

**Summary of Actions
Alaska Board of Game**

<p>Southcentral and Southwestern Regions Board of Game Meeting March 4 – 13, 2005 Coast International Inn, Anchorage, AK</p>

DESIGNATED REPORTERS: Joe Chythlook and Sherry Wright

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board of Game's actions. References to department staff means Department of Fish and Game staff, unless otherwise noted.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate sealing of beaver; require harvest reporting in Region II.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided sealing is still an important way of collecting data on beavers and is a good method for area biologists to keep in personal contact with local trappers.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen Unit 9 wolf trapping season by opening earlier, August 10 – March 31.

AMENDMENTS: Change season from October 1 to April 30, and prohibit use of a steel trap or a snare smaller than 3/32 inch diameter.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the proposal makes the season and method exemptions consistent with adjacent game management units.

PROPOSAL NO. 3

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of firearms for beaver in Unit 11, April 15 – May 31.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to allow opportunity to harvest beaver because there is no biological concern, beaver is taken in spring for human consumption, and because the adjoining game management units have a longer season. Department staff testified they have sealed two beavers in the last ten years, and that it is relatively easy to trap beaver in the spring.

PROPOSAL NO. 4

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Extend wolf trapping season in Units 14B and 16A to April 30; restrict April methods.

AMENDMENT: Include all of Unit 16.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided extending the trapping season in these areas provides additional opportunity, does not result in any major impact on the healthy wolf population, and makes wolf hunting season regulations consistent.

PROPOSAL NO. 5**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen wolverine trapping season in Units 13B and 13E to February 28, no firearms in February.

DISCUSSION: Department staff testified that reports from trappers suggest wolverines are abundant in the good mountain habitat, but trappers are still not taking wolverine on the flats at the same levels as in the 1970s and 1980s. Board members decided that without additional population status and trend data, the trapping season should not be extended. Board members also decided changes to seasons should be implemented unitwide for consistency.

PROPOSAL NO. 6**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of firearms for beaver in Unit 13, April 15 – May 31

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the season is sufficient to allow trapping in open water, and opportunity exists to harvest beavers late into the spring. Board members compared the decline in harvest rates with prior year averages and decided the possibility of overharvest still exists.

PROPOSAL NO. 7**ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Discontinue lynx tracking strategy and open season December 1 – January 31 in Units 14A and 14B.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 8.

PROPOSAL NO. 8**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Discontinue lynx tracking strategy and open season January 1 – February 28 in Units 13, 14, and 16.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the tracking harvest strategy incorporates the best information available, including lynx track counts, percentage of kittens, snowshoe hare track counts, habitat quality, season length, catch per trapper, trapping activity, pelt price, and access conditions. The lynx tracking strategy further ensures consistency in the criteria being considered from year to year and the way it is analyzed; it is a low cost program.

PROPOSAL NO. 9**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit beaver trapping in portion of Unit 15C near Homer.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided data from sealing reports indicate beaver harvest is within sustainable limits in the proposed area and changes to the existing trapping regulations are not warranted at this time. Board members noted the average beaver harvest over the last 14 years was 11 per year.

PROPOSAL NO. 10**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit marmot trapping in portion of Unit 15C near Homer.

DISCUSSION: There is no known trapping effort targeting marmots on the Kenai Peninsula.

PROPOSAL NO. 11

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Extend wolf trapping season to end April 30 in Unit 17.

AMENDMENT: End season on April 30, no limit.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided there was no biological concern for additional harvest, and noted the proposal was widely supported by local residents and reflected their willingness to tackle the predation problem. The April 30 closure date is consistent with many other game management units throughout the state.

PROPOSAL NO. 12

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require use of breakaway snares for trapping wolves statewide.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony from department staff that the design of breakaway snares is still in the research and development stage.

PROPOSAL NO. 13

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Establish a new regulation to prohibit party permits for Delta Bison.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because it did not fall within the board's call for proposals.

PROPOSAL NO. 14

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate bison drawing hunt in Units 11 and 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members considered the number of hunters who apply for this popular bison hunt and determined there was no biological reason to eliminate the existing bison hunt.

PROPOSAL NO. 15

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Shorten black bear season in Unit 6D to September 8 – June 10.

AMENDMENT: Establish season from September 1 – June 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided not to change the current regulation because the black bear sow harvest is 25 percent less than the brown bear harvest, and the earlier closure may protect a few more sows. Board members noted the last 20 days in June comprise the time of the most conflict with tour operators in the area.

PROPOSAL NO. 16

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Shorten black bear season to September 1 – June 10, modify bag limit in Unit 6D to one bear every two years, count wounded bear as bag limit.

DISCUSSION: Board members referenced their action on Proposal No. 15, and requested department staff to include black bear for general discussion at the statewide meeting.

PROPOSAL NO. 17

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish black bear registration hunt in Unit 6D.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the administrative burden associated with this proposal would be too costly for the department.

PROPOSAL NO. 18

ACTION: Deferred

DESCRIPTION: Allow same-day airborne hunting for black bears over bait in Units 6, 7, and 9, and Units 11-19.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to defer action on this proposal until 2006 and to target areas in which the data shows same day airborne hunting would be most beneficial.

PROPOSAL NO. 19

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow same day airborne hunting for black bears over bait in Units 6, 7, and 9, and Units 11-19.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 18.

PROPOSAL NO. 20

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify the salvage requirement of black bear hides in Unit 16B.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided sealing hides is still a useful management tool for collecting data on locations of harvest, sex, and size of bears based on skull measurement. The hide is necessary to get the evidence of sex and trend data is especially important for predator control programs.

PROPOSAL NO. 21

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Increase black bear bag limit to three bears in Units 14A and 14B.

AMENDMENT: Remove Unit 14A.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided Unit 14B can sustain more harvest based on the data provided in department staff testimony. Access is limited and there are higher numbers of black bears in that area which could provide more harvest opportunity for those who rely upon the meat and hides, without significantly impacting the available resource.

PROPOSAL NO. 22

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region II.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal was appropriate based upon department staff testimony.

PROPOSAL NO. 23

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: In Units 6 – 11, and Units 13 – 16, a wounded bear counts as the bag limit.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this issue is a statewide proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 24

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate seven-day, in-unit sealing requirement for brown bear in Units 6A, B, and C.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the proposed change in regulation would make it easier for hunters and guides to meet the deadline for sealing because of weather and logistical delays.

PROPOSAL NO. 25

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify brown bear season and bag limit in Unit 6D to one per year, no closed season.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the average brown bear harvest in this area is sustainable.

PROPOSAL NO. 26

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Require signed guide contract for brown bear drawing hunt application in Unit 8.

AMENDMENT: Remove the requirement that a successful permit drawing winner must purchase their brown bear tag in order to secure their permit.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony that the current nonresident permitting procedure for Kodiak Archipelago bear hunts is complex and designed to assure hunters and their guides have a fair chance of acquiring a permit while reducing the number of permits that are not used each season. This system has successfully maintained a relatively consistent nonresident harvest rate and high quality hunting experience, while providing economic opportunities for guides. Board members decided the proposal would have no biological impact on brown bears, and provides fair opportunity for guides and clients.

PROPOSAL NO. 27

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Wounded brown bear in Unit 8 counts as one in four bag limit.

AMENDMENT: Remove wounding from “take” for one-in-four year harvest.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony from Department of Public Safety staff that this proposed regulation would be difficult to enforce. Board members decided this issue is a statewide issue, consistent with their action on Proposal No. 23.

PROPOSAL NO. 28

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify brown bear bag limit to one bear every two years in Naknek drainage.

DISCUSSION: The Naknek drainage in Unit 9C already has the most liberal brown bear season of any area within Unit 9 and the department had conservation concerns if it was further liberalized.

PROPOSAL NO. 29

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close brown bear season in portions of Unit 9C, Funnel, Moraine and Battle Creeks.

DISCUSSION: Board members found no conservation concerns existed, noting only one season of data did not establish a trend. However, board members decided this would be something for the department to monitor and bring to the board's attention if necessary.

