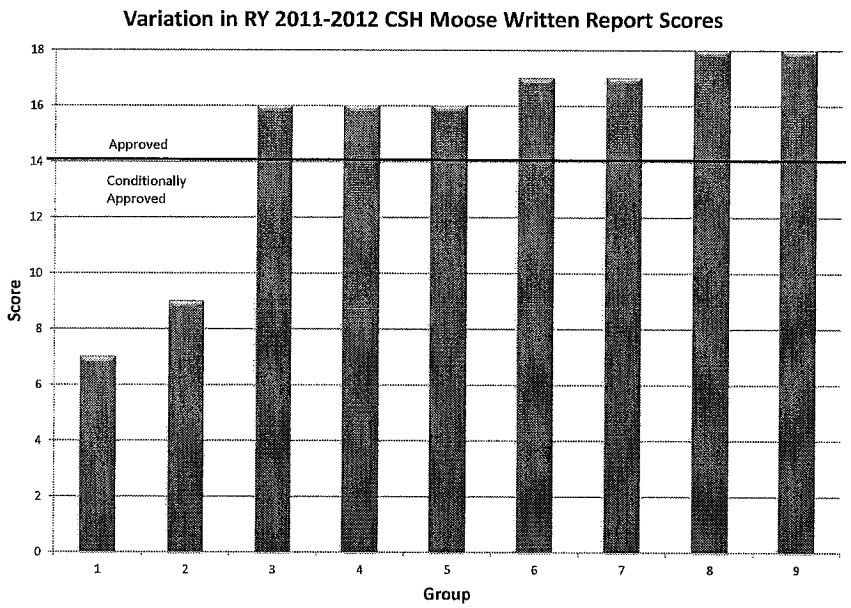
Annual report – 21

# CSH Written Report Scoring

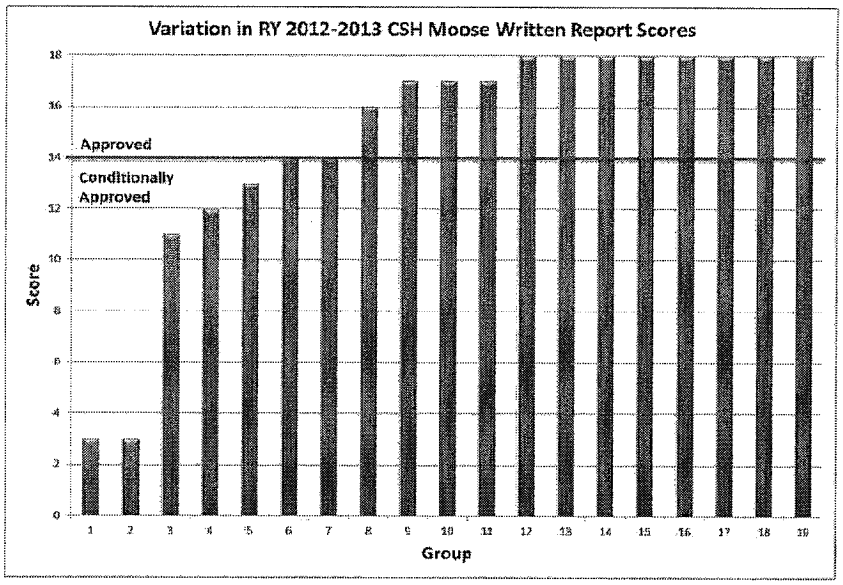
- Each of the eight elements in board findings 2006-170-BOG are scored by 2 measurements:
  - *Was the Customary and Traditional Use pattern demonstrated?*
  - *Was the reporting requirement met in writing?*
- A ninth field requires a description of the group's meat sharing event
- 18 total points are possible
- A minimum of 14 points are required to receive a score of ***Approval***
- Reports scoring less than 14 points receive ***Conditional Approval***

| **Criteria to measure and scoring of CSH written hunt reports** | |
|---|---|
| Criteria | Scoring |
| 1. Long term consistent pattern of use | 2 pts |
| 2. Seasonal pattern of harvests within unit | 2 pts |
| 3. Efficiency | 2 pts |
| 4. Close ties to and familiarity with the area | 2 pts |
| 5. Thorough use of parts of animal | 2 pts |
| 6. Handing down of knowledge and skills across generations | 2 pts |
| 7. Sharing within the community | 4 pts |
| 8. Use of wide variety of resources from the area | 2 pts |
| **Maximum Score Possible** | **18 pts** |
| **Minimum Score for Approval** | **14 pts** |

