THE USE OF MOOSE AND OTHER WILD RESOURCES IN THE TYONEK AND UPPER YENTNA AREAS: A BACKROUND REPORT

by James A. Fall/Daniel J. Foster/Ronald T. Stanek

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ABSTRACT

This report contains background information on the use of moose and other wild renewable resources by the residents of the village of Tyonek (population 239) and the Upper Yentna area (population 145), both of which lie in Game Management 16B. The data derive from two Division of Subsistence research projects which have been investigating resource uses in these areas in order to provide data for area and regional plans, and to the Board of Fisheries and Game for their review of proposals for regulatory change. Several proposals to reestablish a November moose hunting season in GMU 16B will be considered by the Board of Game during its Spring 1983 meeting. This report supplements an earlier Division paper on the use of moose by Tyonek residents (Foster 1982a).

Research methodologies have included interviewing, participant-observation, and mapping. Data were collected from 52 percent of the Tyonek households and 82 percent of the households in the Upper Yentna Area.

An annual round of resource harvests and a map of the geographic areas used for these harvests are provided for both areas. In addition, harvest quantities for 43 resources or groups of resources are reported for the Upper Yentna area. In both areas, residents harvest a wide range of resources. At Tyonek, the three year average subsistence catch of salmon has included 1,900 kings and 250 reds. Fifteen moose were taken by Tyonek hunters in September 1981. In 1982, Upper Yentna households harvested an estimated maximum of 1,630 salmon, 1,800 freshwater fish,

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and 30 moose for local use. Travel to hunting and fishing areas in the Tyonek area is primarily by pickup truck along a network of roads built for timber harvesting, by boat along several rivers, and by ATV. In the roadless Upper Yentna area, travel is by boat, snowmachine, ATV, and dogsled along rivers and trails and is highly dependent on weather conditions.

The preservation of most meat and fish in both areas is accomplished by methods not requiring electricity, including smoking, canning, and freezing outdoors.

Over the past three years, an average of 59.6 percent of the households in the Upper Yenta area harvested at least one moose; most unsuccessful households received moose meat from other households. Harvest levels in Tyonek were monitored in 1981 only. While sharing was extensive, the total of fifteen moose harvested was said to be insufficient to meet village needs. Of the Tyonek households interviewed, 73 percent expressed a preference to reopen a November or December moose season.

Residents in both areas have few sources of wage employment and utilize a variety of sources of monetary income, most of which are seasonal, for the purchase of non-locally produced commodities. The use of local harvests of wild, renewable resources has historically played a major role in the economic and sociocultural systems of this region. ١

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As always, our sincere thanks go to the support staff of Alaska Department of Fish and Game who assisted in typing and compiling this report.

PURPOSE

This report describes the uses of wild resources and socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of portions of Game Management Unit 16B. It provides a background for the Board of Game's consideration of several proposals for regulatory change which would open a November moose season in that GMU.

The data derive from two ongoing Division of Subsistence research projects. The first, the "Tyonek Comprehensive Resource Use Study," commenced in 1980 and will conclude in 1984. The second, the "Susitna Basin Resource Use Study," began in December 1982. One purpose of both of these projects is to gather data on the current patterns of resource uses by local residents of each area which may be incorporated into area and regional land use plans. These data may aid in our understanding of the potential effects of land disposals, timber sales, road construction, and the development of nonrenewable resources such as coal, oil, and gas. To date, the Division has been able to comment on several potential resource development projects (such as Oil and Gas Lease Sales 33 and 40; coal leases; geothermal leases) and, in addition, has provided data on land use patterns for the Department of Natural Resources' Susitna Area Plan.

A second major purpose of these projects is to provide information on local uses of fish and wildlife to advisory committees, regional councils, and the Boards of Fisheries and Game which may inform their consideration of fish and game regulations. Accordingly, as particular regulations have been subjected to review and modification, the Division has period-

ically prepared reports based on ongoing projects (Foster 1981; Stanek, Fall, and Foster 1982). The current paper is an example of such a report. While based in part on preliminary data describing only portions of the unit under consideration, the paper depicts the general patterns of resource use by residents of this area. This description can serve as a context for understanding the use of moose.

Additionally, the paper will also introduce the new Board of Game members to the Division's research program in the Cook Inlet area and, especially, outline the scope of our recently initiated work in the Susitna Basin.

METHODOLOGY

Tyonek Comprehensive Resource Use Study

Research methodologies for the "Tyonek Comprehensive Resource Use Study" have included formal interviewing with the aid of survey instruments (Foster 1982a: Appendix B; 1982b:60-61), informal discussions, mapping, and participant observation. Data specific to the use of moose by Tyonek's 239 residents were gathered in the fall of 1981. Of 48 identified moose hunters, 40 were interviewed. Hunting trips by several Tyonek residents were also observed. Using United States Geological Survey (USGS) 1:63,630 topographic maps, local residents indicated the areas that they had hunted in 1981. From these maps, the researchers prepared a composite map of the village moose hunting area. The complete results of the research on 1981 moose harvests in Tyonek are discussed in Foster 1982a.

During the spring and summer of 1982, data were collected on the current annual round of resource harvests in the Tyonek area. With the aid

of several key respondents, the researcher chose of a sample of 39 households representing 52 percent of the village households for intensive interviewing. This sample included those households most active in resource harvesting. Respondents were asked to indicate the resources which they had regularly harvested within the last five years. The results of this research included an annual round of hunting and fishing activities, an estimate of the percentage of Tyonek households participating in harvest activities, and a series of maps of harvest areas (Foster 1982b). The major findings of this research are summarized below.

