

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Policies and Resolutions

2014

2014-206-BOG Nonresident Capture, Possession, and Export of Certain Raptors
2014-205-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Statewide Regulations
Cycle A Meeting.
2014-204-BOG Customary and Traditional Uses of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
2014-203-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Arctic/Western Region
Meeting

2013

2013-202-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Southcentral Region
Meeting.
2013-201-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Central/Southwest
Region Meeting
2013-200-BOG Board Direction Concerning the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

2012

2012-199-BOG Resolution Supporting Funding for the Outdoor Heritage Foundation
2012-198-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy
(*Policy 2011-194-BOG Revised*)
2012-197-BOG Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd) Intensive
Management Supplemental Findings
2012-196-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-195-BOG Unit 24B Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-194-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy
(*Policy 2011-186-BOG Revised*)
2012-193-BOG Subunit 26B Muskoxen - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-192-BOG Subunit 15C Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-191-BOG Subunit 15A Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-190-BOG Falconry, Federal Migratory Bird Rulemaking and Delegation of
Authority

2011

#2011-189-BOG Subunits 9C and 9# (Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive
Management Supplemental Findings
#2011-188-BOG Units 9B, 17, 19, and 19B (MCH) Intensive Management Supplemental
Findings
#2011-187-BOG Unit 16 Predation Control Area for Moose Intensive Management
Supplemental Findings
#2011-186-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy.
#2011-185-BOG Board of Game Wolf Management Policy (this policy supersedes BOG
policy 82-31-GB)
#2011-184-BOG Game Management Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses
(*Supplement findings to 2006-170-BOG*)

2010

#2010-183-BOG Harvest of Game for Customary and Traditional Alaska Native Funerary and Mortuary Religious Ceremonies.

2009

#2009-182-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-181-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-180-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-179-BOG Resolution Supporting Increasing Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees

2008

#2008-178-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

#2008-177-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, & 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2008-176-BOG Units 16A & B Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2008-175-BOG Unit 9D (South AK Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2008-174-BOG Unit 19D East Supplemental Findings

2007

#2007-173-BOG Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy – (#162 Revised)

#2007-172-BOG Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose

2006

#2006-171-BOG Resolution supporting a Moratorium on New Zoo Applications

#2006-170-BOG Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses

#2006-169-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-168-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-167-BOG Unit 16 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-166-BOG Unit 13 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-165-BOG Unit 12 and 20E Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2006-164-BOG Board of Game Bear Management and Conservation Policy

#2006-163-BOG Resolution Regarding Declining Fish and Wildlife Enforcement in Alaska

#2006-162-BOG Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy

#2006-161-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

2005

#2005-160-BOG Finding of Emergency: Methods of Harvest for Hunting Small Game in the Skilak Loop Special Management Area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

#2005-159-BOG Resolution in Support of Allowing Guides to Take Wolves while Under Contract to Clients

#2005-158-BOG Resolution in Support of Public Education Program on Predator Control

#2005-157-BOG Reauthorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2005-156-BOG Supporting Joint Federal and State Deer Harvest Reporting
#2005-155-BOG Supporting Governor's Lawsuit Against Federal Government; Extent and Reach of Subsistence Regulations in State Navigable Waters

2004

#2004-154-BOG Supporting Increasing Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees
#2004-153-BOG Increase FY06 Budget for Boards of Fisheries and Game and State Advisory Committees
#2004-152-BOG Predator Control in Portions of Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area
#2004-151-BOG Bear Baiting Allocation
#2004-150-BOG Authorizing Predator Control in Central Kuskokwim Area, Unit 19A
#2004-149-BOG Signage for Traplines on Public Lands
#2004-148-BOG Authorizing Predator Control in Western Cook Inlet, Unit 16B
#2004-147-BOG Bear Conservation and Management Policy
#2004-146-BOG Americans with Disabilities Act Exemptions