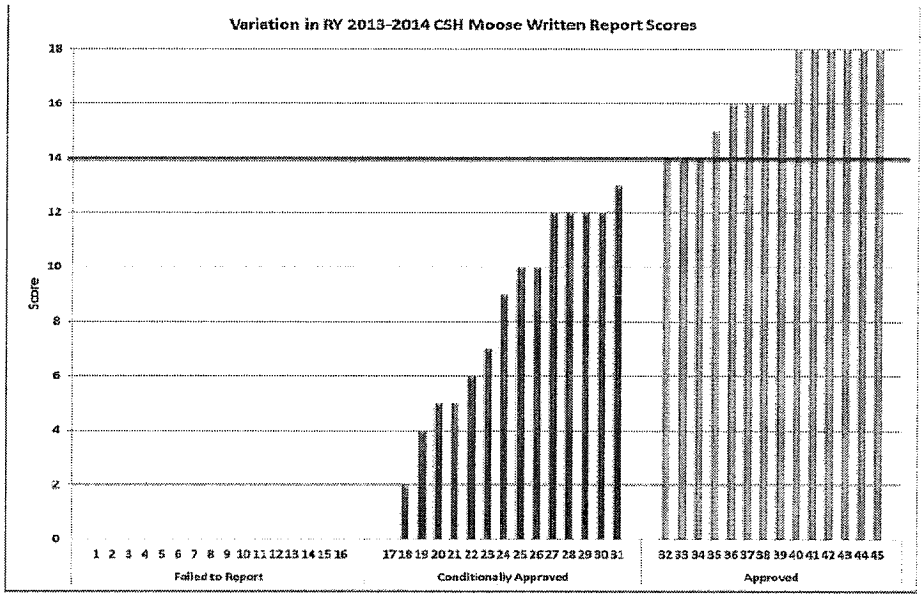
Annual report – 22




Annual report – 23




Annual report – 24




Annual report – 25

# Summary: CSH Written Report Scores RY 2011/12, RY 2012/13, RY 2013/14

Regulatory Year 2011/12

- Caribou: 6 groups – 5 approved and 1 conditionally approved (83% in compliance)
- Moose: 9 groups – 8 approved and 1 conditionally approved (89% in compliance)

Regulatory Year 2012/13

- Caribou: 17 groups – 8 approved and 9 conditionally approved (47% in compliance)
- Moose: 19 groups – 12 approved and 7 conditionally approved (63% in compliance)

Regulatory Year 2013/14

- Caribou: 28 groups - reports not yet reviewed
- Moose: 45 groups – 14 approved and 15 conditionally approved – 16 failed to report

Annual report – 26

## CSH Group Progress

As CSH participation grows :

- New groups are receiving the vast majority of *Conditional Approval* scores
- Some groups who received *Conditional Approval* scores did not subscribe to the CSH the following year

Annual report – 27

## Potential Options

a) Maintain current written report structure, or

b) Implement objective questionnaire report format and score results using a numerical threshold

In each case:

- CSH groups need to be informed about their annual report scores
- Provide a defined threshold of approval

Annual report – 28

## Option B: Two-part report

1. Community coordinator questionnaire and report
   - Group/community summary information
   - Identifies patterns for the group as a whole
   - Mitigates possibly uneven household reports
2. Household questionnaire and report
   - Detailed household information not readily available to the group/community coordinator
   - Designed to be compiled with all other reporting households for a group/community

Both questionnaires focus on direct quantitative or objective questions, designed to address one or more of the 8 elements in 2006-170-BOG

Annual report – 29

## Report scoring

- Detailed scoring advice document
  - Eliminates subjectivity
  - Provides unambiguous direction on assignment of points
  - Point assignment based on detailed criteria. If condition criteria are met, 100% of points for the question/criteria would be assigned
- Criteria based on percentages as often as possible
- Household report not scored independently
- Proposed community coordinator report has a maximum of 29 points
- Proposed household coordinator report has a maximum of 41 points

Annual report – 30

## Sample Question #1

From the community coordinator questionnaire and report:

*13.) Except for elder households, how many households without hunters were given moose in 2013?*

Purpose: In part addresses element #7 of the 8 customary and traditional use patterns. This identifies moose being shared among households unable to obtain moose on their own for any reason.

**Sample score**: A score of 1 point will be assigned if a community responded that 2 households received moose.

Annual report – 31

## Sample Question #2

From the household questionnaire and report:

*12.) Who processed the meat your household harvested?*_____

Purpose: In part to address element #3 of the 8 customary and traditional use patterns. Given the cost of wild game processing, real cost savings can be achieved by processing game at home and with others.