Susitna Basin Resource Use Study

Data on resource uses in the Upper Yentna study area (Figure 1) were primarily collected through household interviews with the aid of an interview guide (Appendix A) and in field notes. Prior to conducting household interviews, Division staff discussed the proposed research, including its purpose, objectives, and methods, with area residents at a public meeting in Skwentna.

In a population census survey conducted by Schulling (1982) in the same geographic area as this study, 145 full-time residents were identified. With the aid of local key informants, Division staff mapped the approximate locations of homes of Upper Yentna residents. During a five week period in December 1982 and January and February 1983, the Division researchers attempted to interview as many of the households as possible. At the end of the study period, 38 households, with a total population of 126, had been interviewed. This provided a sample of 87 percent of the census population.

Several factors influenced the choice of households to contact,



Figure 1. The Upper Yentna area in which households were interviewed.

including the availability of household members for interview, logistical constraints such as availability of transportation, prevailing weather conditions, and time limitations. There was a tendency to select those households which were the most active users of local resources, such as trappers, hunters and fishermen, and guides, although other residents who used resources to lesser degrees were not systematically excluded. An effort was made to include in the sample as many long-term residents as possible.

Questions on the interview guide asked for household information appropriate to 1982 use levels. When discussing harvest levels, many households were unable to recall exact harvest quantities for particular species. This was particularly true for fish. In such cases, a range was estimated. For big game and furbearers, respondents generally were able to recall exact harvest levels.

The researchers attempted to arrange interviews before visiting each home. This allowed residents to decide in advance whether they wanted to participate and to prepare for the discussion. Interviewees were given the option of not answering questions with which they felt uncomfortable. Two researchers were present for each interview. One researcher asked questions from the interview form and recorded data pertinent to each question, and the other researcher recorded additional information from ensuing discussions.

All household members were encouraged to participate in the interviews. Since most interviews were prearranged, the persons most knowledgeable about particular subjects were present to reply to specific questions. In addition, this approach proved beneficial in reaching a consensus on harvest quantities, seasons, or locations. In all inter-

views, open discussion of resource use activities was encouraged in order to elicit any qualifiers to specific interview responses.

Mapping of resource use areas followed each interview. The researchers used the list of resources generated earlier as a guide in mapping use areas, which was done on 1:63,630 USGS topographic maps. Because mapping of use areas for a single year might not realistically represent the area generally used, interviewees were asked to draw a line encompassing the area they currently use to harvest each resource or category of resources. Resource use areas were grouped into fishing, trapping, moose hunting, wood gathering, berry picking, small game hunting, and bear hunting areas.

RESULTS

Patterns of Wild Resource Use in Tyonek

The uses of wild resources by the residents of the village of Tyonek have been described in detail in several Division reports (Stickney 1980; Stanek and Foster 1980; Stanek, Fall, Foster 1982; Foster 1982a, 1982b). In this regard, the reader should refer to Foster (1982a). Foster (1982b: 32-54), and Fall (1982). This section briefly summarizes these earlier findings.

The geographic area utilized by Tyonek residents for the harvest of resources from 1978 to 1982 is depicted in Figure 2. The harvest and utilization of fish and game in the Tyonek area proceed according to an annual round of activities (Figure 3). A new round begins each April as groups of villagers travel south in dories to Redoubt Bay to harvest razor clams and three other species of shellfish. These trips are usually



Figure 2ϵ Geographic area of resource harvest used by Tyonek residents 1978 to 1982

EASONAL ROUND OF HARVEST ACT	TIVITIES FOR	SELECTED SPE	ECIES,	TYUNEK	,AK. 19	978-19	82
Species APR MAY JUN	JUL AUG	SEP OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Razor Clam ——————							
Butter Clam							
Redneck Clam							
Cockle							
looligan —————	•						
Herring							
King Salmon							
Red Salmon							
Coal							
Harbor Seal							
Belukha		<u></u>					
Black Bear							
Pink Salmon							
Chum Salmon							
Silver Salmon							
Berries							
Edible Plants							
Medicinal Plts.							
Ducks		. <u></u> .					
Geese							
Moose							,
Brown Bear		-					
Tomcod							
Spruce Grouse							
Porcupine			• ••• • •				
Wood							
Snowshoe Hare							
Ptarmigan							
Mink						-	
Marten							
Fox							
Coyote						- ,	
Beaver							
Otter							
Rainbow Trout		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Dolly Varden							

Key:_____ Usual period of harvest effort; ----- Occasional period of harvest effort.

Figure 3. Seasonal round of harvest activities by Tyonek residents (Foster 1982b:34)

organized by older, more experienced men with boats and motors. The village harvest of 2,000-3,500 clams is distributed throughout the community.

Preparation for subsistence and commercial salmon fishing takes place in late April and early May. During the summer months, the majority of Tyonek households take salmon for local use with set gill nets from 28 fish camps. Many camps also have smoke houses and other fish processing facilities, although most Tyonek families now cut and smoke their salmon in the village. Over the last three seasons, the subsistence catch at Tyonek has averaged about 1900 kings and 250 reds. Additionally, approxiimately 25 households fish commercially at the same camps. Harbor seals and belukha are also harvested during the summer months. About 37 percent of Tyonek households regularly participate in the harvest of these marine mammals. As with clams, the products of these hunts are widely distributed in the village. Salmon fishing, especially for silvers, continues into the fall.