PROPOSAL NO. 30

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Delay opening brown bear season to October 15 in Funnel, Moraine and Battle Creeks.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard public testimony that transporters and web sites recommend these areas to bear hunters. Board members stated a preference for a regulation that maintains a sustainable harvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 31

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allocate brown bear permits to residents and nonresidents in Unit 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided there was no justification for the proposal, which was primarily an allocation issue, and administration of such a system would be problematic. There were 287 applicants for eight permits, and there are two guides in this area.

PROPOSAL NO. 32

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow spring and fall brown bear baiting in Unit 13.

AMENDMENTS: Remove the fall portion, and establish season between March 15 – June 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony that brown bear harvest in Unit 13 has increased over the past decade. While some brown bears can cause significant predation on moose calves during a short period in the spring, broad application of baiting to increase harvest may not have the desired effect, as brown bear stations are unlikely to be placed in remote areas where a greater predation reduction is desired.

PROPOSAL NO. 33

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase harvest quota for Kenai brown bears to 50.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 34.

PROPOSAL NO. 34

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open spring season and increase harvest quota for Kenai brown bear.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to provide the department more time to assess the population dynamics of the Kenai Peninsula brown bears before making any additional modifications to the current management strategies in Unit 15. Local residents and state and federal agencies have special concerns and interest in this population.

PROPOSAL NO. 35

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Modify brown bear bag limit to one per year in Unit 16A.

AMENDMENT: Exclude lands within the Denali State Park.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to provide more opportunity to harvest brown bear.

PROPOSAL NO. 36

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Modify brown bear bag limit to two per year in Unit 16B.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to increase the brown bear bag limit to two per year to provide increased opportunity to hunters who want to take more than one bear. The bear population supports the increased harvest opportunity and it is anticipated few hunters will take more than one bear per year.

PROPOSAL NO. 37

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Open brown bear season September 10 in remainder of Unit 17B.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted that Unit 17B is a prime area for moose and caribou, brown bear numbers have increased over the last 20 years, and moose calf-to-cow ratios are alarmingly low in this area because of high mortality of calves in the spring. Board members decided adding 10 days to the brown bear season would give moose hunters in the area more opportunity to harvest bears.

PROPOSAL NO. 38

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open brown bear season September 10 in remainder of Unit 17B.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 37.

PROPOSAL NO. 39

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region V.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized the fee exemption, based upon testimony by department staff that there are adequate numbers of brown bears.

PROPOSAL NO. 40

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region III.

AMENDMENT: Exclude Units 21B and 21C.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to reauthorize the tag fee exemption, based upon testimony by department staff there is an adequate number of brown bears in Region III.

PROPOSAL NO. 41

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Split Unit 7 caribou drawing hunt into drawing hunt, and winter registration hunt.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided adequate opportunity for caribou harvest exists and the current regulation assists harvest on a sustained yield basis from this small caribou

herd. Board members noted adoption of this proposal could result in a derby style hunt and high potential for overharvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 42

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Modify resident bag limit and shorten nonresident season for caribou in Unit 9D.

AMENDMENT: No change to the nonresident season.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the amended proposal addressed the department's conservation concerns while continuing to allow a reasonable opportunity to harvest a limited number of caribou. Board members noted a significant number of nonresidents pay to participate in this hunt.

PROPOSAL NO. 43

ACTION: Tabled

DESCRIPTION: Restrict Tier II caribou permits to one per household in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members tabled this proposal because of action taken on Proposal No. 155.

PROPOSAL NO. 44

ACTION: Deferred

DESCRIPTION: Revisit amount necessary for subsistence; create drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members deferred action on this proposal to a special meeting or to March 2006. *Note: The board will consider this issue at its special meeting in Anchorage on June 4 – 5, 2005 in Anchorage.*

The proposals for the June meeting are available online at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gprop.php>

PROPOSAL NO. 45

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open archery hunt for caribou in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided qualified Nelchina Tier II hunters may hunt using any legal means, including archery.

PROPOSAL NO. 46

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen season for caribou in Unit 16B.

AMENDMENT: Change the current season to end September 30.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided 10 extra days would not likely result in an excessive harvest and may allow harvest of a few extra bears to help control predation of caribou and sheep in the area.

PROPOSAL NO. 47

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require registration permit for deer in Unit 2.

DISCUSSION: Board members adopted resolution 2005-156-BOG. The proponent withdrew this proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 48

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit guides and transporters from deer hunting on islands in portions of Unit 6D.

DISCUSSION: Board members concluded the proposal was not within their statutory authority.

PROPOSAL NO. 49

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit to bucks only and shorten season for deer in portions of Unit 8.

DISCUSSION: Department staff testified they gather estimated population size and trend information from hunter observations, opportunistic information during aerial surveys for other species, winter mortality surveys, and harvest questionnaires. While all these sources are indirect and subjective, they consistently indicate the deer population has been increasing since the dramatic population decline experienced in 1999. Department staff testified they have also seen an increase in the number of bucks and a reduction in the number of late-born fawns during the past two years. Based on this information, board members decided it was not necessary to reduce hunter opportunity.

PROPOSAL NO. 50

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit taking of nannies accompanied by kids in Unit 6.

AMENDMENT: Add Units 8, 11, and 14.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided identification of nannies accompanied by kids will not present a problem to hunters, this proposal makes the regulations consistent throughout the region, and noted that when a nanny accompanied by kids is harvested, the kids rarely survive.

PROPOSAL NO. 51

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allocate goat drawing hunts according to guide use areas and residency.

DISCUSSION: Department staff testified that adoption of this proposal would require separate resident and nonresident drawings, along with alternate lists and guide-client agreements and the added workload would be substantial. Board members decided not to establish a precedent that may be requested throughout the state, noting there is strong demand for resident participation to harvest this resource.

PROPOSAL NO. 52

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Convert goat registration hunts in Unit 14A and remainder of Unit 14C to drawing.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because it was withdrawn by the proponent.

PROPOSAL NO. 53 **ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Modify moose hunts in Gustavus area of Unit 1C.

AMENDMENTS: Anterless season amended from November 10 – December 10 for resident and nonresident and added Unit 1 to the discretionary permit hunts.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the amended proposal accomplishes two objectives: It lengthens the anterless moose hunting season in Gustavus and establishes an exclusive registration permit hunt for bull moose hunting in Gustavus.

PROPOSAL NO. 54 **ACTION: Carried**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 6A.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 55 **ACTION: Carried**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 6B.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 56 **ACTION: Carried**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 6C.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 57 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Open early archery season for moose in Units 7 and 15C.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal did not address a conservation issue, and that an archery season already exists in Units 15A and 15B.

PROPOSAL NO. 58 **ACTION: Carried**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Placer River drainage.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 59 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Establish moose archery seasons in road corridors in Units 7 and 13 – 16.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal would conflict with intensive management laws, the department's management objectives, and the public's desire for healthy moose populations.

PROPOSAL NO. 60 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Modify antler portion of moose bag limit in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal could create inconsistent regulations for Southcentral moose harvests.

PROPOSAL NO. 61

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create specific moose harvest ticket for Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted this proposal was the genesis for Proposal No. 155. Board members deferred Proposal 155 to a special meeting or to March 2006.

Note: The board will consider this issue at its special meeting in Anchorage on June 4 – 5, 2005 in Anchorage.

The proposals for the June meeting are available online. Please visit <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gprop.php>

PROPOSAL NO. 62

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Shorten moose season by 10 days in Units 14A, 14B, and 16A.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided there was no biological justification for reducing the general moose seasons.

PROPOSAL NO. 63

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create early moose seasons, limit hunters to one type of permit in Units 14 and 16A.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the proposal would be too difficult for department staff to administer.

PROPOSAL NO. 64

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require sealing of moose antlers in Units 14 and 16A.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided mandatory sealing would not be possible because of the department's current and anticipated budgets.

PROPOSAL NO. 65

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify moose seasons in Units 14A, 14B and 16A to any bull drawing hunts.