Annual report – 32

## Sample Question #2

**Sample Score:**

- HH 1: commercial processor
- HH 2: commercial processor
- HH 3: other community member and commercial processor
- HH 4: family member
- HH 5: family member

1 point will be awarded to this household, because a "significant portion" (greater than 50%; in this case 60%) used a method other than commercial processors, but more than 50% used a commercial processor.

Annual report – 33

# Questions on Issue I?

34

# Issue II

## Harvest of "any bull" moose in high use subareas reduces harvest opportunity in other areas

35

## Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

- Establish a firm "any bull" quota per subarea
- Establish a maximum number of groups per subarea
- Different season lengths for each subarea
- Provide antlerless hunting opportunity
- More rapid reporting and in-season management
- Restrict "any bull" opportunity to weekdays
- Restrict each group's ability to participate annually
- Make no changes to the 2014 hunt to evaluate the effect of the new "any bull" allocation

36

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Establish a firm "any bull" quota per subarea**

- Easy to implement
- Total allocation will be exceeded in most years
- Recommend mechanism to reduce the allocation in subsequent years
- Does not require regulatory change

37

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Establish a maximum number of groups per subarea**

- Difficult to administer
- Requires administrative rules and board guidance
  - What is a group and how is it tracked through time?
  - How many groups can be assigned to each area
  - Processing order ("first come first serve", systematic or random)
  - How to process groups that do not receive selected areas
- More difficult for larger groups to identify their preferred areas
- Does not require regulatory change

38

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Different season lengths for each subarea**

- Easy to implement
- CSH moose seasons have never been closed
- Season extensions in Unit 13 are not recommended at this time
- Length of "any bull" opportunity in each subarea depends on how quickly the harvest reaches the quota
- Requires regulatory change if seasons are extended (5AAC 85.045)

39

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Provide antlerless hunting opportunity**

- Antlerless hunting opportunity is authorized for all of Unit 13, but only offered in Unit 13A
- Easy to implement
- Difficult to secure public support required by statute
- Anticipate that harvest will greatly exceed cow harvest quota unless the number of hunters is reduced significantly
- Requires a regulatory change and annual reauthorization (5AAC 85.045)

40

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**More rapid reporting and in-season management**

- Current Requirements
  - Within 24 hours of killing a moose or returning from field
  - By phone, mail, internet or in person
- Reporting and in season management limited by cellular service and internet
- Requirements can be made more stringent
- Does not require regulatory change

41

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Restrict "any bull" opportunity to weekdays**

- Easily implemented
- May cause some confusion, particularly in the first year
- Season and hunting opportunity printed on permit, in subsistence permit supplement and stated on phone hotline
- Would improve in-season management
- Does not require a regulatory change

42

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Restrict each group's ability to participate annually**

- Difficult to implement
  - Difficult to track groups over time
  - Easy to track individual members
  - What constitutes a group if group membership changes?
- Implementation requires administrative rules and board guidance
- Requires a regulatory change
  - 5AAC 85.045 – Moose seasons and bag limits or
  - 5AAC92.072 – Community Subsistence Hunt Areas and Permit Conditions

43

# Issue II – "Any Bull" Hunt Administration

**Make no changes to the 2014 hunt to evaluate the effect of the new "any bull" allocation**

- Tighter reporting requirements
  - Report within 12 hours of kill
  - By phone or internet
- Unit 13A - No "any bull" opportunity
- Remainder of Unit 13 –
  - "Any bull" hunt limited to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
  - No restriction on "antler legal" bulls
- Unit 11 – No restriction until quota is reached
- The "any bull" quotas will be managed to keep the harvest within the allocation of "up to 100 any bull" and to keep the moose populations within objectives

44

# Recent Board of Game Actions Implemented in Regulatory Year 2014

- No "any bull" drawing permits for residents
- New Allocation of Moose Bag Limit for CSH Hunters
  - No more than 1 "any bull" for every 3 households (100 total)
  - CSH locking tags issued to Group Coordinator
  - CSH hunters can hunt SF/50 moose without a CSH locking tag
- New Winter Registration Moose Hunt (Dec 1 - 31)
  - For all Alaska residents, including CSH hunters

45

# Questions on Issue II?

46

# Issue III

## Reduced Subsistence Opportunity for Caribou

47

## Issue III – Reduced Caribou Harvest Opportunity

**Evaluate the effects of managing the CSH allocation as a separate quota rather than a cap**

- Easily implemented; more difficult to manage
- Managers will forecast and reserve potential CSH harvest by closing other state hunting opportunity
- May be more difficult to manage the population within objectives
- May require regulatory change

48

# Questions on Issue III?

49