Each September, approximately 50 Tyonek residents hunt moose. Figure 4 depicts the general area used by Tyonek moose hunters in 1981. The area hunted in 1982 was similar. Access to hunting areas is along the network of local roads first constructed in the early 1970s for a commercial logging operation, or by dory to several rivers south of the village. About 87 percent of Tyonek households harvested moose regularly over the past five years (Fall 1982). While considerable time and effort were expended by Tyonek hunters in September 1981, the harvest of 15 moose was considered by the villagers to be inadequate to meet their needs. The 1982 fall harvest was of a similar size. Traditionally, moose hunting in the Tyonek area, as well as the Susitna Basin, continued throughout the winter months (Fall 1981:146-49, 188, 197). Tyonek residents have





indicated a desire to reopen a November or December season (Foster 1982a:25).

In addition to moose, Tyonek residents take bear, waterfowl, and small game in the fall. Although winter harvest activities are not as intense as those of spring, summer, and fall, a few individuals run trap lines, and others hunt small game and fish through the ice for trout. The percentage of Tyonek households which generally participate in the harvest of various resources is shown in Figure 5.

Social relationships, especially kinship, structure the harvest, processing, and distribution of fish and game in Tyonek. Hunting and clamming parties, as well as fishing groups, are normally composed of relatives. Fish and game harvests are widely distributed throughout the village, and facilities such as fishcamps and smokehouses are extensively shared. For example, while only 15 hunters successfully harvested moose in September 1981, over 90 percent of Tyonek's 75 households received moose meat. Resources which require special skills and equipment for their harvesting, such as marine mammals or clams, are taken by a limited number of individuals in the village, but these products are distributed almost village wide. Village elders and the ill, as well as kin, are included in this resource sharing.

In summary, the use of wild resources provides an important economic base for the majority of Tyonek residents. Wage employment opportunities in the village are relatively few and household incomes are well below Alaska's average (Fall 1982). In addition, harvesting and utilizing fish and game tie the community together and are a basis for group identity and community stability.





General Characteristics of the Upper Yentna Area

The Upper Yentna area is located in the Susitna basin along the upper reaches of the Yentna River. The focal point for the area's residents is Skwentna, which is located near the confluence of the Yentna and Skwentna Rivers approximately 55 air miles northwest of Anchorage.

Travel in the area is by boat or airplane during summer months and fall months, and by snowmachine, airplane, dogsled, and ATV during the winter months. Especially, travel in fall and spring is highly dependent upon the weather and the freezing and thawing rivers, lakes, airstrips, and trails.

Settlement Patterns

The aborginal inhabitants of the Yentna River drainage, the Upper Inlet Dena'ina, had greatly declined in population by the early twentieth century, most due to diseases. Subsequently, a few scattered households of trappers and prospectors comprised the permanent population until, within the past 30 years, human settlement again increased as a a result of State and Federal land disposal programs. Consequently, concentrations of households have appeared in areas along rivers or bordering lakes. This is the current pattern around the mouth of Lake Creek, at Skwentna, and in the Whiskey and Hewitt Lake areas.

The means by which local residents acquired their land included purchase from previous owner (36.8 percent), State open-to-entry programs (21.0 percent), State remote parcel programs (18.4 percent), and a variety of other State and Federal programs (Table 1).

Population Characteristics

A summary of interview findings regarding households member charac-

TABLE 1.

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UPPER YENTNA HOUSEHOLD LAND ACQUISITION

Purchased From Previous Owner	14	
State Open-To-Entry (OTE) Program	8	
State Remote Parcel Program	7	
Federal Homestead	2	
State Homesite Program	2	
Borough Housing	1	
Federal Cabin Site	1	
Kental	1	
Purchased from State	1	
Other	1	

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TABLE 2.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF UPPER YENTNA HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

	Mean	Range
Number of Persons/Household	3.3	1-7
Age of Heads of Households	42.9	25-70
*Number of Years in Alaska	16.4	3-41
*Number of Years in Upper Yentna Area	7.9	1-33

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*Indicates number of years for the longest residing household member.

teristics appears in Table 2. Household size varied from one to seven members and averaged 3.3 persons.

The results of interview questions asking about length of residency appear in Figures 6 and 7. The range of time that household members had been in Alaska was 3-41 years. The average length of time in Alaska was 16.4 years. Residency in the Yentna area ranged from .5 to 33 years, and averaged 7.9 years. Overall, most residents have resided in the area for less than 10 years.

The age/sex structure of the population, depicted in Figure 8, reflects this immigration of most families into the area. The few individuals over 50 years of age are mostly males. Middle aged couples (ages 31-50) and their children (ages 11-20) comprise most of the population. The age/sex profile also reveals that there are few children under ten years of age and few young women in prime child-bearing years (ages 21-30). This suggests that the population is not yet reproducing itself; individuals must still find mates from outside the area.

Wage Employment and Other Sources of Monetary Income

Full time wage employment opportunities in which the sample of 126 Upper Yentna residents were involved during 1982-83 included positions as school teacher (3), weather reporter (2), equipment operator (1), postmaster (1), and facilities engineer (1). The remaining sources of cash income were seasonal, part time, and/or temporary. Some people worked outside the area on a seasonal or part time basis. Examples of local seasonal jobs include guiding hunters and fishermen (8), trapping (18), freighting (2), consulting (2), assisting at lodges (7), operating







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Figure 8. The age/sex structure of Upper Yentna households in 1982

the store (4), running river boats (3), and operating saw mills (2). Examples of nonlocal employment include commercial fishing (2), North Slope oil field work (2), and road and housing construction (2). Some people were retired and received longevity payments and retirement benefits.