2003

#2003-145-BOG Authorization of Airborne Shooting in Unit 19D East Predation Control Program
#2003-144-BOG Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2003-143-BOG Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2003-142-BOG Resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning a Statewide Bear Baiting Ballot Initiative
#2003-141-BOG Request for Commissioner's Finding Regarding Same-Day-Airborne Wolf Hunting in Game Management Unit 13
#2003-140-BOG Guidelines for a Unit 19D East Predation Control Program
#2003-139-BOG A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning Management of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Mortality (*Repealed March 19, 2013.*)

2002

#2002-138-BOG Request to US Forest Service re: Management of Guided Brown Bear Hunting in Unit 4
#2002-137-BOG Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings
#2002-136A-BOG Unit 1D Brown Bear Drawing Hunt Finding
#2002-136-BOG Government to Government Relations with Tribes in Alaska

2001

#2001-135-BOG Resolution concerning Unit 19D-East Adaptive Management Team Work

2000

#2000-134-BOG Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team Findings
#2000-133-BOG Habituation of Wildlife (unsigned – left in draft)

- #2000-132-BOG Reaffirm Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process
- #2000-131-BOG Finding of Emergency: Unit 19D-East (Wolf Control Implementation Plan)
- #2000-130-BOG Resolution re: Support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999

1999

- #99-129-BOG Snow Machine Use in the Taking of Caribou

1998

- #98-128-BOG Findings on Elk Management in Region I
- #98-127-BOG Findings on Commercial Guiding Activities in Alaska
- #98-126-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 25B and Unit 25D
- #98-125-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 21D
- #98-124-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 18
- #98-123-BOG Emergency Findings – Caribou in Unit 9
- #98-122-BOG 1998 Intensive Management Findings: Interior Region
- #98-121-BOG Findings: HB 168, Traditional Access
- #98-120-BOG Resolution re: Ballot Initiative Banning Use of Snares
- #98-119-BOG Trapping and Snaring of Wolves in Alaska
- #98-118-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox in Northwest Unit 23

1997

- #97-117-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox on the Seward Peninsula
- #97-116-BOG Dall Sheep Management in the Western Brooks Range
- #97-115-BOG Resolution supporting Co-management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources
- #97-114-BOG Resolution re: Dual Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources
- #97-113-BOG Resolution re: Methods and Means of Harvesting Furbearers and Fur Animals Including Wolves
- #97-112-BOG Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process
- #97-111-BOG Finding to Include Unit 22 (except 22C) in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area
- #97-110-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Stranded Musk Oxen
- #97-109-BOG Findings re: Unit 16B-South Moose
- #97-108-BOG Resolution re: Subsistence Division Budget
- #97-107-BOG Findings re: Wanton Waste on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers

1996

- #96-106-BOG Delegation of Authority re: Issuing Permits to Take Game for Public Safety Purposes
- #96-105-BOG Delegation of Authority to Implement Ballot Measure #3
- #96-104-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Western Arctic Caribou Herd
- #96-103-BOG Findings – Antlerless Moose in Unit 20A
- #96-102-BOG Findings – Nelchina Caribou Herd Management

#96-101-BOG Findings – Intensive Management for GMU 19D East
#96-100-BOG Establishment of the Nenana Controlled Use Area
#96-99-BOG Moose Populations in Unit 26A
#96-98-BOG Taking Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
#96-97-BOG Forty Mile Caribou Herd Management Plan
#96-96-BOG Finding of Emergency – Moose in Remainder of Unit 16B

1995

#95-95-BOG Resolution – Wildlife Diversity Initiative
#95-94-BOG Resolution – Change Name of McNeil River State Game Refuge to Paint River State Game Refuge
#95-93-BOG Requiring License Purchase in advance
#95-92-BOG *Open Number*
#95-91-BOG Delegation of Authority – Comply with Alaska Supreme Court Opinion in Kenaitze vs. State
#95-90-BOG Board Travel Policy
#95-89-BOG Findings – Noatak Controlled Use Area
#95-88-BOG Delegation of Authority to Increase Bag Limits in Unit 18 for Mulchatna and Western Arctic Caribou Herds
#95-87-BOG Subsistence Needs for Moose in Unit 16B
#95-86-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 19D
#95-85-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 20D
#95-84-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 13
#95-83-BOG Resolution: Subsistence Use on National Park Lands
#95-82-BOG “No Net Loss” Policy for Hunting and Trapping Opportunities
#95-81-BOG Resolution: Remove Federal Management of F&W on Public Lands and Waters
#95-80-BOG Resolution to Legislature to Define Subsistence

