



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT
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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503



RC65

FAX COVER SHEET

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DATE: *Mar 07, 2011* NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 of *5*

TO: *Board of Game Chair*

FAX NUMBER: *907-465-6094* PHONE NUMBER:

SUBJECT: *Proposals 222/223 Comments from WIRAC
UKVMA Comments from WIRAC*

REMARKS:

*Comments from the western Interior
Regional Advisory Council from its Mar 1-2, 2011
public meeting in Galena.*

[Signature]

*Questions, Please Contact Chuck Drolizzone,
OSM Board of Game Liaison*



**Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 787-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
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March 04, 2011

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman Alaska Board of Game
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council met on March 1-2, 2011 in Galena, Alaska. The Council provided an opportunity for public testimony on Proposals 222 and 223 after deliberation the Council unanimously opposed the proposals. The Council is in favor of allowing the ADF&G biologists to retain discretionary authority to require nullification of trophy value in certain hunts the BOG determines necessary.

These proposals, if adopted, would eliminate an important tool used to help manage moose harvest in Units 21B, 21D, and 24D. The Council believes the total elimination of discretionary authority will cause harvest in these units to exceed sustainability.

The nullification of trophy value is a key component of the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan (KRMM) and was endorsed by the planning process participants.

If proposals 222 and 223 were to be adopted, hunter crowding and over harvest of the bull moose will again occur. Hunting in this area will need to be closed to non-resident hunters to provide for all the resident hunters that will be attracted to this area again.



We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with comments on this important matter and look forward to working with you on these issues. Should you have questions, please contact me via Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3629.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Reakoff".

Jack Reakoff, Chair

Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

cc: Peter Probasco, ARD
Federal Subsistence Board Members
Western Interior RAC



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March 04, 2011

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman Alaska Board of Game
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council met on March 1-2, 2011 in Galena, Alaska. The Council addressed various subsistence related management issues, including the Draft Feasibility Assessment for Intensive Management Program for Unit 24B. The Council comments for your consideration would be the following.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented the Draft Feasibility Assessment for Intensive Management Program for Unit 24B proposed for the Upper Koyukuk Village Management Area (UKVMA) to the Council. ADF&G believes wolves are a primary reason the moose population is declining or stable at low density. The estimated wolf population within the proposed intensive management area consists of approximately 30-40 wolves (3-4 packs).

Trapper harvest is low due to 7.00 dollars per-gallon of fuel, and difficult timbered terrain. The micro treatment area is made up of lands associated with Allakaket and Alatna villages. These villages have not met their needs for moose, under the current Department's Amount Necessary for Subsistence, for several years recently. Without wolf predation reduction, needed moose harvest will continue to be difficult to achieve near the struggling affected communities.

The Council unanimously supported the Draft Feasibility Assessment for Intensive Management Program treatment for Unit 24B. Residents in and near the UKVMA in Unit 24B, have experienced a decreased harvest per unit effort due to the low-density moose population to meet their subsistence needs, and therefore need assistance.

The Council urges the Alaska State Board of Game to adopt the UKVMA Intensive Management Program for Unit 24B. Based on the ADF&G presentation at the Council meeting, this program, if adopted, should help the moose population to increase in the area by 300-350 moose within ten years of the treatment.



We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with comments on this important matter and look forward to working with you on these issues. Should you have questions, please contact me via Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3629.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Reakoff".

Jack Reakoff, Chair
Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

cc: Peter Probasco, ARD
Federal Subsistence Board Members
Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, Hughes, and Huslia Tribal Councils
Western Interior RAC members

RC 66

Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

February 3, 2011 Meeting

Members Present:

- Steve Flory
- Frank Neumann
- Robert Caywood
- Hank Hodge
- Joel Doner
- Phil Lincoln
- Bruce Morgan
- Jim Stubbs
- Kevin Sparrowgrove

- Mark Campbell
- Greg Bell

Members Excused:

- Zach Stubbs
- Erika Wolter
- Grant Klotz

Members Unexcused:

Suspended members: Wade Willis; Mike McCrary

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Chairman Bruce Morgan.