Fifty-two percent of the households had three or more sources of cash income during a single year (Figure 9). Forty-eight percent had one to two sources of income. Thirty-one percent had four to seven sources of cash income.

Because of the small numbers of full-time jobs in the area, most households need several seasonal or part time sources of cash income in order to purchase food staples, fuel, equipment and parts, building materials, air transportation, and other commodities not produced locally.

Annual Round of Resource Harvest

The range of wild resources harvested by residents of the Upper Yentna area during 1982 is indicated in Figure 10, along with estimated quantities, timing of harvest, and percentages of households participating in the harvests. The number of resources taken by each household varied considerably, with 91 percent of the households harvesting from 6 to 25 individual or groups of resources (Figure 11). Following is a summary of the annual round of resource uses in the Upper Yentna area as reported by area residents for 1982. Although the harvest of resources occurs continuously throughout the year, the month of April was used as a convenient starting point for this discussion.

When the ice on rivers and lakes started to melt in April, harvesting of rainbow trout, grayling, whitefish, and northern pike began. This



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Figure 9. The number of sources of monetary income of Upper Yentna households in 1982

kaindow Frout 72 422-520 cryling	Speci es	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	۶Ð	MAR	Percent of Households Harvesting	Estimated Quantity Harvested
jryling	Rainbow Trout											• • • •	• • • •	721	482-520
Akterfan 192 45-61 Deilffan 193 1003-1451* Deilffan 475 252-279 wooligen 365 5480-529 Brown Sear 115 1 Matkrat 165 155 Storter 105 15 Storter 105 156 Storter 1075 141-151 Matkrat 1075 413-470 Lake Trout 175 42 Juroot 175 423-531 Juroot 175 311-144 Store Saleon 175 311-144 Sand and Gravei 155 131 Sand and Gravei 155 174 Store Source 175 431-446 Store Source 175 131-144 Store Source 175 131 Store S	Grayling		_			_								395	384-435
Sheilfish 191 1031-1481* Sitek Beer 445 13 Sitek Beer 445 13 sooligen 365 5460-5929 Sucter 65 200 Typen Beer 115 1 Statser 65 200 Statser 165 155 Statser 165 155 Statser 165 156 Statser 165 156 Statser 175 412-470 Wint Saleon 755 412-470 Wint Saleon 755 311-144 Verot 175 321-351 State Frout 175 321-351 State Trout 175 331-351 State And Gravel 175 331-351 State And Gravel 175 313-144 State And Gravel 175 313-31 State And Gravel 175 313-144 State And Gravel 175 <td>whitefish</td> <td></td> <td>191</td> <td>45-61</td>	whitefish													191	45-61
Slack Seer 445 13 Isterthern Pike 475 252-279 Sucker 365 5400-5929 Sucker 65 200 Sprom Bear 115 1 Matkrat 155 156-160 Cring Saleon 675 144-151 Statkrat 675 144-151 Statkrat 675 144-151 Statkrat 675 144-151 Station	Sheilfish		_											19%	1003-1481*
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sociligan 365 5480-5929 Suctar 65 200 hskrat 115 1 hskrat 165 155 Gotble Plancs 507 154-160 hskrat 675 141-151 Katkar 675 141-151 Ket Salaon 445 523-51 Late Trout 175 42 harcot 365 131-144 harcot 365 131-144 harcot 365 131-144 harcot 365 131-145 harcot 365 131-146 barcot 375 131-146 <td>lorthern Pike</td> <td>••••</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td><u> </u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>47%</td> <td>252-279</td>	lorthern Pike	••••		-			-	<u> </u>						47%	252-279
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Brown Bear 115 1 Maskrat 165 155 Edible Plants 507 156-160 King Saleon 675 141-51 Red Saleon 675 141-51 Red Saleon 675 131-144 Mint Saleon 365 131-144 Vertot 365 131-144 Mart Saleon 365 131-144 Sand and Gravel 352 94-127 Jolly Varien 352 18-000 Carribou 352 130 Spruce Grouse 353 30 Sock 353 30 Duck 355 30 Geese 355 30 Coyote 355 30 Kert Saleon 355 30	Sucker	-												6 L	200
haskrat 145 155 Gd10ie Plants 507 164-160 cting Salison 785 412-470 Print Salison 175 421-470 Nortot 175 421-470 Prot Salison 175 422 Nortot 175 321-151 Dus Salison 225 94-127 Dus Salison 145 124 Iserrises 135 431-446 Sand and Gravei 135 1 Garibou 65 1 Spruce Grouse 505 141-171 Mosce 135 30 Duck 135 130 Geese 175 4 Stownice Mare 195 194 Growice Mare 195 195 Ket Squirrel	Brown Bear	-					<u> </u>							115	1
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Red Salmon 751 413-470 Print Salmon 445 523-531 Lake Trout 361 131-144 Porcupine 115 7 Silver Salmon 755 331-151 Chun Salmon 755 331-151 Chun Salmon 755 331-151 Chun Salmon 145 124 Porcupine 145 124 Sand and Gravel 145 124 Sand and Gravel 35 431-446 Sand and Gravel 35 18,000 Caribou 35 141-171 Mosse 37 14 Flying Squirrel 37 17 Marten 395 225 Ked Squirrel 375 32 Lund Otter 375	ting Salmon													67%	141-151