DISCUSSION: After discussing illegal harvest data, board members did not adopt this proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 66

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 14A.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 67

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Establish a drawing hunt for moose in Unit 14C, upper Ship Creek.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal allows the department to increase opportunity to harvest moose in an area with limited access, while controlling the number of hunters to avoid both overcrowding and overharvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 68

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish any bull registration hunt in remainder of Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided there could be management problems because of the population of the surrounding areas and the probable interest a hunt of this type could generate.

PROPOSAL NO. 69

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Establish any bull general season hunt in remainder of Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 68.

PROPOSAL NO. 70

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 14C, Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 71

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reinstate antlerless moose season in Unit 14C, Anchorage Management Area.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony that state park management and the department were willing to work together to reinstate this hunt with help from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other land managers in the area. Department staff emphasized safety issues and intent to take small steps to implement this hunt. Department staff believes they can use this plan to build a track record and will continue to work on a long-term plan. Board members approved this concise plan to allow for slow steps to safely harvest moose based upon sound biology and noted that 52 percent of Hillside residents support the proposal. The proposal provides discretionary authority to department staff to provide hunter escorts.

PROPOSAL NO. 72

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 14C, Ft. Richardson.

AMENDMENTS: Extend resident and nonresident antlerless moose seasons to March 31, and added blackpowder muzzleloading rifle; up to 160 permits may be issued.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 73

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 14C, Elmendorf.

AMENDMENT: Extend resident and nonresident seasons in Unit 14C, Elmendorf Air Force Base, to March 31.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 74 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Convert Unit 15B moose drawing hunt to general season.

DISCUSSION: Department staff testified this area has been managed as a trophy moose area under a restricted drawing permit system since 1977. Board members decided the current trophy moose management strategy for this area warrants the current restrictive drawing permit system, and that the present regulations are working well.

PROPOSAL NO. 75 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Establish muzzleloader season for moose in Unit 15.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided a two day season would complicate the present system and adequate opportunities exist with current regulations.

PROPOSAL NO. 76 **ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Open season October 1 for drawing moose hunt in Unit 15A.

AMENDMENT: Establish season between October 10 – November 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to provide hunters a few more days for a quality hunt and the amended proposal addresses the department's biological concerns.

PROPOSAL NO. 77 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Open season September 20 for drawing moose hunt in Unit 15A.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 76.

PROPOSAL NO. 78 **ACTION: Carried**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 15A, Skilak Loop.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 79 **ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Adjust season dates for Tier II moose hunt in Unit 15C.

AMENDMENT: Establish the season from August 20 – September 20.

DISCUSSION: Department staff and the proponent had biological concerns about the latter part of the current season. Board members decided the amended proposal addressed department staff's concerns and aligns the season with the rest of Unit 15C.

PROPOSAL NO. 80 **ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 15C.

AMENDMENT: Provide department staff authority to issue up to 100 permits.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard concerns from department staff about the high density of moose in Homer when deep snow pushes the moose down to human populated areas. The high density results in a high number of moose mortality because of malnutrition and increased negative interaction with humans. Board members decided department staff needs more flexibility, and provided authority to increase the number of drawing permits up to 100. Board members requested that department staff report to local fish and game advisory committees and explain the department's rationale for this proposal before issuing the added permits.

PROPOSAL NO. 81

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Close moose season five days earlier in Unit 16A.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 62.

PROPOSAL NO. 82

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate fall general season moose hunt in Unit 16B.

DISCUSSION: Board members did not approve this proposal after noting the department staff first determines the number of moose available for annual harvest, and then implements the current regulation based upon numbers required for the Tier II hunt and the surplus available for a resident spike-fork 50-inch season.

PROPOSAL NO. 83

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 16B, Kalgin Island.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized his hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 84

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase intensive management objectives for moose in Unit 16B.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided adopting this proposal would not accomplish the stated goal, because moose habitat has not improved.

PROPOSAL NO. 85

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify nonresident moose hunt to a drawing hunt in Unit 17B.

DISCUSSION: Board members did not adopt this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 147.

PROPOSAL NO. 86

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Close nonresident moose season in Unit 17B.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 85 and Proposal No. 147.

PROPOSAL NO. 87

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Expand winter moose hunt area in 17C.

AMENDMENTS: In Unit 17C, that portion west of Killian Creek, Nunavaugaluk Lake, and the Snake River, one antlered bull by registration permit; during the period December 1 – January 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order. A subsistence only hunt season December 1 – January 31 to be announced. Restriction of one permit, and hunter must specify hunt area.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony that moose population estimate surveys indicate an increase in moose numbers. Board members decided the amended proposal addressed department staff's concerns of excessive hunting pressure created by poor winter traveling conditions. Board members noted a limited increase in hunting opportunity in the proposed area addressed the concerns of the proponents without negatively impacting the resource.

PROPOSAL NO. 88

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Close nonresident moose season in Unit 19A.

AMENDMENT: Sunset in one year and board to review in March 2006.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted the Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan charge given in March of 2004 was: "Manage moose conservatively to reduce human-caused mortality while the moose population is low and rebuilding. As the moose population and harvestable surplus increases, reduce restrictions on harvest to increase hunting opportunities." Board members adopted the proposal and noted the success rate for residents is low, which could implicate Tier II rules.

PROPOSAL NO. 89

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 20A.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose, and noted this proposal was necessary to keep up with increased moose population.

PROPOSAL NO. 90

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify moose bag limit in Unit 20B, Salcha River drainage.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because it did not fall within the board's call for proposals.

PROPOSAL NO. 91

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 92

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Units 21 and 24.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized these hunts based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of antlerless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 93

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Units 22C and 22D.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized these hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 94

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 95

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 26A.

DISCUSSION: Board members reauthorized this hunt based upon department staff testimony that there is a sustainable population of anterless moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 96

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Limit moose hunters in southcentral to one type of permit.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted this proposal raised statutory concerns.

PROPOSAL NO. 97

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create ewe hunts throughout southcentral where sustainable.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided additional hunting opportunity for ewes was not warranted because department staff manages sheep hunting for sustained yield throughout the region and this proposal was not specific as to where the hunt should be considered. Board members encouraged department staff to review and monitor ewe populations.

PROPOSAL NO. 98

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Establish early sheep season for governor's permit.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 101.

PROPOSAL NO. 99

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create early season archery hunts for sheep in Unit 14C in areas currently closed.

DISCUSSION: Board members did not approve this proposal because of action taken on Proposal No. 101.

PROPOSAL NO. 100

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create early season archery hunts for sheep in existing hunt areas in Unit 14C.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal could create an unfair advantage and could violate a long-standing state park management agreement.

PROPOSAL NO. 101

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Create early season hunt for sheep in Unit 14C in area currently closed.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to provide greater opportunity for the governor's permit recipient. The department is authorized to allow up to two governor's permits.

PROPOSAL NO. 102

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of snow machines for taking wolves in Units 6-11 and Units 13-17.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided not to adopt regulation on a region-wide basis, and preferred adopting this type of regulation in units identified to benefit the most from this type of regulation.

PROPOSAL NO. 103

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Extend wolf hunting season in Unit 9 to May 25.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted this proposal had wide local support, that the wolf population is healthy and likely increasing, and that current harvests are below sustainable levels.

PROPOSAL NO. 104

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow guides to take wolves while guiding in Unit 9.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal was not within their authority.

PROPOSAL NO. 105

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify wolf bag limit in Unit 9B to unlimited.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided there is a liberal season in Unit 9B and the current regulation provides ample opportunity to harvest wolves.

PROPOSAL NO. 106

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow snow machines and ATV's for taking wolves in Units 9B and 17B.

AMENDMENTS: Include all of Unit 17 and would not apply to land administered by the National Park Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or to national wildlife refuges or other federal lands unless approved by federal agencies. A snow machine or ATV may be used to take wolves provided that wolves are not shot from a moving snow machine or ATV.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal is consistent with regulations in other areas of the state, and still provides opportunity to harvest wolves and alleviate conservation concerns for moose. ATV use is necessary because of inconsistent snowfall in this area.