1994

#94-80A-BOG Wolf Predation Control Program in Unit 20A
#94-79-BOG Delegation to Commissioner to Adopt Regulations Resulting from Kenaitze Decision which Invalidates Nonsubsistence Areas
#94-78-BOG Addendum to Findings on Unit 16B Moose
#94-77-BOG Resolution on SB325 (Repeal Antlerless Moose Statute)

1993

#93-76-BOG Findings on McNeil River Refuge Bears
#93-75-BOG Resolution on Adak Caribou
#93-74-BOG Delegation of Authority for Permits to Take Furbearers with Game Meat
#93-73-BOG Delegation of Authority to Make Emergency Regulations Permanent, Moose in Unit 19D
#93-72-BOG Wolf Control Findings – Delta Area
#93-71-BOG Resolution on Round Island Walrus Hunt
#93-70-BOG Findings on Unit 16B Moose Seasons and Bag Limits
#93-69-BOG Resolution on Popof Island Bison

#93-68-BOG Resolution on Commercialization of Moose
#93-67-BOG Resolution on Elk Transplants in Southeast
#93-66-BOG Resolution on Clear-cut Management in the Tongass National Forest

1992

#92-65-BOG Findings in Units 12, 20B, D, and E on Wolves
#92-64-BOG Findings in Unit 20A Wolves
#92-63-BOG Findings in Unit 13 Wolves
#92-62-BOG Findings Wolf Area Specific Management Plans for Southcentral and Interior
#92-61-BOG Resolution on Unit 13 Moose
#92-60-BOG Findings Unit 13 Moose Seasons and Bag Limits
#92-59-BOG Findings Unit 19 A&B Moose – Holitna and Hoholitna Controlled Use Area
#92-58-BOG Findings on Kilbuck Caribou re Fall Hunt
#92-57-BOG Report of the Board of Game, Area Specific Management Plans for Wolves
#92-56-BOG Relating to Moose in GMUs 19A and 19B per Superior Court order in Sleetmute vs. State
#92-55-BOG Relating to Endorsement of State Closure of Deer Hunting in GMU 4 and Requesting Federal Closure

1991

#91-54-BOG Findings on Strategic Wolf Management Plan
#91-54a-BOG Relating to Kilbuck Caribou Management Plan
#91-53-BOG Relating to Taking of Walrus from Round Island by Residents of Togiak
#91-53a-BOG Board Direction to Committee for Strategic Wolf Plan
#91-52-BOG Findings on Unit 13 Moose Season and Bag Limits

1990

#90-51-BOG Delegation of Authority
#90-50-BOG Relating to the Reporting of Hunter Usage of Air Taxi Operations
#90-49-BOG Findings on Kwethluk Emergency Caribou Hunt Petition
#90-48-BOG Relating to the Use of Furbearers by Rural Alaskans, Including Alaska Natives
#90-47-BOG Relating to the Commercialization of Moose and other Wildlife
#90-46-BOG Relating to Destruction of Moose by the Alaska Railroad

1989

#89-45-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Waterfowl Regulations

1988

#88-44-BG Delegation of Authority for March 1988 Meeting
#88-43-BG Resolution Supporting Funding for Division of Game

1987

#87-42d-BG Procedures for Delegations of Authority (Replacing #75-2-GB)
#87-42c-BG Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors
#87-42b-BG Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors Before Filing Regulations
#87-42a-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (Replacing #75-3-GB)

1986

#86-41-BG Finding of Emergency: New State Subsistence Law
#86-40-BG Delegation of Authority

1985

#85-39-GB Resolution on Resources v/s Logging
#85-38-GB Findings: Madison vs. State Requirements
#85-37-GB Lime Village Management Area Findings
#85-36-GB Findings: Waterfowl hunting in and near Palmer Hayflats

1984

#84-35-GB Resolution on Waterfowl Stamp
#84-34-GB Transplant of Musk Ox to Nunivak Island