Pink Salmon 445 \$23-531 Lake Frout 175 42 Burbot 365 131-144 Borbot 115 7 Silver Salmon 755 331-151 Chun Salmon 225 94-127 Dolly Varian 145 1245 Sand and Gravel 35 18,000 Carrbou 35 18,000 Sheep 35 18,000 Spruce Grouse 505 141-171 Mose 35 30 Duck 423 138-148 Geste 175 4 Sowshoe Hare 175 4 Karten 195 174 Karten 195 195 Uynz 175 3 Land Ötter 115 20 Weink 115 115 Karten 115 115 Goyate 115 115 Weink 115 115 Beaver 175 8 Weinf 175 115 Beaver 225 120 Yongan 225 120	Red Salmon													781	413-470
Lake Trout 171 42 Surot 365 131-144 Portupine 113 7 Silver Salmon 753 131-151 Chun Salmon 225 94-127 Dolly Varden 145 124 Sand and Gravel 853 431-446 Sand and Gravel 65 1 Sand and Gravel 65 1 Spruce Grouse 505 141-171 Nosee 353 30 Duck 175 425 Sonshoe Hare 195 174 Flying Squtrrel 185 225 Goyte 195 174 Flying Squtrrel 195 174 Lynx 135 20 Kerten 335 32 Goyte 135 126 Wessel 135 20 Kink 135 20 Wessel 135 126 Uynx 135 20 Wessel 135 13 Weiff 145 1 Beever 225 120	Pink Salmon			_										442	523-531
Burbot	Lake Trout			-										17%	42
Porcupine	Burbot				-									- 36%	131-144
Silver Salmon	Porcupt ne			-		-			-					112	7
Chus Salson	Silver Salmon			••••										755	331-351
bolly Vardan 145 124 Serries 235 431-446 Sand and Gravei 35 18,000 Caribou 65 1 Sheep 35 141-171 Masse 507 141-171 Masse 30 30 Ouck 313-146 Geese 175 4 Snowshoe Hare 175 4 Solutione 195 174 Flying Squirrei 195 174 Warden 395 236 Lynx 33 33 Lynx 335 135 Warden 335 125 Warden 335 236 Lynx 335 125 Warden 335 <td>Chum Salmon</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>223</td> <td>94-127</td>	Chum Salmon				-	-	-							223	94-127
Berries	Dolly Varden				·· —									145	124
Sand and Gravei	Berries .					_			-					83%	431-446
Caribou 65 1 Sheep 35 1 Spruce Grouse 505 141-171 Mosse 337 30 Duck 425 138-148 Geese 175 4 Snowshoe Hare 175 4 Snowshoe Hare 225 85 Red Squirrei 195 174 Harten 195 174 Warten 395 296 Cayote 195 126 Warten 395 296 Cayote 197 9 Wink	Sand and Gravei				_	_								32	18.000
Sheep 32 1 Spruce Grouse 502 141-171 Moase 332 30 Ouck 422 138-148 Geese 173 4 Snowshoe Hare 195 174 Flying Squirrel 195 174 Narten 395 296 Cayote 195 126 Warten 365 126 Weasel 197 9 Wink 1333 82 Lynz 133 82 Lynz 115 20 Walverine 115 20 Walverine 115 20 Wolf	Caribou					_								67.	1
Spruce Grouse 50% 141-171 Moase 42% 138-148 Geese 17% 4 Snowshoe Hare 17% 4 Red Squirrel 19% 174 Harten 19% 144 Cayote 19% 9% Mink 19% 9% Weasel 13% 126 Lynx 11% 20 Land Otter 13% 11% Weiverine 11% 20 Ked Fox 11% 20 Volverine 11% 20 Start 11% 20 Moirf 11% 20 Beaver 17% 3 Cayota 17% 3 Startine 17% 3 Startine 11% 20 Marten 11% 20 Marten 13% 126 Weister 13% 126 Weister 11% 20 Startine 11% 20 Startine <td< td=""><td>Sheep</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>32</td><td>1</td></td<>	Sheep													32	1
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Ouck 425 138-148 Geese 175 4 Snowshoe Hare 175 4 Red Squirrei 225 85 Red Squirrei 195 174 Flying Squirrei 195 174 Karten 195 174 Coyote 195 9 Mink 195 195 Weasel 195 126 Lynx 135 82 Lynx 115 20 Wolverine 115 20 Wolf 175 3 Seaver 175 195 Ptamigan 225 120	Modse							·						831	30
Geese 171 4 Snowshoe Hare 222 85 Red Squirrei 193 174 Flying Squirrei 193 174 Warten 193 174 Coyote 193 195 Wink 193 126 Weasel 133 82 Lynx 175 3 Land Otter 115 20 Wolverine 115 20 Red Fox 175 3 Wolf 175 3 Seaver 195 195 Ptarnigan 225 120	Ouck	•••••		• • • • •	•									425	138-148
Snowshoe Hare	Geese	••••			•				•					17%	4
Red Squirrei 193 174 Flying Squirrei 145 20 Marten 395 296 Coyote 195 9 Mink 365 126 Weasel 335 82 Lynz 175 3 Land Otter 115 20 Welverine 115 20 Red Fox 172 8 Wolf 172 8 Seaver 395 195 Ptarnigan 225 120	Snowshoe Hare			• •										223	85
Flying Squirrei 141 20 Marten 395 296 Coyote 195 9 Hink 365 126 Weasel 335 82 Lynx 175 3 Land Otter 115 20 Wolverine 115 20 Red Fox 172 8 Wolf	Red Squirrel							-				_		192	174
Marten	Flying Squirrei													141	20
Cayote 193 9 Mink 363 126 Weasel 133 82 Lynx 173 3 Land Otter 115 20 Wolverine 115 20 Wolf 175 65 Beaver 395 195 Ptarmigan 225 120	Harten													- 39%	296
Mink 363 126 Weasel 333 82 Lynx 173 3 Land Otter 115 20 Wolverine 115 1 Red Fox 175 8 Wolf 175 65 Beaver 395 195 Ptarnigan 225 120	Cayate								_					192	9
Weasel	Mink								-				-	362	125
Lynx 173 3 Land Otter 113 20 Wolverine 143 1 Red Fox 173 8 Wolf 173 8 Beaver 395 195 Ptamigan 223 120	Weasel								-				-	332	82
Land Otter 113 20 Wolverine 143 1 Red Fox 173 8 Wolf 63 0 Beaver 395 195 Ptamigan 223 120	Lynx													175	3
Wolverine 143 1 Red Fox 173 8 Wolf 63 0 Beaver 395 195 Ptamigan 223 120	Land Otter								-					115	20
Red Fox 171 8 Wolf 65 0 Beaver 395 195 Ptarmigan 223 120	Waiverine												-	14%	1
Wolf 63 0 Beaver 393 195 Ptamigan 223 120	Red Fax													175	8
Beaver 395 195 Ptarmigan 223 120	Wolf									• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • •	62	0
Ptarmigan	Seaver	•••••	• • • •	••••	• • • •				-					395	195
	Ptarmigan	••••	• • • • •	••••	• • • •									223	120