PROPOSAL NO. 107

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify wolverine bag limit to two in Units 7 and 15.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal would be very difficult to enforce and would not adequately address the conservation of wolverines in this unit.

PROPOSAL NO. 108

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close nonresident season for wolverine in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided nonresident hunter harvest of wolverine does not present a threat to the wolverine population, noting that during the fall months, sheep, goat, moose and bear hunters may harvest wolverine, and that nonresident harvest of wolverines is low. Over the past 20 years, the average number of wolverines harvested by nonresidents has remained stable at less than one per year.

PROPOSAL NO. 109

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close lynx hunting season in units where trapping is closed.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided there was no conservation concern based on the limited harvest that takes place under the current bag limit.

PROPOSAL NO. 110

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow shooting of beavers during trapping season in Units 9B and 17B.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted there is already sufficient opportunity to shoot beavers in these Subunits.

PROPOSAL NO. 111

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Manage sea ducks by individual unit and species.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted the department staff works with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in five zones in Alaska to manage various populations, hunting opportunity, and harvest. Waterfowl harvest is adequately regulated with aggregate species limits. Board members decided there is neither justification nor effective means of establishing differential harvest regulations at the unit level.

PROPOSAL NO. 112

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify and decrease bag limit for sea ducks; eliminate boat hunting.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted precautionary, but moderate restrictions to sea duck regulations for residents and nonresidents were adopted in 1999 and 2001. Board members decided that no biological justification existed for further restriction, and that this issue was a local law enforcement issue pertaining to illegal activity.

PROPOSAL NO. 113

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Restrict boat use during sea duck hunting.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 112.

PROPOSAL NO. 114

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Manage goldeneyes by subspecies.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard testimony from department staff that the overall population of goldeneyes is healthy. Board members decided that separate species limits have no utility unless there is a substantial conservation need to restrict harvest of a particular duck species, and to require hunters to identify duck species.

PROPOSAL NO. 115**ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Modify ptarmigan bag limit in Unit 13.**AMENDMENT:** Season announcement where the bag limit may be up to 10 per day, 20 in possession. This will apply to Units 13 A, B & E only.**DISCUSSION:** Board members decided this proposal provides department staff the ability to increase, rather than reduce, the bag limit if the ptarmigan population reaches a level where a higher harvest can be sustained. Department staff testified that ptarmigan are beginning to rebound.**PROPOSAL NO. 116****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Establish household bag limit for ducks and geese in Unit 13.**DISCUSSION:** Board members noted the current daily limits in Unit 13 include eight ducks, 10 sea ducks, four dark geese, and three white geese; these limits would provide the requested number of birds over the season. Waterfowl bag limits are at the maximum allowed by federal regulations and have been in place for many years. Residents of some communities in Unit 13 qualify to participate in the federal spring and summer migratory bird season, which provides substantial additional opportunity to hunt.**PROPOSAL NO. 117****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit ptarmigan hunting in a portion of Unit 15C.**DISCUSSION:** Board members noted the causes of ptarmigan declines in this portion of Unit 15C are likely from factors other than hunting pressure, such as predation from domestic and wild animals.**PROPOSAL NO. 118****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit sandhill crane hunting in portion of Unit 15C.**DISCUSSION:** Board members could not justify prohibiting hunting of sandhill cranes in this area. Board members discussed seasons are closed in other states, because sandhill cranes mix with listed or special concern populations of greater sandhill cranes. Over the past 10 years, the Alaska harvest of Pacific Flyaway population cranes has averaged less than 200 birds, with about 60 percent harvest in Cook Inlet. The board heard testimony from department staff that there is no information to suggest that the Kachemak Bay breeders are a distinct subpopulation of the Pacific Flyway population of lesser sandhill cranes.**PROPOSAL NO. 119****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Allow same-day airborne hunting for wolves in Unit 9B with radio communication.**DISCUSSION:** Board members took no action on this proposal because it was not within the board's authority.

PROPOSAL NO. 120**ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Adopt wolf implementation plan for portions of Units 9C & 9E.**DISCUSSION:** Board members noted the decline of this caribou herd is attributed primarily to nutritional limitations of the habitat, and that Tier II restrictions have been in place since 2002, triggering intensive management. Board members therefore decided not to approve this predation control proposal.**PROPOSAL NO. 121****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Discontinue aerial and same-day airborne wolf control in Unit 13.**DISCUSSION:** Board members heard testimony from department staff that they have utilized every available tool to evaluate, prepare, plan, and monitor the effects of the predator control plan currently in place for Unit 13. In every research project and management plan, there is potential to review and study additional aspects of proposed actions, however there must be a balance between time, fiscal responsibility, and biological concerns to simultaneously meet as many goals as possible. The department's current management program utilizes results of research and review from the past 30 years by both department professionals and other biologists. Board members decided that based on testimony and previous board findings, the board has an obligation to implement predator control, and did not adopt this proposal.**PROPOSAL NO. 122****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Include Unit 13C in wolf predation control area.**AMENDMENTS:** Extend the time period in the predation control implementation plan to July 1, 2010; amended the calf-to-cow ratio in each subunit; increase the late winter population objective for the unit from 100 wolves to 135; and reduce the projected spring population estimate from 265 to 225 wolves.**DISCUSSION:** Board members heard testimony that when the initial wolf control plan in Unit 13 was adopted, there were several wolf trappers in Unit 13C; and that cow-to-calf ratios dipped to historic lows between 1999 and 2001, and although the ratios started to increase slightly in 2002 and 2003, the 2004 surveys showed low calf numbers again, dropping to 10 calves per 100 cows. Department staff testified the intent would be to initially allow snowmachine control on an annual basis and assess the results. Board members decided that because of heavy use of this Subunit, control by ground methods in conjunction with trapping may be all that is needed.**PROPOSAL NO. 123****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Include Unit 13C in wolf predation control area.**DISCUSSION:** Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 122.**PROPOSAL NO. 124****ACTION: Deferred****DESCRIPTION:** Shorten moose season; implement predator control with snowmachines and land and shoot in Units 14A, 14B, and 16A.

AMENDMENTS: Eliminate Unit 14A from the proposal and delete requested shorter seasons.

DISCUSSION: Board members recognized that in Units 14B and 16A the moose population and harvest are currently below objectives, and reduction in predation levels may have a positive affect on objectives. Board members decided that digning the season to end September 20 would provide the same closure dates as other southcentral areas. Board members deferred action on this proposal as amended until the March 2006 meeting.

PROPOSAL NO. 125

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Implement a wolf predation control plan in Unit 15.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the land in question is mostly federal land and implementation of this would have essentially no benefit to management on state land.

PROPOSAL NO. 126

ACTION: Tabled

DESCRIPTION: Implement wolf predation control in Unit 17 and allow use of snowmachines and boats.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed pros and cons of wolf predation control in Unit 17 but decided this proposal was untimely. However, board members requested the department to take a close look at the area and perhaps come up with a recommendation to address the wolf problem within that region in a couple of years. Board members decided there is merit in harvesting wolves and decided to use Proposal No. 106 as amended to address the issue on a broader scale.

PROPOSAL 127

ACTION: No action

OMITTED FROM BOOK

PROPOSAL 128

ACTION: No action

OMITTED FROM BOOK

PROPOSAL 129

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Review closed areas in Southcentral and Southwestern Regions.

AMENDMENTS: Note: RC 152, setting forth the adopted amendments to Proposal 129 is provided in its entirety below. **Bolded and underlined language** is new regulatory language; [CAPITALIZED LANGUAGE IN BRACKETS] is deleted regulatory language.