There were no quests and no public testimony present at the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was approved.
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

We had as a guest Becky Schwanke from ADF&G, the biologist for units #11 and #13.

Public testimony:

- #1- Alison Rein talked about the Board of Game Proposal #177, of which she was the author of this proposal. Her testimony pertained to the trappings incidents of dogs in traps on the trails in the area and the closeness of the traps to the walking and hiking trails. There was a question given to Alison about loose dogs on the trails in the Chugach Mountains around Anchorage. The trooper in Girdwood said that he would 2 of the trappers he knows of this winter trapping in the area. It was noted about un-controlled dogs getting in traps.
- #2- Steve Petruit talked in support of Proposal #177 as well.
- #3- Richard Person talked to us in support of BOF Proposal #117 and #118; BOG proposal #128 and #177. He opposed #128 and #177
- #4- Nathan Corr from Soldotna talked to us about BOF Proposal #168 as he was the author of this proposal. It was discussed that it was similar to Proposal #169 and 170. The consensus for our AC was that we would support #169 as its author was Joel Doner from our AC.
- #5- Don Hunley spoke to us and informed us about falconry in Alaska. Falconry is not a regulated form of hunting right now. The US fish and Wildlife Service will be handing off control to the states in 2014. The Falconry group will have more information on proposals to the state by April.

It was here that Steve motioned to have Becky Schwanke be accepted into the committee as a whole as we are going to go over the BOG proposals now. Steve will begin being the secretary for the meeting now to be part of the game sub-committee minutes.

The meeting was recessed at 9:55 PM and will resume at the next meeting on 02-15-2011.

RC67

The Board of Game requested the following three policies be included in the proposal book for the public review and comment.

~DRAFT~
**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-XXX-BOG**

**Game Management Unit 13
Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses**

These findings supplement 2006-170-BOG as to uses of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose. In the 2006 finding, the Board indentified the specific pattern of subsistence uses upon which the positive customary and traditional use finding for Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose, set forth in 5 AAC 99.025, were based. This pattern of uses originated within the communities of the indigenous Ahtna Athabascan inhabitants of the Copper River Basin. Among other things, the findings emphasized the “community-based” nature of this traditional pattern of use. As described in those findings, this community-based subsistence pattern:

- Links families in widespread networks of sharing that are shaped by traditional norms of behavior;
- Provides a context in which skills, knowledge, and values are passed across generations; is accomplished efficiently with thorough, non-wasteful use of the harvested game and often by hunters who specialize in harvesting meat for the community; and
- Occurs within a broader pattern of use of and dependence upon a variety of locally-harvested wild foods that is a key element of the way of life of the local area.

The board has also noted that this community-based pattern as established by the Ahtna has been adopted and modified by other local settlers and, to a more limited degree, by other Alaska residents. This community-based, local use pattern was contrasted to a largely nonlocal, Rail belt based pattern that was probably most properly characterized as a non-subsistence use pattern. Thus, the 2006 findings addressed and discussed two basic use patterns for Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose.

The Board finds that there is need to recognize the range of uses within the previously-described subsistence use pattern that have developed as individuals, families, and other social groups, both within and outside the local area, have adapted to changing economic, demographic, and cultural conditions. Differences have developed concerning the level of organization of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose, such that the traditional uses are practiced among households and families in addition to the community-based pattern established by the Ahtna. The Ahtna community-based pattern persists within close-knit communities that are also widespread both within and outside the basin. Other basin residents and some nonlocal residents who are not part of the traditional Ahtna community engage in subsistence uses at a more individual, household, or extended family level. Both sub-patterns exhibit, with some variation, most of the criteria listed in 5 AAC 99.010(b), but different regulatory options may be necessary to provide reasonable opportunities for each. The range of uses that characterize these sub-patterns are as follows.