Key: _____Usual period of harvest effort; Occasional period of harvest effort. *Razor, steamer, fresh water clams. ** Cords of birch, spruce, and cottonwood used as firewood for heating and cooking. *** Number trees of spruce and some birch used in construction of homes, outbuildings and furniture.

Figure 10. The annual round of resources harvested, percentage of households harvesting and estimated quanities harvested by Upper Yentna residents in 1982

Figure 11 The number of resources harvested per household in the Upper Yentna area in 1982

continued through September. The percentage of households harvesting each species was as follows: rainbow trout--72 percent; northern pike--47 percent; grayling--39 percent; whitefish--19 percent. For a short period in May and June, hooligan and suckers were included in the harvest. Near-ing the end of May and continuing through November, five salmon species were harvested: king salmon were harvested by 67 percent of the house-holds, red salmon by 78 percent, and silvers by 75 percent. At this time lake trout were harvested by 17 percent of the households. Burbot was said to be a highly desired species for eating, and was taken by 36 percent of the households.

Plant species including edible mushrooms, berries, fireweed, and fiddlehead fern, were gathered from spring through fall. Wood was taken throughout the year. During February and March, when snow conditions were favorable for travel, wood was stockpiled for the following year. Among the mammals taken in April and May were muskrat and beaver, which were trapped primarily for fur and dogfood by 14 and 39 percent of the households respectively. Brown and black bear were taken by 11 and 44 percent of the households respectively, usually as nuisance animals, although black bear meat and hides were used by many people.

During the fall, moose were harvested by 83 percent of the households, waterfowl by 42 percent, and spruce grouse by 50 percent. When cold weather and freeze-up arrived around November 1, trappers began setting out their traplines. A wide variety of furbearers including marten, mink, weasel, and otter, was taken throughout the winter months by 40 percent of the area households.

The geographic area currently used by Upper Yentna residents for all resource harvest activities is shown in Figure 12. The number of households indicating use of a particular area varies depending upon the

proximity of the area to local residences, accessibility of the area by rivers, streams, and trails, and the variety of resources present.

Characteristics of Moose Harvest by Upper Yentna Residents

Information about moose harvest was requested for the past three years (Figure 13). In 1980, 63 percent of the households harvested a moose locally, 2.6 percent (one household) harvested a moose nonlocally, 21 percent were unsuccessful in their attempts locally, and 13 percent did not hunt moose. In 1981, the success rate dropped to 52 percent and the portion of unsuccessful households increased to 34 percent; no one travelled out of the area for moose and the percent of those who did not try remained the same. The success rate for 1982 returned to 1980 level, and fewer households (7.9 percent) did not try. It should be noted that in 1980 and 1982 the success rate among local households which hunted moose was 80 percent. In 1982, the number of moose harvested per household ranged from one to three (Figure 14).

A significant aspect of the harvesting of moose is the relationship between the timing of the harvest and how the meat is distributed. The meat of any moose taken during warm weather was distributed by the successful hunter to other households in order to prevent spoilage. No area households had freezers large enough to freeze all the meat from one moose, and there is no continous source of electricity to run freezers throughout the warm weather during the summer and fall. By distributing meat among several households, the smaller portions could be consumed before they spoiled, frozen in small quantities, or processed by canning, drying, pickling, or making sausage.

Hunting moose during colder weather was said to be preferrd over September seasons for several reasons. Preservation of meat by freezing

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Figure 14. The household moose harvest for Upper Yentna households during 1982

outdoors is possible, and snow and/or ice conditions make hauling of the meat easier and, in most instances, possible. At this time, the lack of foliage makes selecting the desired size of moose easier. As previously mentioned, moose harvested before freeze-up usually are shared with other households and another animal would be needed later in the year to replenish the meat supply. Depending on the year, moose may not move into the local area from higher elevations until December or January. People cannot afford to fly to Anchorage to purchase domestic meat whenever they need it and keeping large quantities is impossible during warm months.