1983

#83-33-GB Resolution on Guide Board
#83-32-GB Findings on Moose in GMU 16B

1982

#82-31-GB Supplement to Wolf Population Control

1981

#81-30-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Nelchina Caribou
#81-29-GB Finding and Policy for Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#81-28-GB Letter of Intent: Wolf Reduction in Alaska

1980

#80-27-GB Letter of Intent Regarding Use of Alaska's Game for Religious Ceremony
#80-26-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Bowhunting
#80-25-GB Standing Committee II on Deer
#80-24-GB Regarding Advisory Committee Coordinators

1979

#79-23-GB Authorization to Export Animals from Alaska
#79-22-GB Staff Directive to Subsistence Section
#79-21-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-20-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-19-GB Brown Bear, GMU 4
#79-18-GB Relating to Muskoxen

1978

- #78-18-GB Statement of Direction: Use of Airplanes in Controlling Predation by Wolves
- #78-17-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources
- #78-16-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

1977

- #77-15-GB Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Address Petitions
- #77-14-GB Repeal of Regulations Relating to Registration of Camps by Guides for Hunting Bears
- #77-13-GB Regarding Closed Season for Caribou (rescinded November 30, 1977)
- #77-12-GB Regarding the 17(d)(2) Land Settlement

1976

- #76-11-GB Trapping Wolves by ADF&G
- #76-10-GB Request for Public Safety Involvement in Enforcement of Caribou Regulations
- #76-9-GB Management Goal: Western Arctic Caribou
- #76-8-GB Export of Live Game Animals Outside of Alaska
- #76-7-GB Musk Ox to Anchorage Children's Zoo (rescinded November 30, 1977)
- #76-6-GB Taking of Wolves by Helicopter
- #76-5-GB Regarding the Taking of Wolves in Units 23 and 26A

1975

- #75-4-GB Endorsement of Trapping as a Legitimate Use of Renewable Resources
- #75-3-GB Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (See #87-42a-GB)
- #75-2-GB Procedures for Delegations of Authority (See #87-42d-GB)
- #75-1-GB Effectuating Delegation of Authority

Alaska Board of Game
2013-200-BOG
Board Direction Concerning the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy
January 15, 2013

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department of Fish and Game staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

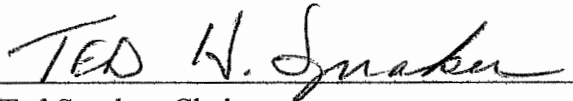
The Board directed the department to clarify the strategy with the following changes during the January 2013 meeting in Sitka:

- Base the bear population estimate on NE Chichagof Island on the most recent research data.
- Obtain a population estimate on South Admiralty Island.
- Wounding loss will not be included in the harvest mortality guidelines or calculations.
- Defense of Life and Property kills will be included in the estimate of total mortality and an effort to minimize these losses will be maintained.
- The department will develop minimum skull size for harvested females for use as a future tool to restrict guided hunter harvest of female brown bears, if and when necessary. The board intends for the department to inform the board of the department's intent to implement skull size guidelines before implementing them.

The Board acknowledges that the direction provided concerning these changes is the purview of the department under its discretionary and fiscal authority. The department will attempt to make the changes as directed, but may choose to exercise its authority in the future and make changes necessary to provide additional opportunity and cost savings.

The Board recognizes the need to have full cooperation by the USFS and private land owners in order for skull minimums to be successfully implemented. The Board will therefore send a letter to the USFS and private land owner leadership describing its intent and desire for the agency and NGOs to cooperate and work with the department.