RC 152: 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. (a) The following areas are closed to hunting as specified:

[(7) UNIT 6

(A) THE GOAT MOUNTAIN GOAT OBSERVATION AREA, WHICH CONSISTS OF THAT PORTION OF UNIT 6 BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY MILES LAKE AND MILES GLACIER, ON THE SOUTH AND EAST BY PLEASANT VALLEY RIVER AND PLEASANT GLACIER, AND ON THE WEST BY THE COPPER RIVER, IS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF MOUNTAIN GOAT;

(B) THE HENEY RANGE GOAT OBSERVATION AREA, WHICH CONSISTS OF THAT PORTION OF UNIT 6(C) SOUTH OF THE COPPER RIVER HIGHWAY AND WEST OF THE EYAK RIVER, IS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF MOUNTAIN GOAT;]

(8) Unit 7

(A) the Portage Glacier Closed Area in Unit 7, which consists of Portage Creek drainages between the Anchorage-Seward Railroad and Placer Creek in Bear Valley, Portage Lake, the mouth of Byron Creek, Glacier Creek and Byron Glacier, is closed to hunting; however, migratory birds and small game may be hunted with shotguns from [AFTER] September 1 through April 30;

(9) Unit 9

(A) in Unit 9, the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and contiguous tidelands are closed to hunting [AND TRAPPING; ACCESS TO THE SANCTUARY IS BY PERMIT ONLY UNDER 5 AAC 92.065];

[(10) UNIT 10

(A) UNIT 10, EXCEPT UNIMAK ISLAND, IS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF CANADA GEESE; AND

(B) OTTER ISLAND IN THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS IS CLOSED TO HUNTING;]

5 AAC 92.520. Closures and restrictions in state game refuges.

(b) Unit 14

[(2) THE SUSITNA FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE IN UNITS 14 AND 16, WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN AS 16.20.036 , IS OPEN TO HUNTING UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(A) THE USE OF A MOTORIZED VEHICLE FOR HUNTING IS ALLOWED FROM NOVEMBER 9 THROUGH MARCH 31;

(B) FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, THE USE OF A MOTORIZED VEHICLE, EXCEPT AN AIRCRAFT, HOVERCRAFT, BOAT, AND SNOWMACHINE, IS RESTRICTED TO EXISTING ROAD SURFACES, AND TO USE WITHIN 1/8 MILE OF MEAN HIGH TIDE OR AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING (A) AND (B) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE AN ACCESS PERMIT, ALLOWING AN ACTIVITY OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY THIS SUBSECTION, FOR

(I) ACCESS BY A PERSON WHO HAS A PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT;

(II) MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES; OR

(III) REFUGE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT.]

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. The following management areas are subject to special restrictions

(1) the Fort Richardson Management Area:

(A) the area consists of the Fort Richardson Military Reservation;

(B) the area is open to the taking of big game by permit only, small game, and fur animals; the department will set conditions under 5 AAC 92.050 ;

(6) the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 15(A) bounded by a line beginning at the easternmost junction of the Sterling Highway and the Skilak Loop (milepost 76.3), then due south to the south bank of the Kenai River, then southerly along the south bank of the Kenai River to its confluence with Skilak Lake, then westerly along the north shore of Skilak Lake to Lower Skilak Lake Campground, then northerly along the Lower Skilak Lake Campground Road and the Skilak Loop Road to its westernmost junction with the Sterling Highway, then easterly along the Sterling Highway to the point of beginning;

(B) the area is closed to hunting and trapping, except that small game **and fur animals** may be taken only from October 1 through March 1 by **firearms** [BOW AND ARROW ONLY], **no firearm may be discharged within ¼ mile of any campground;** and moose may be taken by permit only;

(18) the Palmer-Wasilla Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 14(A) bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the George Parks Highway and the Glenn Highway, then east and north along the Glenn Highway to the Palmer Fishhook Road, then west and north along the Palmer Fishhook Road to the Faulk Road intersection, then west along the road and section line to Tex Al Drive and along Tex Al Drive to the Wasilla Fishhook Road, then south along the Wasilla Fishhook Road to Welch Road, then west along Welch Road to the south bank of the Little Susitna River, then west along the south bank of the Little Susitna River to the bridge at North Shushana Drive, then south along North Shushana Drive to Shrock Road, then west along Shrock Road to Church Road, then south along Church Road to the George Parks Highway, then west along the George Parks Highway to Vine Road, then south along Vine Road to Knik Goose Bay Road, then north along Knik Goose Bay Road to Fairview Loop Road, then south and east along Fairview Loop Road to the George Parks Highway, then east along the George Parks Highway to the intersection with the Glenn Highway;

(B) the area is closed to hunting except that

(i) big game may be taken by **muzzleloading** blackpowder **rifle** [FIREARM], shotguns with slugs, and bow and arrow only;

(ii) small game and fur animals may be taken by **muzzleloading** blackpowder firearm, shotgun, air rifle, falconry, or bow and arrow only;

(iii) waterfowl on Finger Lake may be taken by falconry, and bow and flu-flu arrow only;

...

5 AAC 92.540 CONTROLLED USE AREAS. In the following areas, access for hunting is controlled as specified:

(2) Unit 9

[(C) THE BRISTOL BAY CONTROLLED USE AREA:

(I) THE AREA CONSISTS OF ALL DRAINAGES N UNIT 9(E) SOUTH OF CAPE MENSHIKOF DRAINING INTO BRISTOL BAY

(II) THE AREA IS CLOSED DURING MAY, JUNE AND JULY TO THE USE OF AIRBOATS, FOR HUNTING BEAR, INCLUDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF BEAR HUNTERS, THEIR HUNTING GEAR, OR PARTS OF BEAR;]

(3) Units 13 and 20

(C) the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of the Denali Highway, west of and including the MacLaren River drainage, east of and including the eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier, and the eastern bank drainages of the Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork;

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 through **June 30** [April 30]; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game, on the Denali Highway;

(4) Unit 15

(B) the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C);

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except an aircraft or boat for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose from September 11 through September 14 and September 17 through September 20; however, this

provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on a highway maintained by the state or borough or on the gravel portions of Oilwell [AND] Brody Roads, and Tustumena Lake Road or driveways used for direct access to a primary residence or business;

(iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a hunter who travels by motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system and then leaves and travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt moose, including transporting moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose, or in any other manner initiate or participate in moose hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal moose hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system;

5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. The following areas are closed to the trapping of furbearers as indicated:

...

(2) Unit 9, the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and contiguous tidelands are closed to trapping [UNIT 9: THE DRAINAGES OF MCNEIL RIVER, MIKFIK CREEK AND ALL OTHER DRAINAGES INTO MCNEIL COVE WHICH EXTENDS FROM AKJEMGUIGA COVE ON THE NORTH TO MCNEIL HEAD ON THE SOUTH, LOCATED AT THE HEAD OF KAMISHAK BAY, IN THE LOWER COOK INLET ARE CLOSED TO TRAPPING; ACCESS TO THE MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY IS BY PERMIT ONLY;]

(4) Unit 15:

[(A) WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF HOMER (UNIT 15) AS THOSE LIMITS EXISTED IN NOVEMBER 1987;]

[(B) THE SKILAK LOOP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, CONSISTING OF THAT PORTION OF UNIT 15(A) BOUNDED BY A LINE BEGINNING AT THE EASTERNMOST JUNCTION OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY AND THE SKILAK LOOP ROAD (MILEPOST 58.0), THEN DUE SOUTH TO THE SOUTH BANK OF THE KENAI RIVER, THEN SOUTHERLY ALONG THE SOUTH BANK OF THE KENAI RIVER TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH SKILAK LAKE, THEN WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTH SHORE OF SKILAK LAKE TO LOWER SKILAK LAKE CAMPGROUND, THEN NORTHERLY ALONG THE LOWER SKILAK LAKE CAMPGROUND ROAD AND THE SKILAK LOOP ROAD TO ITS WESTERNMOST JUNCTION WITH THE STERLING HIGHWAY, THEN EASTERLY ALONG THE STERLING HIGHWAY TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;]

[(C) THAT PORTION OF UNIT 15(B) EAST OF THE KENAI RIVER, SKILAK LAKE, SKILAK RIVER, AND SKILAK GLACIER IS CLOSED TO THE TRAPPING OF MARTEN.