The methods of preserving moose meat used by area residents are indicated in Figures 15 and 16. The largest percentage of meat was preserved by freezing out-of-doors (48 percent). Nearly twice as much meat was preserved by this method than by either canning or freezing in a freezer. The greatest percentage of people used canning as a method of storage than any other method, although only 21 percent of the moose meat was actually preserved this way.

Geographic areas used by Upper Yentna residents for moose hunting are shown in Figure 17. Moose hunting areas most heavily used were those in the vicinity of residences and along waterways.

DISCUSSION

The results of research on the uses of wild resources in two portions of Game Management Unit 16B have demonstrated that harvests of a wide variety of fish and game species play significant roles in the local socioeconomic systems of both areas. Residents of the village of Tyonek and the Upper Yentna area harvest local wildlife resources in substantial

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The amounts of moose meat preserved by various methods by Upper Yentna households in 1982 Figure 16.

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The geographic area currently used by Upper Yentna residents for moose hunting (N=38) Figure 17. quantities according to an annual round of activities. In Tyonek, five species of salmon, clams, waterfowl, freshwater fish, moose, and several species of small game comprise most of the harvest. Marine mammals and black bear are also taken. Harvest and distribution of these resources are organized on a kinship basis; these uses provide an economic base for village households and bind village residents in networks of sharing and support. In the vast area surrounding the community of Skwentna, households take moose, small game, salmon, freshwater fish, furbearers, and a host of other species. These harvests serve as a focus of family activities, and the sharing of big game, for example, ties households to others of the region.

For both study populations, the uses of fish and wildlife resources generally represent one component of an overall socioeconomic pattern that includes seasonal or part-time wage employment. In both areas, full-time year-round employment opportunities are scarce. Tyonek residents fish commercially, find seasonal construction jobs, or work on temporary village projects supported by state or federal funds in order to obtain cash. In the Upper Yentna area, about 40 percent of the households obtain some income from trapping. Other kinds of seasonal work, often resource related (such as guiding, and logging,) are combined to supply households with adequate cash incomes. In both areas, some residents obtain non-local employment for several months, but most people in each population reside at their homes for most of the year.

Historically, fish and game harvests have been extremely important to residents of the western Susitna Basin and the western Cook Inlet area, the area now encompassed by Game Unit 16B (Fall 1981, Cole 1982). The aboriginal inhabitants of the area, the Upper Inlet Dena'ina, utilized all of this area for fish and game harvests until diseases reduced their

. numbers early in this century. While some Dena'ina continued to use portions of the Upper Yentna area seasonally into the 1940s, most former Native residents of the area and their descendents now reside in Tyonek. The area currently used by these and other Tyonek people has been harvested for fish and game by the Dena'ina since before recorded history. During the twentieth century, a small number of prospectors and trappers replaced the Dena'ina in the Upper Yentna area. In the 1900s and 1910s, many newcomers arrived or passed through the area to exploit the Cache Creek or Sunflower Basin mining districts. A few stayed on to hunt and trap. While there has been no subsequent industrial or other development in this region, in the last several decades state and federal land policies have resulted in the introduction of a small, permanent population in the area. As the findings of the first phase of the "Susitna Basin Resource Use Study" have demonstrated, these households have developed a pattern of hunting and fishing which in some ways resembles the historic resource use patterns of the area.

One component of the historic and contemporary resource patterns of the residents of Tyonek and in the Upper Yentna area is the use of moose. In the past, moose have been harvested throughout the fall and winter, generally as needed and as accessible, with a preference for hunting when temperatures permit preservation by freezing outdoors and when travel is convenient.

Findings of this report have demonstrated the widespread use of moose in both areas today. About 87 percent of Tyonek households have harvested moose over the last five years, although only 15 hunters were successful during the September 1981 season. In the Upper Yentna area, about 63 percent of the households reported a successful moose harvest in 1982. Residents cited the possibility of outdoor preservation, ease of travel, and accessibility as reasons for post-freeze up harvests. In

both Tyonek and the Upper Yentna areas, the majority of hunters have expressed their desire to reopen a moose hunting season in November in the vicinity of their homes.

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APPENDIX A

I.D. NUMBER	
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INTERVIEWER

DATE _____

LOCATION _____

 Did you or any member of your household hunt, fish, trap, or gather wild resources in 1982? Yes_____ No_____

- 2. Did your household use any wild resources harvested by other people in 1982? Yes ____ No _____
- 3. I'd like to ask you some questions about your uses of wild resources in 1982. I'll review a list of resources. Please let me know if you harvested or used the resource in 1982. If 1982 was not a typical year, please tell me what is typical for your household. I'm also interested to know the methods you use to harvest resources, how much you harvest, and the time of year you harvest resources. I would also like to map your general harvest areas while we discuss these resources. As we conduct the interview one of us will go through the survey and record your responses to the questions. The other person will record any other information you wish to provide. We are interested in any observations and ideas which you may have about resources and their use in this area.

HOOL IGAN LAMPREY (EE	BROAD	FLAT	WILLTEF ISH	NORTHERN F	BURB OT	LAKE TROUT	GRAYLING	DOLLY VARD	RAINBOW TR	CHUM SALMO	PINK SALMO	SILVER SAL	RED SALMON	KING SALMO	RESOURC
ご 				IKE				Ž	100	z	Z	MON		z	DID YOU TRY TO
									•						QUANTITY HARVESTED
															AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM
															METHOD OF HARVEST?
															METHOD OF TRANSPOR- TATION?
															RESOURCE USE? (TRADED CONSUMED, SOLD, ETC.)
															QUANTITY CONSUMED?
															DISTANCE TRAVELED TO HARVEST RESOURCE?
															FEBRUARY
							1								MARCH
	+														APRIL
		1		1											MAY
	-	1	1										1		JUNE
		1		1	+										
	-		+	+-		+			1			1			AUGUST
	+		+				1				1		1		SEPTEMBER
	+	1		+-					+		1			1	DCTOBER
	+			+	+								1	1	NOVEMBER
															DECEMBER

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APPENDIX A CONT.

