

2000-131 BOG
FINDING OF EMERGENCY

The Alaska Board of Game finds that an emergency exists and the attached regulations are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

Consistent with the petition submitted to the board by the McGrath Native Village Council on December 23, 1999, the Alaska Board of Game finds that an emergency exists in Game Management Unit 19(D) east. The current biological parameters, including low and declining densities of moose in this portion of the upper Kuskokwim drainage constitute a hardship to residents who depend on this resource for food.

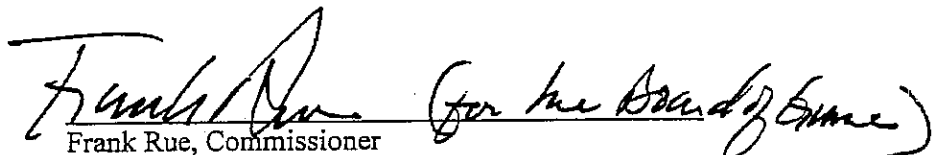
The board was informed on January 19, 2000 that the resident segment of the moose population has declined by 60-64% (from 2000-2500 to 1200-1600) since 1995 when the board adopted the implementation plan. The precipitous nature of this decline was not anticipated. Harvest of moose by local residents has become more difficult and reported harvest during the past two seasons is significantly lower than in the early 1990s. For a variety of reasons the wolf predation control implementation plan adopted in 1995 to reverse the long-term moose decline has never been carried out. If wolf control had been implemented, the situation in the upper Kuskokwim valley might now be improved if not rectified. Instead, moose numbers have declined further, and it is likely that moose and wolves will reach a dynamic equilibrium at very low densities for the foreseeable future. The board believes that a biologically allowable harvest of moose by residents dependent upon this resource is being precluded by delay in regulatory action and that further delays are burdensome to the petitioners. Under these circumstances, the board finds it necessary to update and reauthorize the wolf predation control plan for Game Management Unit 19(D) east.

ADOPTION ORDER

Under the authority of AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258, and under a delegation of authority from the Board of Game under AS 16.05.270, the attached regulations are therefore adopted as emergency regulations to take effect immediately as provided in AS 44.62.180 (3).

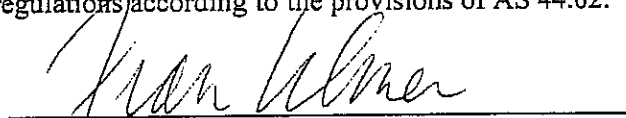
This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: 2.17.00
Juneau, Alaska


Frank Rue, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on 2/22, 2000 at 11:50 a.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.


Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

Effective February 22, 2000
Register 153, April 2000

Expires June 20, 2000
unless made "permanent"
by the adopting agency.