Vote: 6-1
January 15, 2013
Sitka, Alaska


Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2012-198-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Expiration Date: June 30, 2016

Purposes of Policy

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

Goals

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as trophy, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

Background

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, trophy species for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, problem animals in rural and urban settings, and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board and the Department will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing opportunities.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps, and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears has

been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management problems. The department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. Statewide, an average of about six bear encounters a year result in injuries to people. Most attacks now occur in suburban areas and do not involve hunters. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. An average of about 1,500 brown and grizzly bears is harvested each year. The trend has been increasing, probably because of both increased demand for bear hunting and increasing bear numbers. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g. Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department have begun to take a more active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, but the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

Brown and grizzly bears

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62nd parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after as trophy species and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have

expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km² (450 bears/1,000 mi²). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km² (1,420 bears/1,000 mi²). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km² (100 bears/1,000 mi²). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km² (12 bears/1,000 mi²) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g. Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

Black bears

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km² (175 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km² (750 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km² (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi²).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also important as trophy animals, predators of moose calves, and for their fur. The Board recently classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders), and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if trophy quality of bears is to be preserved, and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

Guiding Principles

The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
3. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
6. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
7. Primarily manage most brown bear populations to maintain trophy quality, especially in Game Managements 1 through 6, and 8 through 10.
8. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
9. Simplify hunting regulations for bears, and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.

10. Recognize the increasing value of brown bears as a trophy species and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
11. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

Conservation and Management Policy

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as a trophy species, food animals, or for viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily as trophy animals, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. However in some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

Monitoring Harvest and Population Size

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and trophy quality is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

Managing Predation by Bears

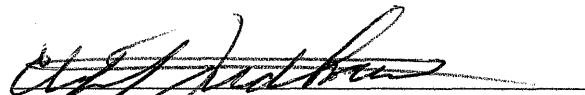
In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255 the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may elect to work with the Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons, or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state, and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: 7-0
March 9, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-185-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Policy duration: Date of finding through June 30, 2016.
This policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and
4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases, seasons will be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September and April, and opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are declared "depleted" or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced and these

populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish before an adequate level of population control is achieved. In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

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Vote: 6-0-1

March 25, 2011

Anchorage, Alaska



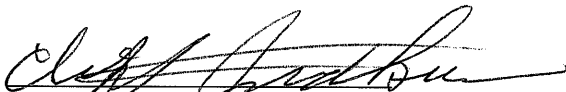
Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Finding for the Alaska Board of Game
2007-173-BOG

Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy
March 12, 2007

At the March 2007, Southcentral/Southwest Region meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Game modified the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, #2006-162-BOG, by adding item #4 to the guidelines that shall be applied when determining the allocation percentage for drawing permits to nonresidents:

1. Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years.
2. Each client shall provide proof of having a signed guide-client agreement when applying for permits.
3. Contracting guides shall be registered in the area prior to the drawing.
4. When a guide signs a guide-client agreement, the guide is providing guiding services and therefore must be registered for the use area at that time.


Cliff Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0

Amended: March 12, 2007

Anchorage, Alaska

**Alaska Board of Game
Policy for the
Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose**

#2007-172-BOG

Background

Alaska Statute **AS 16.05.780** requires the Board of Game to reauthorize the Antlerless moose seasons in each Game Management Unit, subunit or any other authorized antlerless moose season on a yearly basis.

In order for the Board to comply with AS 16.05.780, it must consider that antlerless moose seasons require approval by a majority of the active advisory committees located in, or the majority of whose members reside in, the affected unit or subunit. For the purpose of this section, an “active advisory committee” is a committee that holds a meeting and acts on the proposal.

Because of the requirement for yearly reauthorization, the Board of Game approves of the proposals in order to insure they remain in regulation. In the case of the antlerless moose seasons, the Board of Game has delegated authority to the Department which allows them to administer a hunt if there is an allowable harvest of antlerless moose. The Board of Game has provided language to allow the Department to issue an “up to” number of permits so that we do not have to try and set a hard number each year. In most years it would be very difficult for a decision on allowable harvest to be made prior to the surveys the Department makes of the moose population.

This requirement for yearly authorization takes a lot of valuable Board time as well as requiring the Department to bring in area biologists or regional supervisors to present to the Board information on the proposed regulation. The attendance of many of these area biologists or regional supervisors is not required for any other proposed regulatory changes that the Board will consider in the normal Board cycle of proposals.

Because this requirement increases the cost to the Department and the Board, and because the annual reauthorization for some of the antlerless moose seasons may be considered a house keeping requirement in order to comply with AS 16.05.780, the Board has determined that a more efficient way to handle the annual reauthorization should be adopted and has established the following policy in agreement with the Department.