Since the beginning of the towns and settlement areas within the range, or with easy access to, the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose, individuals, households, and families from those towns and settlements have hunted the herd to provide for their basic necessities of life, especially food, and not just for recreational or trophy purposes. This relatively small use is not community based in nature, in that these individuals, households, and families are not linked to extensive networks of cooperation and sharing or are not part of larger social groups that organize and promote traditional knowledge and behavior, but is focused primarily on procuring food and has, as of the date of these findings, existed now for at least three generations in some of these areas. As set forth in greater detail below, this use has at least a few identifiable characteristics which separate it from the larger Rail belt based, non-subsistence use patterns.

Since at least the early 1930's, hunting of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose has been regulated by season and bag limits. Nonlocal hunters interviewed in the 1980's by the Subsistence Division of ADF&G confirmed that most hunt in the fall, with fewer participating in winter hunts. All hunters currently tend to focus their harvest efforts during the late summer and early fall, when caribou and moose are in their best physical condition and relatively accessible from the road system. Winter hunts have been an important back-up opportunity for the community based subsistence use pattern described in the 2006 findings, and may also be relied on by other subsistence users, to a somewhat lesser extent. The winter hunts do not appear to be important to non-subsistence users.

Regarding efficiency of hunting effort, the Board has not been presented with any information that would distinguish non-local subsistence users from other users based primarily from the Rail belt. Compared to community- based and other local users who hunt close to home, non-local users tend to travel greater distances (typically 200-300 miles), thereby incurring greater costs, to harvest Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose, making their use less efficient. However, data from the 1980's illustrates that even non-local subsistence users tend to hunt in the areas most accessible to their communities. Thus, Fairbanks-area hunters tended to hunt near the Denali Highway, and Anchorage-area hunters tended to hunt near the Glenn Highway. Also, efficiency by non-community based subsistence users may be fostered to some extent by limiting hunting to a few well-known areas year after year, within relatively easy, and predictably economical, reach of participants.

Non-local subsistence users of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose and others who are not organized at the community-level have testified, and Board members know from experience, that they prefer to return year-by-year to one or more well-known and long-established camping/hunting sites. These are traditional "caribou," "moose," or "caribou and moose" camps for these individuals and their families. If caribou or moose are not obtained during these forays, chances are they will not be obtained at all because subsistence users, unlike non-subsistence users, tend not to travel around the state to experience a wide variety of hunting opportunities. Unlike subsistence users who are organized at the community level, many other users tend to travel further into the backcountry, away from major roads and rivers, often using off-road vehicles to get to the remotest locations possible.

The Board has not been presented with any information that would distinguish the handling, preparing, preserving, and storing techniques used by individuals, households, families outside the traditional community-based context- to distinguish them from their neighbors who hunt for recreation. Most users of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose based along the Rail belt freeze their harvested meat and use modern methods of handling, preparing, preservation, and storage. Compared to those who follow traditions established by the Ahtna and adopted by some other users, there is less use of organ meats, and almost no use of the hide and bones; and the roles in handling and preparing harvested animals are less formal and not based on longstanding, widely-understood rules of proper behavior towards the animals taken, as is the case for those who follow the Ahtna, community-based traditions.

Because households and families engaged in subsistence uses tend to hunt from long-established, multi-generational camps, lore about how and where to hunt is handed down from generation to generation. This intergenerational transmission of knowledge is less formalized than the way knowledge is passed on within the Ahtna community based use pattern, but it is more apparent and traditional than is the case for non-subsistence uses, in which knowledge is clearly passed from one generation to the next but very little in the way of a formal and traditional transmission system exists, and knowledge is not necessarily tied to any particular location.

