

Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk AC  
1/28/15  
Ambler IRA

- I. Call to Order: Time by Raymond Stoney
  
- II. Roll Call:  
Members Present:  
Upper Kobuk: Marvin Joe Cleveland, Frank Downey, Glen Douglas, Murphy Custer, John Horner Sr., Theodore Tickett Sr.  
  
Lower Kobuk: Lonnie Tebbits, William Zibell, Glenn Miller, Larry Westlake Sr, Leonard Brown, Wilbur Howarth Sr.  
  
Members Absent: Billy Custer, Raymond Stoney, Grant Ballot  
  
Number Needed for Quorum on AC  
Upper Kobuk AC: 4  
Lower Kobuk AC: 5  
  
List of User Groups Present: Ambler Traditional Council, subsistence users, transporter
  
- III. Approval of Agenda:  
Agenda amended to move Jim Dau's report to the top of the agenda. Agenda Approved as amended
  
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From meeting date 12/15/3013 UKAC minutes approved LKAC 12/12/2013 minutes approved  
  
Murphy Custer: Motion to approve  
Second: John
  
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:  
Jim Dau, Brandon Saito, Carmen Daggett, Nicole Braem
  
- VI. Guests Present:  
Hannah Atkinson (NPS), Ken Adkission (NPS), Kumie (NPS), Marcy Johnson (NPS), Wood Luke, Scott Jones, Miles Cleveland Sr., Brandon Saito, Mercy Cleveland, Martha Wood, Gale Tickett, Kitug Williams, Alvin Williams, Charlie Tickett, Ita Gereputy, David Gripentag, Louie Commack
  
- VII. Old Business:

VIII. Public Comments and Concerns:

John Horner: The decline of the herd is due to the weather because of the rain and the ice? We don't know what the weather is going to do.

Louie Commack: The haul road got opened and the road here is going to get opened eventually too.

John Horner Sr.: AIDA the Ambler Road is state funded it is going to be opened

Glenn Miller: Roads are not a good thing to support our subsistence lifestyle; wolves use the roads to get around too. The wolf population increased along the roadside and they were sitting and waiting on the road. They are having an impact on the migratory movement. People get jobs then they move to Anchorage cause it is easier access. If people cannot see the pollution and the caribou herds going down from their houses they don't care. I care I want to live more of a subsistence lifestyle and roads are not good for that lifestyle.

John Horner Sr.: Nova Copper has been exploring over the last several years and the caribou haven't been coming around Kobuk. This last summer the caribou came through when the exploration stopped.

Scott Jones: A lot of people are signing away the meat moose and caribou in Kotzebue. About 50% of the transporters are giving the meat away. They don't have interest in the meat; they only want the antlers and the hides. They are supposed to be taking care of the meat.

John Horner Sr.: What is being done about it?

Jim Dau: We want people to share the meat instead of wasting it.

Scott Jones: the transporters have rules and regulations that the meat has to come out. The antlers come out last.

Jim Dau: I think we have the meat waste currently solved.

Louie Commack: Questions what is classified as meat? There is a problem with the definition of meat. We eat the heart, bible, the kidney, liver we use those things they should be included in the definition of meat. This is part of the diet.

Shield Downey: Need to have meat care regulations, it is important not to keep in a plastic bag, some of it is green.

IX.