Policy for yearly authorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts by the Board of Game

Each year, the Department will present as a package for approval all of the antlerless moose proposals. During that presentation, if there are any changes that will be required to be considered, they will be noted for later discussion.

Because the Board had delegated the authority to the Department to hold antlerless moose hunts, there are many hunts that do not occur based on biology. The Department and the Board finds that it is important to keep these regulations on the books so that when opportunity exists, the Department will have the ability to provide additional opportunity for the use of antlerless moose.

The Board agrees that it will minimize debate during the presentation and only consider extensive discussion on any reauthorization that will be associated with a pending proposal submitted during the normal cycle to be considered. This discussion will be limited to any proposal submitted to the Board and not during the approval fo the packaged proposals for reauthorization of antlerless moose seasons.

The Board is aware of the time and expense required to comply with AS 16.05.780; it feels that by adopting this policy both the Department and Board will be better served.



Cliff Ludkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0
March 12, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Board of Game
2002-137-BOG
Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings

The Board of Game (Board) took public and advisory committee testimony on Douglas Island (Unit 1C) wolves, received biological information from the Department of Fish and Game, and deliberated a proposal (Proposal 3) dealing with management of wolves and deer on the island. As a result, the Board finds the following:

1. There have been occasional sightings of wolves and wolf tracks on Douglas Island over the past 20 years, and especially over the past 3-4 years. The only confirmed records of wolves being harvested on Douglas Island are seven (7) animals taken in January 2002. A single juvenile wolf was found dead near Eagle Crest ski area in September 2001.
2. The pack removed in January 2002 likely represented all the wolves present at that time.
3. Wolves may re-colonize the island but when this will occur is unpredictable.
4. Douglas Island and its wildlife are in close proximity to the third largest human population center in Alaska, and many residents have an interest in viewing, hunting, and otherwise experiencing wildlife, including wolves, on the island.
5. Sitka black-tailed deer occur on the island and provide a large fraction of the deer harvest in Unit 1C. In recent years (1995-2001) deer harvests have ranged between about 200 and 350 annually.
6. Under 5 AAC 92.106 (the intensive management regulation) the deer population in Unit 1C is identified as being important for high levels of human consumption. The harvest objective is 450 deer per year.
7. If wolves re-colonize Douglas Island and increase to high densities, there is potential for wolf predation on deer to decrease deer numbers and deer harvests.
8. It is likely that low to moderate numbers of wolves on Douglas Island can coexist with a deer population that can continue to provide a reasonable number of deer for human consumption.
9. In order to provide for sustained numbers of both wolves and deer on Douglas Island after wolves re-colonize, a management area (the Douglas Island Management Area) shall be created. This area will consist of Douglas Island in its entirety.
10. Within the management area, hunting and trapping of wolves is prohibited until at least seven (7) wolves are present. Subsequently, annual harvests may not exceed 30 percent of fall wolf numbers.

11. When wolves are present, if the island deer harvest declines more than 35 percent below the average harvest over the preceding 10 years (with approximately equal hunting effort), wolf hunting and trapping will be reopened as necessary to maintain both wolf and deer populations.
12. In order to more closely monitor the harvest, trappers shall register with the department and receive a permit prior to entering the field. Specific conditions of the permit will include attending a trapper orientation course, obtaining a trapper registration number, and providing information on trapping locations. Restrictions on methods and means and registration requirements, and other aspects shall occur as needed.
13. By this action, the Board's intent is to provide desired sustained opportunities for a broad diversity of user groups concerned with wolves and deer on Douglas Island. This is compatible with the desires of virtually all those who expressed their views to the Board.