All subsistence users tend to share their harvests within their families and with close friends and, to some extent, this sharing is expected from year to year, and plays parts in traditional meals and celebrations. Non-local hunters interviewed by the Division of Subsistence in the 1980's confirmed that they shared mostly within their own households, while approximately 1/3 also said they shared with friends. Sharing among nonlocal hunters, as well as among some hunters who live in the local area, is less formal than is true under the community based use pattern as practiced by the Ahtna and some other local residents, and community and peer pressure to share is far less pronounced, but it is greater than is generally the case for the non-subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou and Unit 13 moose. Some long-established families living in close proximity to, and with a well-established history of hunting the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose, do expect that, if a family member successfully harvests a Nelchina caribou, the meat will be shared.

Some nonlocal hunters have testified that, as is generally the case in a subsistence use pattern, they prefer to consume wild foods over purchased foods, and often obtain the majority of their protein needs from Alaska's fish and game resources, as well as pick berries and harvest other wild foods. These preferences are sometimes expressed by non-subsistence hunters as well. Such users often travel to different, favored locations to harvest fish and game and other wild foods, but many of these locations are outside of the range of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and/or Unit 13 moose. Most non-local residents interviewed by the Division of Subsistence in the 1980's reported that moose was more important than caribou in their harvesting priorities, and often travelled to other locations to obtain moose. Locally-based users, on the other hand, tend to concentrate all of their wild food harvests in close proximity to the herd's range, and often try to harvest more than one resource per trip. Non-subsistence users tend to rely on wild foods to a much lesser degree, or not at all, compared to both groups of subsistence users.

Based on public testimony provided during the Board's last several meetings addressing the Nelchina Caribou Herd, on the Board's own experience, and on the above finding and 2006-170-BOG, the Board, applying its expertise and judgment, concludes that, at most, a few thousand people use the Nelchina Caribou Herd and Unit 13 moose in accordance with the identified subsistence use patterns, and that, therefore, a range of 600-1000 caribou and 300-600 moose are necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for both identified subsistence uses of this herd. This finding may be updated as appropriate and as additional data on the uses is gathered.

Vote: _____

[Date]

[Location]

Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

RC 68

DRAFT FOR EXTERNAL REVIEW**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation and
Division of Subsistence*****Disclaimers***

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Community Harvest Permit Program – Copper Basin***Introduction***

The community harvest permit (CHP) program is authorized by regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Game (board) at 5 AAC 92.072 and at 5 AAC 92.074 and provides for communities or groups of 25 or more to conduct subsistence hunting in areas identified by the board.

For Game Management Unit (GMU) 13 caribou,¹ in 2006 the board reviewed the hunt in light of its consistency with the board's customary and traditional use finding. The board published its results as *Findings for the Alaska Board of Game, 2006-170-BOG, Game Management Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses* ("2006-170-BOG"). Findings from the October 2010 meeting are forthcoming. In the 2006 findings, the board continued its characterization of the caribou hunt as a subsistence hunt and furthermore stated that the GMU 13 caribou subsistence hunt follows a "unique pattern of subsistence use that is traceable in direct line back to the original Ahtna Athabascan and later non-Native customary and traditional use" (2006-170-BOG).

¹ The board included moose in the findings.

Although the board found the original pattern of use has been adopted and modified over time, it stated that “aspects of the traditional Ahtna Athabascan use pattern are present today...” and that “most of the long-term subsistence patterns in this area are community-based” (2006-170-BOG).

In 2009, an “Ahtna” CHP hunt was adopted by the board and administered by Ahtna, Inc. The board’s actions were challenged through a lawsuit, and in July 2010 the Alaska Superior Court (Third Judicial District) enjoined the Alaska Board of Game from authorizing an “Ahtna CHP that is fundamentally residency-based.”

In July 2010, the Superior Court did not find that all CHP hunts were “unconstitutional,” but that the Ahtna CHP hunt adopted by the board was residency-based and thus unconstitutional. The court also said that “The Department [ADF&G] needs to maintain control of the determination of lawful criteria for selecting who may hunt, for establishing any special restrictions for the hunt and for the handling of the game, and for establishing the terms and conditions for a meaningful communal sharing of caribou and moose under a CHP.”

