



## **Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting minutes.**

Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee called to order 6:45 pm. Feb. 16 @ Paxson Lodge.

Members in attendance; Mark Schlenker, John Schandelmeier, Jim Murray, Gary Alcott, and Lee Harper.

Several members of the public were also present.

J. Schandelmeier discussed the minutes of the previous meeting and informed committee members of discussions he had with the Board and with members of other advisory committees.

The first order of business was the Military's Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex proposal. There were varying points of discussion with the consensus being that low level flights be avoided during the months of Aug. and Sept. This will be communicated on the JPARC site.

Fish proposals; several proposals will be addressed on the appropriate forms.

>>>Subsistence whitefish;

Notify ADF&G when net is deployed, 5% total by-catch, Nov. 10-Mar. 31 season.

>>>Paxson and Summit Lakes;

Single hook, bait okay except during Aug. and Sept.

>>>Lake trout, Paxson and Summit Lakes;

Closed Sept. 1-30<sup>th</sup> for spawning.

Mark Schlenker brought to our attention that the King Salmon escapement goal has not been met on the Gulkana for the past 5 seasons. We concur that this is due to high levels of fishing pressure during low water conditions. Catch and release has a relatively high mortality rate. Emergency closures by the Dept. are not very effective due to the time between recognizing that a problem exists and implementation of the closure.

>>>solution; close king fishing 2 days per week---Sundays and Mondays, June 1 thru July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Our Committee moved into game proposals for the March meeting. The proposal number will be followed by our discussion summary.**

#39—no support. The current season and bag limit has been effective in increasing Ptarmigan numbers in the more easily accessible areas. We would like to see the current reg. continue for another cycle. We discussed a longer season with a reduced bag limit. (5 per day, 10 in possession) but felt that spring enforcement is poor in this area and very high snowmobile traffic could create problems.

#40—no support. Insignificant.



#41—support. Expand this to be unit wide. Brown bears that come in to bait stations may become habituated to “people food.” Taking a few of these bears may alleviate potential problems.

#42—no support. This proposal would add to already complicated regulations; there are better proposals to do with this issue.

#43—no support. One of the objectives of Tier I is subsistence. The requirement of hunting locally only, addresses that very well. If you remove this requirement you no longer can call this Tier I.

#44—no support. same as 42.

#45—no support. same

#46—no support. the number of caribou available for harvest changes, sometimes on a yearly basis. The number of available permits needs to reflect that.

#47—support. clarify the language; **bonus points only apply to the drawing portion of the hunt.**

#48—support. our advisory committee does not support a community hunt. Tier I and Federal caribou permits adequately address the current needs of subsistence users. There is no need to create specialized groups that wish to harvest caribou-----or moose. Community harvest, as now written, just adds to an already unwieldy mass of Nelchina caribou regulations.

#49—support. The ANS number should be fixed. A range is superfluous as the Dept. always uses the upper end anyway. The number that is now used was determined by harvest over the past years---that harvest had nothing to do with need, but rather on the take—by various permit systems. The population of the Copper River Basin and surrounding areas has under gone little change over the past 30 years. The number of 500 was arrived at by determining subsistence harvest from the general area.

#50-- no support---some proposals are too complicated to understand and leave themselves open to a variety of interpretations. This is one of those. We don't understand it and have no faith in the general hunting public to do so either.

#51—support. align horn requirements

#52—support. same as 51

#53—support. same as 51

#54—no support. sealing gives age and harvest information.

#55—no comment

#56—support. This is our proposal. This allows for additional hunting opportunity as the moose population continues to slowly increase. We additionally support continuing the 4-brow tines, over 50”, spike/fork season from Sept.1-20.



#57—no comment

#58—no support. What happens when these numbers are reached? More hunters? Less predators? Do we pat ourselves on the back because we reach a harvest objective? Moose numbers will reflect hunting pressure, range integrity, predators, and winter mortality among other factors. A range is an artificial value with no value.

#59—support. same reasons as proposal 56.

#60—no comment

#61—no support. We do not support community harvest.

#62—no support. same reason

#63—no support. Moose are easy to hunt at this time, but the quality of the meat is poor. Moose are for food.

#64—no support. Our committee likes the spike/fork option. Lee Harper indicated that there were few spike/fork where he hunted this past season. Mark Schlenker saw quite a few. Maybe a factor of elevation?

#65—no support. unnecessary.

#66—no support. unnecessary

#67—no comment

#68—no support. non-issue

#69—no comment

#70 support. This is our proposal. ATV use along the Denali Highway is increasing at a moderate rate. Yet, current statistics show that at least half of the hunters still work on foot. The increased efficiency and performance of ATV's are expanding the trail system at an alarming rate. There are few safe havens for moose any more. We see this proposal a must for slowing the expansion of the trail system and allowing for many different types of users groups to be effective and satisfied with their hunts.

#109—no support.

#113—no support. We do not support the taking of animals at a time when they are unuseable.

#122---support. allow this review.

Additionally; Our advisory committee does not support cow moose hunts in Unit 13 for a variety of reasons. Should there be a State of Alaska hunt, there will then likely also be a Federal one also. Cow moose hunts have never worked in this area in the past. Our advisory committee has over 100 years combined experience in Unit 13. We have seen cow hunts come and go—always told; “next time we



will get it right!" If the bull cow ration is skewed in a particular area, it will likely change as the season changes—bulls will move in.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm. We felt we had a productive and informative meeting, with much accomplished.

J. Schandelmeier will be in Wasilla and try to attend Board deliberations though he feels there may be a conflict with the Iditarod.