Vote: _____
November 7, 2002
Juneau, Alaska

Ben Grussendorf, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

**Alaska Board of Game
2002-136A-BOG
Unit 1D Brown Bear Drawing Hunt Finding**

The Board of Game (Board) took public and advisory committee testimony on (Unit 1D) brown bears, received biological information from the Department of Fish and Game, and deliberated a proposal (Proposal 7) dealing with a drawing permit hunt for brown bears. As a result, the Board finds the following:

1. Harvest of brown bears in Unit 1D has met or exceeded harvest goals during the 1991-2001 period. This is due to an increase in Defense of Life and Property (DLP) by expanding human populations into brown bear habitat and to increasing nonresident harvest.
2. Specific details of over harvest of brown bears are noted: harvest of brown bears exceeds the harvest goal in Unit 1D during 1991-2001. The harvest goal for brown bears in Unit 1D is 16 bears (4% of the estimated population of 396) with the female portion of the harvest not to exceed 1.5% of the estimated population. Mean annual harvest during 1991-2001 is 17 bears/year.
3. Harvest of female brown bears exceeds the goal of 1.5% including a harvest of 5 sows in one season by the nonresident clients of one big game commercial service provider.
4. A greater number of guides are operating in Unit 1D due to recent restrictions that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) imposed on brown bear guiding on federal lands in Unit 4 and in the remainder of Unit 1. Because of restrictions on federal land, guiding on state land in Unit 1D has become very attractive to guides not permitted to hunt brown bears on federal lands in southeast Alaska. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not have an effective means in which to limit or distribute the intensity of big game commercial service provider effort.
5. The Board finds that a lack of a Big Game Commercial Services Board and the inability to limit the scope of operation pertaining to individual big game commercial service providers has detrimentally affected guided hunter allocation. The state has no way to restrict the number of guides who can operate in a particular area since the Owsichek decision in 1988. If additional guides begin targeting Unit 1D this will put additional hunting pressure on the brown bear population.
6. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) and DNR hope to work together with brown bear guides to address big game commercial guiding in the Haines State Forest (HSF) Plan. A permitting system enacted by DNR would allow them to potentially limit the number of

guides operating on HSF land if ADFG believed this would help solve the resource concern with brown bears or other wildlife species.

7. Regulatory options available to ADFG included managing the hunt through Emergency closures. However, because of the low reproductive potential of brown bears, the Board realized that this strategy would likely result in continued over harvest.
8. In order to address conservation concerns, ADFG proposed the option of establishing a drawing permit hunt for nonresidents for brown bears in Unit 1D (Proposal 7) similar to the hunt established for brown bears in 26B (5AAC 85.025).
9. Alaskan residents and advisory committees were divided on the drawing permit issue. The Juneau Advisory Committee supported the department proposal with the amendment that the Board approve 20 permits for the drawing permit hunt. The Upper Lynn Canal AC opposed the idea of a drawing permit hunt. All respondents agreed that harvest has met or exceeded ADFG harvest goals and that there is an increasing trend in harvest of brown bears in Unit 1D.
10. Given that the human population continues to grow and expand in Unit 1D and given that there is no way to allocate hunting opportunity for brown bears among a continually growing population of guides, it is evident that the brown bear population would continue to be threatened as the annual harvest exceeds harvest goals.
11. Given that harvest of brown bear sows has been increasing during the previous decade and that sows comprised 50% of the harvest in some years, it is evident that the brown bear population would continue to be threatened as the annual harvest exceeds harvest goals.
12. The Board adopted a nonresident drawing permit hunt for brown bears in Unit 1D to be held each year between the dates of Sept. 15 through Dec. 31 and March 15 through May 31. Up to 20 permits are authorized.
13. By this action, the Board's intent is to provide desired sustained hunting opportunities for resident and nonresident hunters and to support a viable guiding industry in Unit 1D.

Vote: _____
November 7, 2002
Juneau, Alaska

Ben Grussendorf, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Alaska Board of Game
Findings 2000 -134 BOG
Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

At its meeting in Juneau, Alaska, November 1-7, 2000, the Board of Game (Board) received the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (Strategy), heard a summary of the Strategy presented by the Unit 4 Brown Bear Planning Team (Team), and considered public testimony on the subject. Based on this information, and in consideration of the Board's statutory authorities and requirements, the Board supports the Strategy as indicated by the endorsement of these Findings.