The board met in October 2010 and adopted modifications to 5 AAC 92.072 to clarify its intent that CHP programs not be fundamentally residency-based. The board also adopted regulations to ensure that ADF&G will assume the permit administration role for all CHPs.

This Copper Basin CHP program thus is authorized by regulations adopted by the board and is administered in accordance with board findings published in 2006-170-BOG and in findings from the October 2010 board meeting.

These hunt conditions may be amended by the board and by ADF&G as needed to provide for the subsistence priority in Alaska state law for common use resources, as well as the constitutionally-mandated sustained yield management of the Nelchina caribou herd.

Participation in a Copper Basin CHP hunt does not affect federal subsistence hunting opportunities.

For More Information

Alaska Department of Fish and Game on-line at <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us>

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation
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333 Raspberry Road
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Hunt Administration

As recommended in the July 2010 Alaska Superior Court decision, ADF&G shall administer and manage the Copper Basin CHP program. Hunt administration will be in accordance with statutory and regulatory authority, including managing this common use resource for sustained yield according to laws regarding the subsistence preference passed by the Alaska State Legislature.

Copper Basin CHP application process

The ADF&G commissioner or the commissioner's designee **may** issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the board has established a community harvest hunt area (5 AAC 92.072). The CHP program allows a community or group of 25 or more to select, from their group members, individual harvesters who may possess particular expertise in hunting to harvest wildlife resources on behalf of the community or group.

The hunt conditions in this Copper Basin CHP program are made only for identification of the group/pool of users who are willing to use the caribou in a manner consistent with the eight factors in the customary and traditional use determination that the board adopted in 2006-170-BOG as well as in findings from the October 2010 meeting. ADF&G does not use such determinations for resource allocation.

A community or group may possess only one (1) Copper Basin caribou CHP at any given time and group members may subscribe to only one (1) Copper Basin caribou CHP per regulatory year. The Copper Basin CHP expires at the end of the regulatory year in which it was issued. Renewal of a Copper Basin CHP is the responsibility of the community or group.

Deadline for application

Applications for a Copper Basin CHP will be available from ADF&G by March 15 of the calendar year of the hunt (note that March 15 is a correction from the Tier I/II supplement published in November 2010). Applications must be returned to ADF&G and postmarked or faxed no later than 5:00 PM on May

1 of the calendar year of the hunt. If May 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then the application is due no later than 5:00 PM on the preceding Friday.

Incomplete applications will be void. Send or fax completed applications to the ADF&G Glennallen office.

There is no limit to the number of communities or groups that may apply for a Copper Basin CHP and there is no limit to the number of hunters who may participate in a community or group, except that there must be 25 or more members.

The community or group coordinator

In addition to permit hunt conditions and procedures found in 5 AAC 92.050, the community or group applying for a Copper Basin CHP must designate a coordinator as part of the application process. The coordinator certifies that the information presented in a Copper Basin CHP application is true and correct to the best of the coordinator's ability; ensures that all the conditions of a Copper Basin CHP will be met and will be fully disclosed as requested in the Copper Basin CHP reporting requirements; and serves as the primary point of contact.

ADF&G will issue one (1) Copper Basin Community Harvest Permit to the coordinator.

Hunter registration

In the application materials, the Copper Basin CHP coordinator must provide to the ADF&G Glennallen office a list of group members, the names of all their household members, and other requested information, who are hunting under the terms and conditions of a Copper Basin CHP hunt. The coordinator may contact the ADF&G Glennallen office at any time during the season to add additional hunters to the list.

According to 5 AAC 92.990 Definitions, a "household" means that group of people domiciled in the same residence.

Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest tickets and report cards

ADF&G will issue one (1) Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket/report card to each hunter on the community or group's eligible hunters list. In addition to licensing and hunter education requirements, each hunter must have a Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket in the hunter's possession in order to take or attempt to take caribou under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP hunt. By subscribing to a Copper

Basin CHP hunt, a hunter acknowledges that he or she will comply with all conditions of a Copper Basin CHP.

