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Results of Recent CRD Aerial Waterfowl Surveys and
The Status of Big Game in Game Management Unit 6

MOOSE

UNIT 6A - Katella to Icy Bay

The season is from September 1 through December 31 with a desired quota of 30 bulls and 20 cows. To date we have had 20 bulls and 11 cows taken. Last December I observed 300 moose there.

UNIT 6B - Martin River and UNIT 6C - West Copper River Delta

In the Martin River area the season is from August 20 through November 30 with a desired quota of 50 bulls and 50 cows. Hunters took the desired quota by September 19. Last fall I observed 278 moose over there. I normally manage that herd for 150-175 moose. On the west side of CRD, because of the large movement of approximately 75 moose to the east side, I elected to have a token bull harvest with a desired quota of 20 bulls. The opening morning they took 17 so I closed the season down.

DEER

The standard season is from August 1 through December 31 with a four deer bag limit. Last year's harvest was around 450 deer and 60% were males. Hunter success was 55%. Better than half of the deer were taken in December and better than half the deer were taken off Montague Island.

MOUNTAIN GOATS

For the first time mountain goats have gone on a permit basis statewide. We have three permit hunts in Unit 6. Typically 85% of the harvest occurs during the first three months of the season - August, September and October. Very few goats are taken in November and December. Last year's harvest was 133 goats and 68% were males. Hunter success was 63%. To date 65 goats have been reported taken for this current season. The bulk of the hunting pressure and harvest comes out of that area between Rude River and Valdez Arm.

BLACK BEAR

The season is from September 1 through June 30. The 1979 harvest was 88 bears and 71% were males. Typically 80-90% of the harvest occurs in the spring. This spring we had only 64 bears taken and again 71% were males.

BROWN BEAR

The season this year was extended. We used to have a spring and fall season, now we are going to have a season that starts in the fall and goes through to the spring. Last year's harvest was 21 bears. This spring we had 17 bear taken.

WATERFOWL

We had a meeting last April to discuss the so-called 'duck crisis' on the Copper River Delta. We decided to hire a 'duck expert' and Dan Timm was directed to locate this individual. He has indicated that he has one prospect that looks really outstanding and a few others that look real good. In the meantime we have been flying a few duck surveys to determine where and when the birds are moving through. This fall Mike Jackson and I flew seven surveys. For this meeting we took a quick look at the data. About 80% of the ducks are found below the grass banks. The peak of the migration moved through about September 10. There was a second surge of ducks that came through with the geese on October 10.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST
Cordova Ranger District
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IN REPLY REFER TO
CRD Conference

December 31, 1980

Friends of the Copper River Delta:

This year's proceedings of the Copper River Delta Conference have been edited and prepared in record time primarily through the support of Fred Arbogast, Cordova District Ranger, the persistent efforts of Ms. Janice Johnson, Biological Technician, with support from Ms. Charlene Wright, and other Cordova District staff. We hope the enclosed copy meets your expectations.

As in the past, the task of summarizing the talks is made a great deal easier when the speaker submits an abstract of his paper. This assures that the essential points of the topic are conveyed in the manner intended. In any event, we have tried to preserve the fidelity of each presentation. If any errors or major omissions are apparent please contact the Cordova Ranger District staff for revisions. We will retain the tapes for a reasonable time should anyone require review of specific information. Alternately, the speakers themselves may be contacted for details. Likewise, please inform Cordova staff if you have suggestions which will improve the meeting.

Again, thanks to the participants for your help in making this year's conference possible.

Sincerely yours,

Garvan Bucaria

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Wetlands Biologist