...

DISCUSSION: In addition to the amendments the board adopted in RC 152, board members requested the department to prepare a board generated proposal for the Spring 2007 board meeting, pertaining to access permits into McNeil Sanctuary, and to establish a limited permit bear hunt in McNeil River Refuge. See also the discussion in this meeting summary of Proposal 137, pertaining to allowing brown bear hunting in the Douglas River area, south of McNeil River.

PROPOSAL NO. 130

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Redefine legal firearm method in Palmer-Wasilla Management area.

AMENDMENT: “Blackpowder firearm” changed to “muzzleloading blackpowder rifle” for big game hunting.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the regulation needed clarification to assist enforcement.

PROPOSAL NO. 131**ACTION: Carried**

DESCRIPTION: Open small game and fur animals hunting in Skilak Loop Management area from October 1 to March 1 by firearm with a prohibition of discharge within one-quarter mile of any campground.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided to provide hunters opportunities to harvest small game when the area is not used for any other hunts.

PROPOSAL NO. 132**ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Expand use of motorized vehicles in Clearwater Controlled Use Area for wolf and bear hunting.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 129.

PROPOSAL NO. 133**ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Restrict use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in Unit 6B.

AMENDMENT: Establish controlled use area with same restrictions to off-road motorized transportation as the current airboat restrictions.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the amended proposal provides equal hunting opportunities.

PROPOSAL NO. 134**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit use of motorized vehicles for hunting on public roads and within one-quarter mile of homes and campgrounds.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted past board action on this issue and noted that all the local advisory committees were opposed to this proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 135**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Restrict use of motorized vehicles, except on designated trails in portions of Unit 8.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed the expansion of four-wheel vehicle activity extending west from the terminus of the Kodiak road system to the area on the north side of Ugak Bay from Saltery Creek to Hidden Basin. Some of this use is related to sport fishing and other recreational activities, but much is hunting related since current deer and bear hunting regulations use the Saltery Creek drainage as a boundary for less restrictive seasons. Board members decided there was no evidence of adverse impacts on wildlife populations, or significant impacts on wildlife habitat.

PROPOSAL NO. 136**ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Redefine area for Naknek Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Board members viewed this as primarily an allocation issue and did not see it as a conservation concern.

PROPOSAL NO. 137**ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate brown bear hunting closure in Douglas River area south of McNeil.

AMENDMENTS: To access state land adjacent to McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, and to open for bear hunting effective July 1, 2007.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed hunting opportunities for this area, and encouraged a thorough analysis by all user groups to define reasons why a hunt should or should not be allowed effective July 1, 2007. See also the discussion for Proposal 129.

PROPOSAL NO. 138

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of snowmachines and ATV's for taking wolves in Units 9C and 9E.

AMENDMENT: Restrict use of snowmachines and ATV's for taking wolves on land managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or other federal agencies, unless approved by federal agencies. A snowmachine or ATV may be used to hunt or trap wolves provided animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine or ATV.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard public testimony in support of the proposal, noted the adequate wolf population data, and decided the amended proposal provides opportunities to harvest wolves as a further attempt to maintain the numbers of caribou in the area.

PROPOSAL NO. 139

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit trapping within one-quarter mile of homes and roads in Unit 9C.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal pertains to a local conflict between user groups and pertains to a public safety issue rather than to a conservation issue. The proposed closure would reduce the overall trapping effort and fur harvest in this local area.

PROPOSAL NO. 140

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow motorized vehicles in Sourdough Controlled Use Area for game other than big game.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal 129.

PROPOSAL NO. 141

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow motorized vehicles in Tonsina Controlled Use Area by drawing permit.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal 129.

PROPOSAL NO. 142

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate vehicle access restrictions in Unit 15.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 131.

PROPOSAL NO. 143

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 131.

PROPOSAL NO. 144

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 131.

PROPOSAL NO. 145

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify and clarify restrictions in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 131.

PROPOSAL NO. 146

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 131.

PROPOSAL NO. 147

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Close river corridors in Unit 17B to nonresident moose and caribou hunting.

AMENDMENTS: Close hunting for nonresidents in two mile corridors extending on each side of the following rivers in Unit 17B: 1) Nushagak River beginning at the southern boundary of Unit 17B and extending north to the Chichitnok River, and including Harris Creek, Klutuspak Creek, King Salmon River and Chichitnok River; 2) Mulchatna River upstream to the mouth of the Chilchitna; 3) Nuyakuk River extending west up to the falls; 4) Kuktuli River up to the confluence of the Swan River, and 5) Stuyahok River to the confluence of the East/West Forks; created nonresident registration permit hunt for one bull moose with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow times on one side, and allowing up to 75 permits from September 5 - September 15. Caribou hunting closed for nonresident hunters within the established corridor. Permits to be issued from the department's Dillingham office.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard a report from the board's Unit 17 Corridor Committee, and decided the amended proposal will redistribute hunters to other hunting areas in Unit 17B, without reducing hunting opportunities. Issuing permits from the Dillingham office provides department staff opportunities to educate hunters about conflict issues.

PROPOSAL NO. 148

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Require a bear baiting clinic for hunters using bait in Unit 6D.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted 75 percent of people using bear bait in this area are from the Anchorage area, and decided that the clinic was necessary.

PROPOSAL NO. 149

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Allow youth hunter to hunt on behalf of Tier II moose permittee in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided this proposal creates a Tier II moose hunt similar to the Tier II caribou hunt, provides opportunities for subsistence permit holders to have a child harvest a moose prior to the general moose season and before the school year begins, and provides hunting opportunities for youth who would not otherwise qualify for the Tier II hunt. Board members also considered expanding this proposal to other areas, discussed specific ages of youth who should be eligible and determined that the board's moose subcommittee could prepare a proposal for the statewide meeting.

PROPOSAL NO. 150

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the basic hunter education requirement for shotgun hunters in Unit 14A.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted hunter education requirements could reduce conflicts among hunters in the Palmer-Wasilla area, an area experiencing increasing population and development. Board members decided the proposal addressed a statewide issue, and therefore was not within the boards call for proposals.

PROPOSAL NO. 151

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Failure to report harvest on a drawing permit, registration permit, Tier I subsistence permit, or Tier II subsistence permit hunt would automatically disqualify a hunter from permit hunts in the following year.

AMENDMENT: Establish an appeal process for extreme hardships.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the amended proposal addressed concerns for due process and the department's ability to administer. Board members discussed there is no hardship clause for filing a permanent fund dividend application in a timely manner. Subsistence division staff testified about how they gather information on harvests. Board members decided if an exemption is allowed, the department can provide a report to board members explaining why an exemption was permitted.

PROPOSAL NO. 152

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Give commissioner authority to issue multiple education permits for big game.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because it did not fall within the board's call for proposals.

PROPOSAL NO. 153

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow subsistence permit holders in Units 6 – 11, and Units 13 – 17 to let members of their extended household hunt the permit holder's permit.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed allowing a youth within a family to shoot the animal, and decided the definition of "extended household" would create enforcement problems. Board members preferred language of immediate household and determined the best way to dispense of this proposal would be to take it up under Proposal No. 149,

adding a Unit 16B Tier II hunt. Other members of the public may have this sort of opportunity under the community harvest concept in Proposal No. 155.

PROPOSAL NO. 154

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Suspend Tier II application form.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because the proponent withdrew it.

PROPOSAL NO. 155

ACTION: Deferred

DESCRIPTION: Create super-exclusive use areas; modify caribou and moose seasons in Units 11 and 13.

AMENDMENTS: Board members adopted RC 137, amending Proposal 155. RC 137 is set forth here in its entirety:

RC 137: 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. 5 AAC 92.074. Community Harvest Hunt Areas and 5 AAC 92.XXX. Subsistence Harvest Areas and Conditions.