Hunters and their household members who subscribe to a Copper Basin CHP will not be eligible to receive a Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket if they have applied for:

1. Any other state caribou harvest ticket, drawing, or registration permit hunt statewide; or
2. Any state moose permit hunt outside of the Copper Basin CHP hunt area; or
3. If they have failed to comply with ADF&G reporting requirements in the previous year.

A person subscribing to a Copper Basin CHP hunt can hunt for caribou only in GMU 13 under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP hunt, and for moose only in the Copper Basin CHP hunt area.

Hunters must comply with all state hunting regulations and statutes, including, but not limited to, recording the Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket number on the back of the hunting license, carrying the Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket in the field, and validating the Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket immediately upon killing a caribou. The Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket must be in the hunter's possession until the caribou has been delivered to the location of processing for human consumption.

Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest tickets come with harvest reports attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field, but must be mailed or delivered to ADF&G within 5 days of taking the bag limit or within 30 days of the close of the season, even if the hunter did not hunt or did not kill a caribou.

Copper Basin CHP hunt area, and area open to caribou hunting

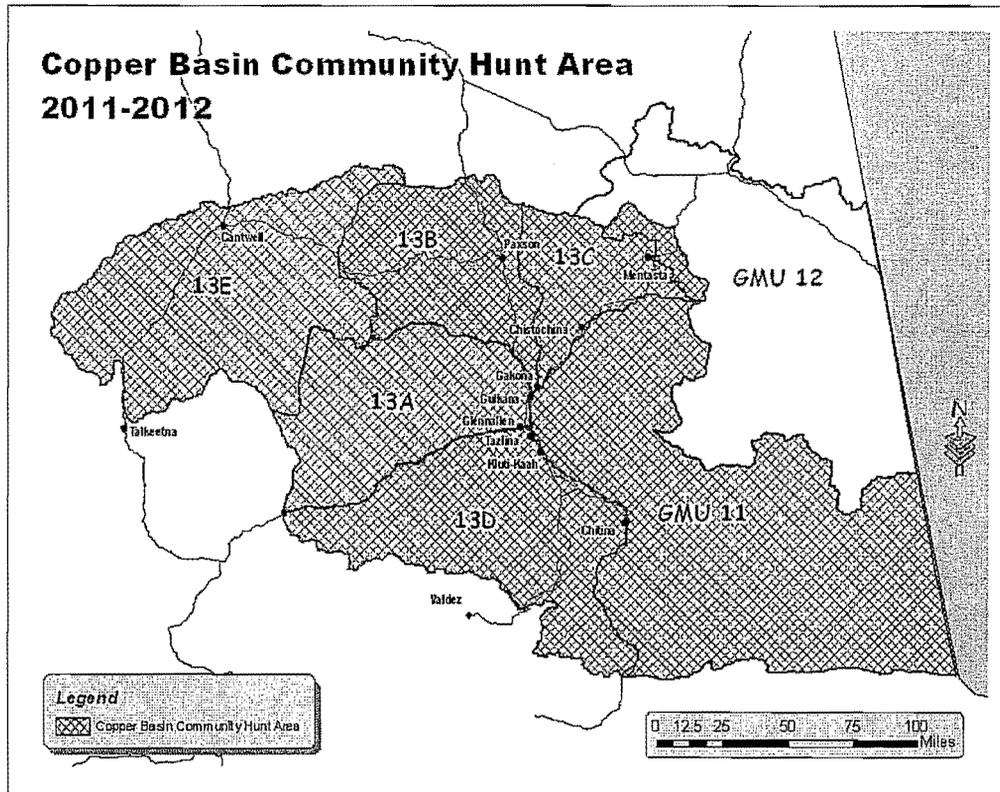
Although the Copper Basin CHP hunt area includes all of GMUs 11 and 13 and a portion of GMU 12 (see below), due to conservation concerns for adjacent caribou herds, **only GMU 13 is open to caribou hunting under the terms of a Copper Basin caribou CHP. Furthermore, a person subscribing to a Copper Basin caribou CHP hunt can hunt for moose only in the Copper Basin CHP hunt area.**

