

Here is a map of unit 17. The tan village and corporation controlled land where guides can not hunt moose and usually are not allowed to hunt bears. BBNA the reg. corp says they want a shareholder to have bear hunting privileges but they have no-one to guide bear hunters. The small tributaries (purple) are where we use to have good moose hunting but no longer. Recovery has begun slowly. Notice they are all the upper smaller drainages where the old MCH use to winter and calve. The wolves ran them out of there or killed them. This area adjacent to the refuge has lots of moose. And can easily support more hunting but residents will not go there because of difficult access both in fall and winter.

Notice on this map my camp location at the start of the braids. This begins the point where props get torn up. And either you have a jet, you go thru props or you are good. Very few locals run jets due to fuel costs and hauling ability. And few are experts but there are some that could teach me a lesson. This is where the vast majority of local area hunters stop and turn around, if they get that far. They mostly hunt from here down and they hunt the Nuyukuk river because it is close and prop boat accessible. At the 2009 meeting I told the Board these facts and the 2 F&G employees later basically called me a liar. I am here to tell you, the truth is what I have said. The conflict between local hunters and guides is minimal at best. Most of the locals getting to my camp stop in for coffee and brownies and a break before heading back down river. Most local hunters call from and never leave the boat except to retrieve game. Early in the resident season, the moose are off the river because the bears are feeding on fish in the river. This explains why you do not see many moose or fresh tracks right next to the river. Contrary to some statements; moose hunting has been good for area locals on their land and in areas close to and below Koliganek. They know the moose hunting is better down river from my camp. Harvest data will prove it with out a doubt. In 2009 F&G told you that they had no way of knowing where locals hunted even though the registration permit asks for more detailed information than a general harvest ticket. F&G refused to provide that data. Leaving you to believe that their may be a conflict. When asked, the Dept representative said he had never been on the river up there. And after the break when I told the other Dept Rep that backed up the lie that "I want to see you run a prop boat to Big Bend" 4 hours by boat above my camp; he replied smiling, "Can we use your motor?"

I strongly disagree with the current Dept. statement that the BOG said the new Sept. 5 dead line for RM 587 excluded holidays. The Board was asking if the registration could be left open until all 75 permits were issued. The biologist was resisting doing that for the reasons stated in my proposals. Leaving the registration open does 2 important things. It allows hunters to hunt the end of moose and still be around to hunt bears on the gut piles after moose season. If they must be there by Sept 5th for the permit the hunt begins to be too long. Anything over 10 days begins to be too long. If you do nothing else, extend the deadline to Sept 9th. Please note that the private corporation hunting lands extend for almost 200 miles through prime moose habitat and good hunting. Resident moose season is August 20- Sept. 15. and there is the 30 day winter season. Opportunity is abundant. Non-residents are restricted to a fifty inch minimum moose or 4 brow tines. The Guides are not hurting the moose population nor are we responsible the moose declines in the upper Nushagak drainages or the collapse of the MCH. Those fingers can be pointed directly at F&G and the air taxis/transporters that kept bringing hunters until the last yearling caribou bull was shot. And for denying a wolf problem not having the for thought that the wolf population would begin hammering the moose in all these small drainages.

Brown bears. You have heard there are many more bears. I can tell you for a fact that there are much fewer bears and much smaller bears than there was just 11 years ago when us guides began spring bear hunting unit 17 by snow machine. This was in response to the BOG opening the season from May 10-25 to Sept 20-May 25 which allowed the spring snow mobile season. Harvest increased dramatically beginning in 1998 or so. The early spring bear hunting season by snow machine is solely responsible for the rapid growth of the moose populations east and north of Dillingham, in the State Park and on the Refuge. There is no doubt. Big bears are now rare. 7 foot bears or so are the norm. 8 footers are not so easy. The 10 footers are rare. IF I am wrong about the actual bear population unit wide only 2 things can cause it. Many sows, cubs, yearlings with few big boars or the bear population is high where guides can not hunt on private land. Please noticed the Dept has not used the brown bear data they have collected to bolster their contention that the population is healthy and growing. Look at the age and sex of the bears taken over the last 20 years. What can we sell a six foot sow hunt for? We will be there soon with a 2 bear limit.

Keep in mind that some local hunters look at my moose hunting clients as taking food from their table; we look at them shooting every bear they see all summer and fall as taking money from our pockets and big hides off the wall.

It is truly a shame when local land owners prefer to shoot a bear worth thousands and leave it lay rather than let a guide's client kill the bear and lets every one makes money.

Concerning the MCH the Dept. is artfully misleading you again. 30,000 caribou. Harvest objective 6% or 1800 caribou. Harvest was 309 in 2009. OR 1500 short of the goal. The fact is the caribou are not where they will shoot them. But guided fly in hunters can access them and maybe take a brown bear also. Allocating 20-30 permits, drawing or registration, will have absolutely no effect on the herd growth except when it comes to herd growth or lack their of due top predation.

Wolf. Contrary to what Dept employees have said; In 1990 the wolf tracks were fairly rare in the upper Nushagak river and tributaries. I was there, walking those gravel bars and spotting from those hills. 8 years ago they were everywhere, every gravel bar. Now even the wolves have moved south for the moose because there are no caribou along the river and adjacent upland hills.

I want an answer to my question on black bear baiting.

This Board has recommended the GUACP; Where guides are suppose to be long term stewards of the land. I suggest you listen to these guides that have spent time in the field and have been there long enough to see tracks and trends. The Guide Board has refused to address the transporters in any meaning full way. They have the ability thru Statute to create Transporter use areas. In 6 years they have done nothing along those lines. I personally can not support this plan, nor can those that stand behind me until we address allocation issues of which this board has control. We can not reasonably offer a bid on a GUA until we are allocated a certain number of animals. And factored into that bid is how much competition we will have from transported hunters. If we manage our area as proposed and are successful; then nothing stops transporters/ air taxis from coming in and raping everything out from under us in 1 year and then moving on?