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. (a)

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
	(8)	

Unit 13
within the Copper River/
Cantwell Subsistence Harvest area

SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS:

**1 caribou by subsistence
harvest permit only**

Aug. 10 – Sept. 20
Oct. 21 – Mar. 31

OTHER RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou by drawing permit only;
up to XXX permits may be
issued

Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 13

Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

ALL HUNTERS:

1 caribou by drawing
permit only; up to
XXX permits may be
issued

[UNIT 13]

[1 CARIBOU PER REGULATORY YEAR BY TIER II PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 10,000 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED; THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE THE SEASON BY EMERGENCY ORDER WHEN UP TO 5,000 CARIBOU HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY TIER II HUNTERS]

[AUG. 10-SEPT. 20 [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]
[OCT. 21-MAR. 31] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[NO OPEN SEASON.]

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Resident

Open Season

(Subsistence and Units and Bag Limits

Nonresident General Hunts)

Open Season

(9)

Unit 11

SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by subsistence harvest permit only

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20
[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]

[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]

OTHER RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

...

(11)

Units 13
within the Copper River/
Cantwell Subsistence Harvest area

SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS:

1 bull by Tier II

Aug. 15-Aug. 31

**subsistence hunting permit:
up to 150 permits
may be issued; or**

**(Subsistence hunt
only)**

**1 bull with spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 3 or more brow tines
on one side, by subsistence
harvest permit only**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

**OTHER RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow tines
on one side**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 13

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

[1 BULL BY TIER II
SUBSISTENCE HUNTING PERMIT;
UP TO 150 PERMITS
MAY BE ISSUED; OR]

[AUG. 15-AUG. 31
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT
ONLY)]

1 bull with spike-fork
antlers or 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side
by drawing permit only
up to XXX permits may be
issued**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. (a) The following conditions and procedures for permit issuance apply to each permit hunt:

...

(5) except as provided in (6) of this subsection, **and in 5 AAC 92.072**, a permit is nontransferable; however, the department may reissue an invalidated Tier II subsistence hunting permit to the highest-ranked applicant remaining in the original pool of eligible applicants;

(6) at the discretion of the commissioner, a permit may be transferred for scientific purposes only;

(7) immediately after killing a big game animal for which a permit is required, the permittee, [OR] **the permittee's** [HIS OR HER] proxy under 5 AAC 92.011, **or a community harvest hunter under 5 AAC 92.072**, shall cancel the permit by removing the permit day and month on which the kill was made, without obliterating or destroying any other day and month printed on the permit;

(8) a person who has been issued a permit, [OR] that person's proxy under 5 AAC 92.011, **or a community harvest hunt administrator under 5AAC 92.072**, shall return the permit

harvest report to the department within the time period stated on the permit; in addition to other penalties provided by law for failure to report harvest, and except as provided in (c) of this section, if a permittee or the permittee's proxy fails to provide the required report for a drawing permit, registration permit, Tier I subsistence permit, or Tier II subsistence permit, the permittee may be ineligible to be issued a drawing, registration, Tier I subsistence, or Tier II subsistence permit during the following regulatory year;

...

5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permit and harvest reports for big game species where the board has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074.

(b) The board will consider proposals to establish community harvest hunt areas during regularly scheduled meetings to consider seasons and bag limits for affected species in a hunt area. Information considered by the board in evaluating the proposed action will include:

- (1) a geographic description of the hunt area;
- (2) the sustainable harvest and current subsistence regulations and findings for the big game population to be harvested;
- (3) a custom of community-based harvest and sharing of the wildlife resources harvested in the hunt area; and
- (4) other characteristics of harvest practices in the hunt area, including characteristics of the customary and traditional pattern of use found under 5 AAC 99.010(b).

(5) whether a specific allocation should be made to the community harvest hunt, and the details of any such allocation.

(c) Where the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, residents may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) a hunt administrator representing a group of residents may apply to the department for a community harvest permit by identifying the community harvest hunt area and the species to be hunted, and by requesting community harvest reports sufficient to supply the estimated number of individuals who will subscribe to the community harvest permit; the hunt administrator:

(A) must record and maintain a record of the names of residents subscribing to the community harvest permit and the residents hunting license number, permanent hunting identification card number, or birth date for residents under the age of 16;

(B) must issue harvest reports to hunters who have subscribed to the community harvest permit, but may not issue more individual harvest reports than the sum of the individual bag limits of the number of the residents who have subscribed to the permit;

(C) must request additional harvest reports for a community harvest permit from the department during a hunting season if the number of people subscribing to the hunt exceeds the original estimate.

(D) must collect validated harvest reports from hunters following the take of individual game animals, record harvest information for individual animals taken, and collect biological samples or other information as required by the department for management;

(E) must provide the department with harvest information within a specified period of time when requested, and a final report of all game taken under the community harvest permit within 15 days of the close of the hunting season; and

(2) a resident who elects to subscribe to a community harvest permit:

(A) may not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or for fewer animals during the same regulatory year, however a person may hold harvest tickets or permits for same-species hunts in areas with a larger bag limit following the close of the season for the community harvest permit;

(B) may not subscribe to more than one community harvest permit for a species during a regulatory year;

(C) must have in possession when hunting and taking game a community harvest report issued by the hunt administrator for each animal taken;

(D) must validate a community harvest report immediately upon taking an animal; and

(E) must report harvest and surrender validated harvest reports to the hunt administrator within 5 days, or sooner if required by the department, of taking an animal and transporting it to the place of final processing for preparation for human use and provide the hunt administrator with information and biological samples required under terms of the permit.

(d) Seasons for community harvest permits will be the same as those established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the geographic area included in a community harvest hunt area. The total bag limit for a community harvest permit will be equal to the sum of the individual bag limits established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the hunt area. Seasons and bag limits may vary within a hunt area according to established subsistence regulations for different game management units or other geographic delineations in a hunt area.

(e) Establishment of a community harvest hunt area will not constrain nonsubscribing residents from participating in subsistence harvest activities for a species in that hunt area using individual harvest tickets or other state permits authorized by regulation, nor will it require any resident eligible to hunt under existing subsistence regulations to subscribe to a community harvest permit.

(f) The department may disapprove an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a hunt administrator who has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) of this subsection.

(g) The department may approve an application for a community subsistence harvest permit in which residents of communities who have received individual subsistence permits, such as Tier II permits or subsistence hunt registration permits, propose to pool their permits in accordance with this section. If such an application is approved, then the individual permits must be delivered to the hunt administrator and thereafter be treated in accordance with all requirements for harvest reports in this section. Specific individual permit conditions which conflict with the requirements of this section supersede the conflicting requirements of this section.

5 AAC 92.074. COMMUNITY HARVEST HUNT AREAS. (a) The commissioner may issue community subsistence harvest permits for designated big game species in the area specified in this section:

...

(1) Copper River/Cantwell Subsistence Community Harvest area: the area consists of Unit 11, Unit 13A east of a corridor one mile west of the Lake Louise road and Tyone River, Unit 13B east of the Maclaren River, Unit 13C, Unit 13D east of the Nelchina River, Tazlina Lake and Tazlina Glacier, and 13E west of the Parks Highway and the area bounded by a line from the middle fork of the Chulitna River easterly through Caribou Pass to Soule Creek and Soule Lake, to the Brushkana Creek, down to Monahan Creek, down Monahan Creek to the Nenana River and up the Nenana River to the hydrological divide.

5 AAC 92.XXX. Subsistence Harvest Areas and Conditions. (a) Subsistence Harvest Areas are established in the following areas with the following conditions:

(1) Copper River/Cantwell Subsistence Community Harvest area: the area consists of Unit 11, Unit 13A east of a corridor one mile west of the Lake Louise road and Tyone River, Unit 13B east of the Maclaren River, Unit 13C, Unit 13D east of the Nelchina River, Tazlina Lake and Tazlina Glacier, and 13E west of the Parks Highway and the area bounded by a line from the middle fork of the Chulitna River easterly through Caribou Pass to Soule Creek and Soule Lake, to the Brushkana Creek, down to Monahan Creek, down Monahan Creek to the Nenana River and up the Nenana River to the hydrological divide.