The Board reached the following conclusions:

1. The planning process used by the Team involved a wide range of public and agency interests in formulating comprehensive management recommendations for Unit 4 brown bears.
2. The recommendations in the Strategy are a comprehensive compromise package. To maintain the integrity of the compromise embodied in the Strategy, all essential elements must be implemented in a timely and reasonable manner.
3. Recommendations in the Strategy are both within and outside the jurisdiction of the Board. Recommendations within the jurisdiction of the Board include setting mortality guidelines, prioritizing options for hunting regulation changes should the mortality guidelines be exceeded, and adjusting regulations as needed to assist management of bear hunting/viewing areas.
4. As previously determined by the Board, brown bears in Unit 4 are customarily and traditionally used for subsistence and the amount necessary for subsistence uses is 5-10 bears. Recently, the Federal Subsistence Board, in response to a proposal by the Southeast Regional Federal Subsistence Council, authorized five federal registration permits annually for educational purposes of teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices. The Board supports this action as long as the risk of overharvest is minimized.
5. The existing codified regulations governing the taking of Unit 4 brown bears (5 AAC 85.020) provide a framework within which the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (Department) can administer hunts consistent with the harvest recommendations in the Strategy through exercise of discretionary authority vested in the Department under 5 AAC 92.052. Therefore, no changes are necessary in the codified regulations to implement the recommendations of the Strategy with respect to harvest.

Based on these findings, the Board:

1. Supports the package of recommendations from the Team and urges other agencies and entities with the power to implement these recommendations to do so.

2. Requests the Department to manage hunting of Unit 4 brown bears to maintain a total 3-year average human-caused mortality guideline that does not exceed 4% of each island (Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof, Northeast Chichagof) population, and a total 3-year average human-caused female mortality guideline that does not exceed 1.5% of each island population.
3. Requests that the Department follow the recommended priority for hunting regulation changes should the mortality guidelines be exceeded. They are:
 - In the event that human-caused mortality guidelines are exceeded for one season or year, the Department will attempt to change the next year's outcome by obtaining voluntary harvest adjustment from guides and hunters.
 - In the event that documented human-caused mortality calculated on a 3-year average is exceeded, the following options will be evaluated and implemented if appropriate.
 - 1) Mandatory adjustment of number of guided hunters by US Forest Service (USFS).
 - 2) Season adjustments.
 - 3) Establish drawing permits for nonresidents on a Guide Use Area basis.
 - 4) Establish drawing permits for residents only after above management alternatives have been employed.
 - All non-subsistence hunting by residents will, when necessary, be by registration permit, until the resident harvest exceeds 70% of the harvest guideline for a given population. If resident harvest exceeds 70% of the harvest guideline, institute a resident drawing permit hunt.
 - Consider all proposed regulatory actions or steps in the context of their effect on bear harvest in the entire Southeast Alaska region, not just Unit 4.
 - Cooperate with the USFS in management of habitat and access.
4. Will strive to bring State regulations into harmony with Federal subsistence regulations that provide additional opportunity to take brown bears under an educational permit for the purposes of teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices.
5. Supports the concept of Brown Bear Special Use Zone (SUZ) management that accommodates both hunting and viewing and will consider seasons, methods and means, limited area closures and other regulations as necessary on a case-by-case basis to implement SUZ's in appropriate areas in Unit 4. Will consider use of this model for viewing area proposals elsewhere in Alaska.
6. Supports the concept of Human/Bear High Use Zone management that aims to keep key riparian and shore habitat available to bears and requests the Department cooperate with the USFS in the identification of such zones, and will consider regulations as necessary on a case-by-case basis to implement appropriate management in these zones.

7. Encourages the USFS to incorporate the team's recommendations in its Saltwater Shoreline-based Outfitter/Guide Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement for the northern Tongass National Forest.
6. Supports the USFS moratoria on guides and hunts in Units 1 and 4, pending the outcome of the ongoing USFS planning process.
7. Requests the Department to Prepare and distribute educational materials on hunter ethics and other information to help minimize wounding loss and the harvest of females.

Vote: 7 - 0
November 9, 2000

Lori Quakenbush

Lori Quakenbush, Chair
Alaska Board of Game