X. New Business:

XI. Jim Dau: Caribou Report

<b>Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form</b>			
<b>BOG or BOF</b>	<b>Proposal Number</b>	<b>Proposal Description</b>	
<b>Supports or Opposes?</b>	<b>Number Support</b>	<b>Number Oppose</b>	<b>Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal</b>
BOG	41	Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23	
Support	Upper Kobuk 6 Lower 6	0 0	<p>Frank Downey: I would like to see moose season open earlier in July. It would help us when we are out of meat it would help us when we are out of meat. When we are waiting to caribou to come.</p> <p>Brandon Saito: Explains the numbers of moose are going down from 600 to 200.</p> <p>John Horner Sr: We need to take care of the predators and the numbers will come back.</p> <p>Shield Downey: We do have predator problem with the moose. -The predators are eating the calves.</p>
BOG	43	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.	
Support	Upper Kobuk 6 Lower Kobuk 6	0 0	
BOG	202	Change the caribou regulation for all game management units associated with the Western Arctic caribou herd and Teshekpuk caribou herd.	
Supported as amended	Upper Kobuk 6 Lower Kobuk 6	0 0	<p>Glenn Miller: Kiana was thinking about moving the guided hunt later into the fall and if we are looking for limits move it later in season when it colder.</p> <p>Scott Jones: Onion portage used to be the place in Labor day and now it isn't, we don't always know where the caribou are. We go out and look for the caribou but they are migrating later. Later by regulation would be a hard thing to do. They have been staying later into October and weather and safety is an issue.</p> <p>Glenn Miller: The weather changes quick. Everything froze in one day in Kiana, they were chipping boats out.</p> <p>John Horner Sr.: A regulation should exist that requires the transporter would move the meat once they get their game they have to transport the first day.</p>

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			<p>William Zibell: 5% is sport hunters which is 500-700 caribou. It is not helping any to just deal with sport hunters and not enough to impact the population. You mentioned two factors weather and predators: We can't control weather, and we can impact predators. We should focus brainstorm on increasing wolf and bear harvest. Maybe we could move from one bear to two bears per year. People from home literally say get your bear and get mine too. We live in an area that our supplies come from the Lower 48. It is the cows that are the problem. We need to be honest about getting bad looking skinny meat we leave it in the field we need to be honest about taking responsibility about that meat and safe guard the cows.</p> <p>Alvin: Do the sport hunters being transported in the Noatak region displace the caribou?</p> <p>Scott Jones: The transporters are stuck dropping on the hunters on one side of the Anasak River. They can see the caribou but they cannot get at them the water is cold and fast. It is unforgiving country.</p> <p>John Horner: I have heard the caribou are being displaced, is there a way we could put the Noatak later in the season for sport hunting?</p> <p>Jim Dau: The Noatak\Kivalina AC is working on proposals to make sport hunters wait till the first 1,000 caribou pass and to not allow sport hunting on the Noatak at all. These are hard to enforce.</p> <p>Louie Commack: We need to take a hard look at the timeline for how long it is going to take us to get to the crisis level we are heading towards. We need to think about how we are going to slow this decline down.</p> <p>Shield Downey:</p> <p>John Horner Sr.: How much longer do we have to wait till we are in a crisis?</p> <p>Nicole Braem: Explains Tier II hunts</p> <p>Larry Westlake Sr: We need to work together on the State and Federal side and we need to be proactive about dealing with the caribou decline before it becomes a crisis. I spoke with Glenn before and I am in support of whatever the Upper and Lower Kobuk AC decides to do.</p> <p>Scott Jones: The people who come up here to hunt caribou come for the antlers and the hides and we discard those things. We are after the meat and</p>

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			<p>they don't want it. There has to be some way we can both get what we want and not waste it. Provide some seasonal income for people here.</p> <p>Glenn Miller: We need to take care of our predators ourselves. Do the state and federal have plans to deal with predators?</p> <p>Jim Dau: Explains that the state does not have money to do predator control, they would love people to take care of the issue as much as they can themselves. Explains regulation changes that the state has done to liberalize predator control. The public almost never kills enough of the wolves or bears to make a difference. There needs to be a reduction in the predators by 20% to make a substantial difference.</p> <p>Shield Downey: There are wolves and bears everywhere. We need to do some thing about predators.</p> <p>Brandon Saito: Explains how bear hunting has been liberalized in this region for non-residents.</p> <p>Glenn Miller: Inquires about local people guiding bear hunters and possibly not needing a guide permit to guide non-local hunters.</p> <p>Inquiry about having the state providing bounties for hunters to get predators.</p> <p>Jim Dau: Explains the state is not going to give bounties for predators. There needs to be some incentive for people to go out and hunt bears.</p> <p>Frank Downey: We should try to come up with some resolution to knock down the wolves with the fuel going high, local hunters don't have jobs to keep us going with the price of gas. The wolves went sky high. We have wolves around the villages and coming into village.</p> <p>Jim Dau: You can see the things we are proposing, the board is going to look at this and go that is nice and I am anticipating them wanting to close the cow season and that is going to be problematic for those hunters who have to get cows when the bulls are stink.</p> <p>Jim Dau: I don't think that we need to completely close the cow season especially in the Southern part of the range. There are a bunch of people who are not going to understand the need to take cows.</p> <p>Louie Commack: I can see the writing on the wall about the female. We have to</p>