In 2006-170-BOG, the board has found that "subsistence uses involve an intimate and exclusive relationship between the user and a very particular set of places generally in close proximity to the hunter's residence. " The board findings furthermore say that the pattern of use by community residents "differs markedly from the use patterns found in Alaska's urban areas."

The Copper Basin CHP hunt area is described in 5 AAC 92.074 (d):

The Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah [Copper Basin] Community Harvest Area includes all of:

1. That area draining into the headwaters of the Copper River south of Suslota Creek and the area drained by all tributaries into the east bank of the Copper River between the confluence of Suslota Creek with the Slana River and Miles Glacier; and
2. That portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of GMUs 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier, and that area westerly of the east bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier, including the Slana River drainages north of Suslota Creek; and
3. The drainages into the Delta River upstream from Falls Creek and Black Rapids Glacier; and
4. The drainages into the Nenana River upstream from the southeast corner of Denali National Park at Windy; and
5. The drainages into the Susitna River upstream from its junction with the Chulitna River; and
6. The drainages into the east bank of the Chulitna River upstream to its confluence with Tokositna River; and
7. The drainages of the Chulitna River (south of Denali National Park) upstream from its confluence with the Tokositna River; and
8. The drainages into the north bank of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier; and
9. The drainages into the Tokositna Glacier; and
10. The drainages into the east bank of the Susitna River between its confluences with the Talkeetna and Chulitna rivers; and
11. The drainages into the north and east bank of the Talkeetna River, including the Talkeetna River, to its confluence with Clear Creek, the eastside drainages of a line going up the south bank of Clear Creek to the first unnamed creek on the south, then up that unnamed creek to lake 4408, along the northeast shore of lake 4408, then southeast in a straight line to the northernmost fork of the Chickaloon River; and
12. The drainages into the east bank of the Chickaloon River below the line from lake 4408; and
13. The drainages of the Matanuska River above its confluence with the Chickaloon River.



Open seasons

In 2006-170-BOG, the board found that the subsistence pattern is characterized by traditional fall and winter hunting seasons. Unless modified under ADF&G emergency order authority, there are two (2) open seasons for a Copper Basin CHP caribou hunt. Copper Basin CHP hunt participants may hunt for Nelchina caribou only during these open seasons:

1. August 10 through September 20; and
2. October 21 through March 31.

The board has established that up to 300 caribou can be taken under the Copper Basin CHP program. The Copper Basin caribou CHP hunt may be closed by emergency order to ensure that no more than 300 caribou are taken.

Sharing may occur at any time; however, see "Reporting," below.

Bag limit

Unless modified under ADF&G emergency order authority, the bag limit is one (1) either sex caribou per Copper Basin CHP harvest ticket.

Designated hunters

The CHP program allows a community or group of 25 or more to designate, **from within the group members as named in the application**, individual harvesters who may possess particular expertise in hunting to harvest wildlife resources on behalf of the members of the community or group.

Designated hunters must complete an ADF&G Copper Basin CHP Designated Hunter form. The designated hunter must have in his or her possession the authorized designated hunter form in addition to the beneficiary's Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket while taking or transporting caribou taken under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP hunt.

The beneficiary is responsible for all harvest and permit reporting as required on a Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest ticket and harvest report form.

Terms and conditions for customary and traditional use of Nelchina caribou

In 2006-170-BOG, the board found that the subsistence pattern is characterized by thorough use of most of the harvested animal. Therefore, the permittee must salvage, for human consumption or use, from caribou taken under a Copper Basin CHP hunt:

1. All edible meat from the frontquarters, hindquarters, ribs, neck, and backbone, as well as the heart, liver, kidneys, stomach, and fat; and
2. Meat of the frontquarters, hindquarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bones until delivered to the place where it is processed for human consumption.