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WHITE-TAIL	ROCK	WILLOW	PTARMIGAN	RUFFED GROUSE	SPRUCE GROUSE	OTHER	BROWN BEAR	BLACK BEAR	SHEEP	CARIBOU	MOOSE	SEAL	OTHER	SHELLF ISH	RESOURCE F ISH EGGS
			<u> </u>												DID YOU TRY TO HARVEST THIS IN 1982
															QUANTITY HARVESTED IN 1982?
															AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM OTHER HOUSEHOLDS
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>												METHOD OF HARVEST?
															METHOD OF TRANSPOR- TATION?
															RESOURCE USE? (TRADED CONSUMED, SOLD, ETC.)
 															QUANTITY CONSUMED?
															DISTANCE TRAVELED TO HARVEST RESOURCE?
															JANUARY
<u> </u>															FEBRUARY
															MARCH
											_		-		APRIL
															MAY
\vdash								<u> </u>							JUNE
															JULY
															AUGUST
															SEPTEMBER
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<u>.</u>															NOVEMBER
															DECEMBER

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APPENDIX A CONT.

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WEASEL	MINK	WOLF	COYOTE	RED FOX	MARTEN	MARMOT	FLYING SQUIRR	GROUND SQUIRR	RED SQUIRREL	PORCUPINE	SNOWSHOE HARE	SNOW	CANADA	GEESE	DUCK	RESOURCE
							1	1								DID YOU TRY TO HARVEST THIS IN 1982
										-						QUANTITY HARVESTED IN 1982?
																AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM OTHER HOUSEHOLDS
										•						METHOD OF HARVEST?
																METHOD OF TRANSPOR- TATION?
																RESOURCE USE? (TRADED CONSUMED, SOLD, ETC.)
																QUANTITY CONSUMED?
																DISTANCE TRAVELED TO HARVEST RESOURCE?
					 											JANUARY
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																DECEMBER

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APPENDIX A CONT.

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I would now like you to think back a couple years about moose. Did you harvest a moose in 1982, 1981, 1980?

4.	1982	5.	1981	6.	1980
Yes, loca	ally	Yes, local	У	Yes, loc	ally
Yes, nonl	locally	Yes, nonlo	ally	Yes, non	locally
No, but t	ried	No, but tr	ed	No, but	tried
No, didn'	t try	No, didn't	try	No, didn	't try
Not resid	ient of area	Not resider	it of area	Not resi	dent of area

7. If the household did not harvest a moose in the last 3 years, when was the last time they harvested one locally?

Year -	
Not a	resident
Never	while a resident

- 8. How do you preserve your moose meat? Estimate the percentage.
 - Frozen (freezer)_____%

 Frozen (outdoors)_____%

 Smoke/Dry_____%

 Can/Jar_____%

 Corn/Pickle_____%

 Salt_____%

 Fresh_____%

 - 0ther_____%

9. In the past year, about how many households have given your household:

Game	
Fish	
Furs	
Berries	
Food Plants	

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10. In the past year, about how many households has your household given:

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Game	
Fish	
Furs	
Berries	

Food Plants_____

11. Which of the following best describes how you get most of the resources you harvest?

	Individually	with relatives	with triends/partners
salmon fishing			
other fishing			
moose hunting			
sheep hunting			
trapping			
berry picking			

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- 12. Please approximate what percent of your household meat, fish , and fowl in the past year has been from wild resources.
- 13. Does your household raise a garden? yes_____ no_____
- 14. (If yes) Please estimate the percentage of your produce which comes from your garden _____% None bought in store? _____%

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- 15. Does anyone in your household engage in logging as a business in this area? yes_____ no_____
- 16. Does anyone in your household participate in mining? yes____ no_____
- 17. Do you own any of the following?

item	yes/no	approximate value
boat		
snowmachine		
airplane		
ATV		
dogteam		
automobile		
freezer	•	
smokehouse		
generator		
trapping cabin	•	

18. Which of the following are sources of household monetary income? location: town GMU

guiding	
trapping	
commercial fishing	······································
logging	
mining	
construction	
other	
other	
other	

19. In terms of income, which of the above is most important?

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•	How many people live in this household?		
	ages males		
	females		
	total		
•	Please indicate the longest time any house	hold member has been in	
	Alaska		
	Skwentna area		
3.	. How many months did you stay in the Skwent Explain prolonged absences.	na area in 1982?	months.
3.	. How many months did you stay in the Skwent Explain prolonged absences	na area in 1982?	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e. 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e. Homestead 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e. Homestead Subdivision 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e. Homestead Subdivision Homesite 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e. Homestead Subdivision Homesite Purchased from previous owner 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other	months.
3.	. How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e.e. Homestead Subdivision Homesite Purchased from previous owner What are your ideas on a winter moose sease 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other On in this Game Management	months.
3.	 How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences. How did you acquire your property/home (e.e. Homestead Subdivision Homesite Purchased from previous owner What are your ideas on a winter moose sease 	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other On in this Game Management	months.
3.	. How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other On in this Game Management	months.
23.	. How many months did you stay in the Skwents Explain prolonged absences	na area in 1982? g. what program or through Other On in this Game Management	months.