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			<p>volunteer in our region to cut down the females and the males and the board of game would look at us differently. We will volunteer to cut down to create sustainability of herd. I think that is how we could be on the same page as the board of game, instead of them coming down on us.</p> <p>Jim: They need to retain some harvest of cows for subsistence.</p> <p>Nicole Braem: One of the things the WACH group, the work group was proposing lengthening the closure of the cow season April 1-July 31st, no non-resident harvest of cows, and change the non-resident season overall September 15<sup>th</sup>-October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Koyukuk AC was suggesting trophy destruction after October 1<sup>st</sup> for residents and non-residents. They wanted to shut down cows before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Some ideas from other ACs.</p> <p>Jim Dau: Explains closing the bull season when the bulls go stink to discourage antler hunters and leave the cow season if they still need to get meat. We have a caribou problem and we have an overriding wolf problem. It is affecting the moose too. We need to get someone in front of the board of game and we need to start addressing the BOG.</p> <p>Louie Commack: The worst case scenario with closing down the cow season, where do we go from there how are we going to put food on the table if they close it down 100%. They know we are going to hurt and we know we are going to hurt. We don't want them to go to the extreme. My people are still going to get caribou to feed their children if they close the season down.</p> <p>Virginia Commack: We need to go further into Inupiat knowledge have classes and train people to know certain animals to revert to our Inupiat know how to tell people about the difference between cows, young bulls, etc. We can get back to our teaching and work with Fish and Game in Kotzebue to make the extra effort.</p> <p>Jim Dau: No one can make a dime chasing wolves and shooting them. You need to set snares and traps and we need to get more trappers out there on kill sites. There is so much knowledge in this region to trap wolves. There is a man from the Koyukuk who is teaching wolf snare classes called Benedict Jones, it is effective. We have a predator problem.</p> <p>Frank Downey: If we can take it down to a local village with educating to our young hunters and what to look for. I would rather take a female without a calf because it is better meat right now than a female with a calf.</p>

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			<p>Jim: Explains cows with calves and not shooting cows that have calves, they get separated and the calf dies. If you can tell a cow has a calf don't shoot it.</p> <p>Virginia Commack: We can add our TEK with Fish and Game, we never to kill female with a calf anyways. That was Inupiaq with a cow. There was a hunter who killed a moose cow and brought the calf back to take care of it. We need to get it on paper.</p> <p>Jim Dau: There is education people for both Fish and Game and FWS and NPS want to work with you to share knowledge. It would good to have a federal proposal submitted and that call for proposals is open.</p> <p>Larry and Glenn: Explained that reducing the federal regulation limit. People are taking more bull moose and limiting caribou take because the migration was weird. The Onion Portage hunters were able to get caribou again there. We have been limiting our intake with a bull moose and five caribou.</p> <p>Larry Westlake: Suggested a knock own on state and federal side down to three/day even on the state side.</p> <p>Glenn: Explains the people who go up river to get caribou share them and you want to make it worth the gas to get up there and shoot them.</p> <p>Nicole Braem: Explains state and federal regulation cycles.</p> <p>Jim Dau: Explains expedited procedures for an emergency petition.</p> <p>Glenn Douglas: Federal side would lower the bag limit.            Ken Adkisson: This group could write a letter to Atamuk Schiedt to get your comments. The fastest way to deal with this is to submit a proposal or have the RAC submit something which could include your federal recommendations.</p> <p>John Horner Sr.: I wanted to comment on the 15 caribou a day, who does that anyways, we go back to our villages to where we come from and try to get a hold of NANA and Borough to put a bounty on wolves because gas prices are so high that is what is really affecting our caribou.</p> <p>Miles Cleveland Jr.: This board needs to be careful how we set bag limits per day 15 are too many, but if we go down to three we are setting ourselves in a hurt situation. I am hurting myself for gas and traveling that day if I can only shoot a few. We have to very careful about how we set this together. I would say five a day is close to how much we can take home.</p>