Terms and conditions for meaningful communal sharing

The edible products of caribou taken under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP hunt must be used for human consumption and may not be sold or offered for sale. The edible products of caribou taken under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP hunt should also be primarily shared with community or group members as named on a Copper Basin CHP application.

Hunters should demonstrate a pattern of sharing that provides first for the needs of the community or group elders and disabled, as identified by the community or group. At least one (1) sharing event must include a ceremonial occasion where successful hunters share with elders and the disabled, as identified

by the community or group. In addition, hunters who have harvested their first caribou under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP hunt should give all edible portions to other members of their community or group who are not within the immediate family, and there should be a ceremonial aspect to this sharing, such as a potlatch. See "Reporting," below.

Reporting

Successful hunters must validate Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest tickets prior to leaving the kill site; all hunters must comply with reporting requirements. Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest tickets come with harvest report cards attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field, but hunters must mail or deliver Copper Basin CHP caribou harvest reports to ADF&G within 5 days of taking the bag limit or within 30 days of the close of the season, even if the hunter did not hunt or did not kill a caribou.

Failure to report may jeopardize sustained yield management of the Nelchina caribou herd; therefore, failure to report according to this schedule may result in citation, revocation of a Copper Basin CHP, and/or placement of individual hunters on the state "failure to report" (FTR) list.

All caribou taken by Copper Basin CHP hunters within the CHP area will count against any established harvest quota for the population and area for which a Copper Basin CHP hunt has been authorized.

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the fall hunt and within 30 days after the conclusion of the winter hunt, the community or group coordinator must submit, in writing, a report on their community's or group's Copper Basin CHP hunting and sharing activities, to include at a minimum:

1. A list of the names and harvest ticket numbers for those individuals whose bag limits were filled under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP;
2. A list of the names and harvest ticket numbers of the beneficiaries whose bag limits were filled by a designated hunter under the terms of a Copper Basin CHP;
3. The number of additional caribou taken under federal subsistence hunts by the hunters also subscribing to a Copper Basin CHP hunt;
4. The extent of sharing of each animal: at a minimum, a description of how the caribou were shared, including how the sharing was prioritized with community or group elders and/or the disabled and an estimate of the number of households that benefited from the sharing events; a description of the ceremonial sharing event of Copper Basin CHP caribou;

5. The number of new youth hunters who were able to participate in the hunt; a description of how the youth hunters were educated in the customary and traditional patterns of the Copper Basin CHP hunt; and a description of the hunting lore, values, and skills passed from generation to generation; and
6. Whether the harvested caribou were prepared for human consumption at a commercial facility or in a home. If prepared in a home, a brief description of methods of preparation for human consumption; if preserved, a brief description of the methods of preservation.

If the hunt has been closed by ADF&G emergency order, the final written report must be submitted within 30 days of the hunt closure.

Some information in these reports may be subject to state confidentiality laws.

Application for the Copper Basin Community Harvest Permit Program

Note to reviewers: a modified ADF&G Division of Wildlife permit application would be inserted here. Information requested would include, but not be limited to, date of application, name of community or group, name of community or group coordinator, contact information for community or group coordinator, name and contact information of secondary community or group coordinator, information about hunters and household members (including, but not limited to name, hunting license numbers, dates of birth, Alaska driver's license numbers, mailing and physical addresses, etc.), and a certification statement.

The application will include language from 5 AAC 92.050 that states the applicant or the applicant's agent shall complete the application form; a permit application that is incomplete, or that does not include, if required, an Alaskan hunting license number, or that contains a false statement, is void.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write: ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526 ; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203; Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240.

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers: (VOICE) 907-465-6077; (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648; (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646; (FAX) 907-465-6078; For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation at