Findings for the Alaska Board of Game 2009-180-BOG

Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings March 9, 2009

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff and residents and users of moose in Unit 19A. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108, in the Unit 19A predation control implementation plan in 5 AAC 92.125, and in Board of Game Findings 2004-150-BOG and 2006-168-BOG.

- 1. The moose population size, currently estimated to be 3,200-5,275 moose, is less than the population objective of 7,600-9,300 moose (derived from the combined Units 19A and 19B objective based on proportionate area). The population objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.
- 2. The Unit 19A moose harvestable surplus, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), there is no harvestable surplus in eastern Unit 19A (upstream from and excluding the George River drainage), excluding the Lime Village Management Area. In western Unit 19A (downstream from and including the George River drainage), the harvestable surplus is 60 bulls. This is less than the harvest objective of 400-550 moose (also based on proportionate area). The harvest objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.
- 3. The Unit 19A moose population is, thus, depleted and reduced in productivity, which has already resulted in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.
- 4. Enhancement of abundance or productivity is feasibly achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
- 5. The Board has repeatedly, since 2002, been required to significantly reduce the taking of moose in Unit 19A by restricting harvest, seasons and bag limits as compared to the level and timing of hunting opportunity that was allowed when the population was not depleted and reduced in productivity.
- 6. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf predation has been an important cause of mortality in the population, to the extent that the population is unlikely to recover, and objectives are unlikely to be achieved, in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
- 7. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achievement of the population and harvest objectives.

Vote: 5-0-2 March 9, 2009 Anchorage, Alaska

Cliff Jarkins, Chairman Alaska Board of Game