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			<p>Glenn Miller: We could write a bag limit that we can live with. I would like to write a proposal with a bag limit that we can live with. I like hunting both moose and caribou. If we come to an agreement, I will write a proposal. Five a day?</p> <p>Bill Zibell: I think we should look at the season put a limit of bulls August 1<sup>st</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup> when they get stink and the females, it seems like the females I have shot October and November are skinnier, they get fatter as winter progresses and the lean out in March especially if they are pregnant. We stop the female take April 1<sup>st</sup>-October/November 15<sup>th</sup> to limit ourselves, before the state does it without out local input. October/November is hard to travel anyways.</p> <p>Jim Dau: The board of game is going to want to protect cows.</p> <p>Bill Zibell: Use the IRA to get some numbers how many cows people get number of cows and bulls we can live with.</p> <p>Nikki Braem: In 2012 Ambler got 600 caribou. There is sporadic numbers.</p> <p>Jim: 60% bulls 30% cows 10% cannot remember.</p> <p>Nikki Braem: Explains that those numbers very intake from different regions.</p> <p>Wilbur Howarth Sr: When we met two weeks ago with the IRA we agreed right around 6-7 caribou, most likely bulls, five-six bulls fall time maybe spring two cows might because we might be a smaller family. We should maybe bag limit for the entire season. Something to get started with.</p> <p>Frank Downey: I think we need to decide to reduce federal limit down to 8 per day. I would go for 8 a day at the federal limit.</p> <p>Jim Dau: Explains the benefit of having the same state and federal bag limits.</p> <p>Virginia: The first set of caribou has to have a chance to go through. A sports hunter I have a little red flag, stopping the caribou and not taking the meat and we all have to wait for a later season because they were blocked. We need speak with the state on those terms and we need to discuss this. The sport hunters do not know that you have to let the first caribou pass.</p>

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			<p>Jim Dau: Explains possible regulations that Noatak is going to put forth for dealing with lead caribou, there are different sets of leaders.</p> <p>Nicole Braem: Explains restriction of use of aircraft for Unit 23 as a possible way to temporal use of aircraft for hunting between a limited range of dates for all of Unit 23.</p> <p>Louie Commack: Would like a consensus on the number of caribou for a federal proposal.</p> <p>Ken Adkission: Explains the value to having the same bag limit in State and Federal regulations.</p> <p>Virginia Commack: Explains if I share food and explain some people have the vehicles, and money to get caribou. I am reluctant to go below 10. Consider the limit and the timing. The federal side recognizes subsistence more and can cut other people off more in times when the caribou are irregular in their migrations.</p> <p>Frank Downey: Explains that we do not hunt bulls in the rut. It is just the sport hunters that are getting the bulls. I don't see why is it even open.</p> <p>Glenn Miller: Explains you cannot eat horns.</p> <p>Louie Commack: Explains we are still protected on federal lands. We should be willing to sit down with the state and federal side. We are protected under ANILCA.</p> <p>Miles Cleveland: We want to close the bull season for both residents and nonresidents: October 15th shut down bulls till April 15<sup>th</sup>. October 8<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup> open cows</p> <p>Frank Downey: Federal suggest 8</p>

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			<p><b>Proposal 202</b></p> <p>a) Support-Limit shorten non-resident season  b) Support-Limit the bag limit to one bull caribou for non-residents  c) Support-close non-resident cow season  d) Support-take of calves for all hunters  e) Support-stop same day airborne in Unit 22  f) Amendments to resident caribou hunting seasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Limit on caribou 7 for the federal and 5 for the state daily.</li> <li>2) We want to close the bull season for both residents and nonresidents: October 7<sup>th</sup>-April 15<sup>th</sup> Close bull season</li> <li>3) October 8<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup> open cow season</li> </ol> <p>Glenn Miller: will go for March meeting  John Horner: March meeting</p> <p>Frank Downey: will go to February meeting  Larry or Raymond</p>

Need to have a meeting in the evenings.

Adjournment: 15:56

Minutes Recorded By: Glenn A. Miller  
Minutes Approved By: glenn a. miller  
Date: 02/09/2015