(A) the purpose of the Copper River/Cantwell Subsistence Harvest Area is to protect the Copper River/Cantwell Customary and Traditional Harvest and Use Pattern identified by the Board, which was developed and is still practiced by the original Ahtna residents of the area, and has been

passed down to other, more recent, residents of the area and to other participants in the harvest and use pattern.

(B) The Board has established special subsistence permit seasons, with relatively liberal seasons and bag limits, for moose and caribou in the Copper River/Cantwell Subsistence Harvest area, in order to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvests by participants in the Copper River/Cantwell Customary and Traditional Harvest and Use Pattern.

(C) The Department has authority to attach a variety of conditions, as it deems necessary, to the moose and caribou subsistence permits referenced above under 5 AAC 92.052. In addition to those discretionary conditions, the Department shall attach the following conditions to these permits:

(i) a permittee is prohibited from **hunting any big game, fur animals or small game (any species allowable under a hunting season)** in any area of the state other than within the Copper River/Cantwell Subsistence Harvest area, for the remainder of the regulatory year.

(ii) the permittee may not use an aircraft, **except in that portion of the preserve in Unit 11 from Drop Creek to Kotsina Creek, and to access a privately owned domicile located in the area**, a recreational vehicle, or an off-road vehicle with a **dry** [GROSS] vehicle weight of greater than **1500** pounds, within the area for caribou or moose hunting purposes, including transportation of hunters, hunting equipment or harvested game to or from the field during open seasons for moose and caribou;

(iii) the permittee must salvage, for human consumption, from moose and caribou taken within the area, all edible meat from the forequarters, hindquarters, ribs, neck, backbone and head, as well as the heart, liver, **kidneys, and the entire hide**. Meat of the forequarters, hindquarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bones until delivered to the place where it is processed for human consumption. **Trophy value of the antler will be destroyed by cutting through the skull plate.**

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(d) A person taking game not listed in (a) of this section shall salvage for human consumption all edible meat, as defined in 5 AAC 92.990. In addition,

(1) for moose and caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 9(B), Unit 17, Unit 18, those portions of Unit 19(A) within the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, Unit 19(B), and Unit 23, the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is transported from the field or is processed for human consumption;

(2) for caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 21(A), the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is transported from the field or is processed for human consumption;

(3) for moose taken before October 1 in Units 21 and 24, and for caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 24, the edible meat of the front quarters, hindquarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

(4) for moose and caribou taken within the Gulkana/Copper River Subsistence Harvest area, the edible meat of the front quarters, hindquarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is transported from the field or is processed for human consumption;

Failsafe—depending upon the number of hunters that sign up for the subsistence area, the first portion of the hunt to be stopped will be the drawing permits, and if necessary a reversion to the Tier II hunt.

Signing up for the subsistence area during the application period of Jan-Feb. opts a hunter out of the ability to hunt anywhere else in the state for the following regulatory year, July 1-June 30. This

includes applying for any drawing permit hunts or other Tier II hunts, except those located within the subsistence area, such as the bison and mt. goat hunts. A drawing permit is still required.

Signing up for the subsistence area commits the entire household. Either the entire household opts in, or it opts out.

DISCUSSION: Board members met several times during the March 2005 board meeting, as a committee of the whole on Proposal No. 155 to allow further public comment, and developed Proposal No. 155, as amended. Board members noted hunters across the state have continued high interest in hunting the Nelchina Caribou Herd and the Unit 13 moose population. Board members also heard testimony from Ahtna, Inc. regarding the amount necessary for subsistence. Board members deferred this proposal to a special meeting or to the March 2006 board meeting. The board's Subsistence Implementation Committee will continue to work with the user groups prior to a subsequent board meeting. *Note: The board will consider this issue at its special meeting in Anchorage on June 4 – 5, 2005 in Anchorage.*

The proposals for the June meeting are available online. Please visit <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gprop.php>

PROPOSAL NO. 156

ACTION: Deferred

DESCRIPTION: Revise Tier II scoring system.

DISCUSSION: Board members deferred action of this proposal to a special meeting or to the board's Spring 2006 meeting. *Note: The board will consider this issue at its special meeting in Anchorage on June 4 – 5, 2005 in Anchorage.*

The proposals for the June meeting are available online. Please visit <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/grpop.php>

PROPOSAL NO. 157

ACTION: Tabled

DESCRIPTION: Create super-exclusive use areas and modify caribou and moose seasons in Units 11-13.

DISCUSSION: Board members tabled action of this proposal and decided to address the issue in Proposal 155, as amended and deferred.

PROPOSAL NO. 158

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Exclude land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from predation control areas in Units 19A and 19B.

AMENDMENT: Activities involving predation control will not apply to land managed by the National Park Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unless approved by the respective agencies and, to the maximum extent possible, must be coordinated with all appropriate federal agencies.

DISCUSSION: Board members decided the amended regulation puts some of the responsibility on the federal subsistence system for predator control activities in rural Alaska.

PROPOSAL NO. 159

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Modify predation control plans to require written authorization from federal land managers.

AMENDMENT: Activities involving predation control will not apply to land managed by the National Park Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unless approved by the respective agencies and, to the maximum extent possible, must be coordinated with all appropriate federal agencies.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted the amended regulation provides department staff with ability to administer the board's predation control plans. Federal agency representatives explained that federal law mandates allowing nature to run its course, even if there are adverse impacts to subsistence users.

PROPOSAL NO. 160

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Exclude National Park Service lands from predation control areas in Units 19A and 19B.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 158.

PROPOSAL NO. 161

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify predation control plans to require written authorization from federal land managers.

DISCUSSION: Board members took no action on this proposal because of action on Proposal No. 159.

PROPOSAL NO. 162

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Discontinue lynx tracking strategy and open seasons in Units 12 and 20E.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted wide local support for this proposal, and the department's report reflecting the need for discontinuing this strategy for people who depend on it for their livelihood. Board members decided there was no conservation concern, noting both trapper activity and harvest reports are low in these areas.

PROPOSAL NO. 163

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate Unit 19B from predation control plan.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted they had addressed predation control in Unit 19B in Proposal No. 158.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Board members sent a letter to the House Finance Committee of the Alaska State Legislature, supporting the Governor's requested budget for the department.

Emergency Petitions:

1. Board members considered and approved an emergency petition by the Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee to allow the department to open an area within Unit 9C by "Emergency Discretionary Authority" to harvest Mulchatna Caribou Herd which has been coming into this area for the last five years. Board members noted this approved emergency petition provides the department with a better management strategy for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd when the herd is within the area the department staff specified in testimony supporting the petition.

2. Board members considered a petition for emergency regulation submitted by the Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee, pertaining to control of beaver. Board members decided the petition did not meet the emergency petition criteria in 5 AAC 92.625(f) and did not approve the petition.

3. Board members considered a petition for emergency regulation submitted by Gordon Haber, pertaining to hunting and trapping wolves adjacent to Denali National Park. Board members decided the petition did not meet the emergency petition criteria found in 5 AAC 92.625(f) and did not approve the petition.

4. Board members considered a petition for emergency regulation submitted by Bill Watkins, pertaining to trapping of wolves adjacent to Denali National Park. Board members decided the petition did not meet the emergency petition criteria found in 5 AAC 96.625(f), and did not approve the petition.

Resolutions/Findings:

1. Board members adopted 2005-156-BOG, supporting joint federal and state deer harvest reporting for Unit 2.

2. Board members adopted 2005-157-BOG, reauthorizing wolf control in portions of Unit 13.

3. Board members adopted 2005-158-BOG, a resolution in support of a public education program on predator control.

4. Board members adopted 2005-159-BOG, a resolution in support of allowing guides to take wolves while under contract to clients.

Board resolutions and findings are available on the Alaska Board of Game's website, at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/regs/pfindx.php>

NOTE: The Alaska Board of Game will hold a special meeting in Anchorage on June 4 – 5, 2005 to consider subsistence and Tier II proposals.

Proposals and other meeting information for the board's June 2005 meeting are available online:

<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/gprop.php>