

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Policies and Resolutions

2013

- 2013-201-BOG Board Direction to ADF&G Provided during the Central/Southwest Region Meeting
- 2013-200-BOG Board Direction Concerning the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

2012

- 2012-199-BOG Resolution Supporting Funding for the Outdoor Heritage Foundation
- 2012-198-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy
(Policy 2011-194-BOG Revised)
- 2012-197-BOG Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- 2012-196-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- 2012-195-BOG Unit 24B Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- 2012-194-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy
(Policy 2011-186-BOG Revised)
- 2012-193-BOG Subunit 26B Muskoxen - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- 2012-192-BOG Subunit 15C Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- 2012-191-BOG Subunit 15A Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- 2012-190-BOG Falconry, Federal Migratory Bird Rulemaking and Delegation of Authority

2011

- #2011-189-BOG Subunits 9C and 9# (Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- #2011-188-BOG Units 9B, 17, 19, and 19B (MCH) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- #2011-187-BOG Unit 16 Predation Control Area for Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
- #2011-186-BOG Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy.
- #2011-185-BOG Board of Game Wolf Management Policy (this policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)
- #2011-184-BOG Game Management Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses
(Supplement findings to 2006-170-BOG)

2010

- #2010-183-BOG Harvest of Game for Customary and Traditional Alaska Native Funerary and Mortuary Religious Ceremonies.

2009

- #2009-182-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-181-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2009-180-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2009-179-BOG Resolution Supporting Increasing Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees

2008

#2008-178-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans
#2008-177-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, & 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2008-176-BOG Units 16A & B Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2008-175-BOG Unit 9D (South AK Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2008-174-BOG Unit 19D East Supplemental Findings

2007

#2007-173-BOG Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy – (#162 Revised)
#2007-172-BOG Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose

2006

#2006-171-BOG Resolution supporting a Moratorium on New Zoo Applications
#2006-170-BOG Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses
#2006-169-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-168-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-167-BOG Unit 16 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-166-BOG Unit 13 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-165-BOG Unit 12 and 20E Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-164-BOG Board of Game Bear Management and Conservation Policy
#2006-163-BOG Resolution Regarding Declining Fish and Wildlife Enforcement in Alaska
#2006-162-BOG Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy
#2006-161-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

2005

#2005-160-BOG Finding of Emergency: Methods of Harvest for Hunting Small Game in the Skilak Loop Special Management Area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
#2005-159-BOG Resolution in Support of Allowing Guides to Take Wolves while Under Contract to Clients
#2005-158-BOG Resolution in Support of Public Education Program on Predator Control
#2005-157-BOG Reauthorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2005-156-BOG Supporting Joint Federal and State Deer Harvest Reporting
#2005-155-BOG Supporting Governor's Lawsuit Against Federal Government; Extent and Reach of Subsistence Regulations in State Navigable Waters

2004

#2004-154-BOG Supporting Increasing Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees

#2004-153-BOG Increase FY06 Budget for Boards of Fisheries and Game and State Advisory Committees

#2004-152-BOG Predator Control in Portions of Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area

#2004-151-BOG Bear Baiting Allocation

#2004-150-BOG Authorizing Predator Control in Central Kuskokwim Area, Unit 19A

#2004-149-BOG Signage for Traplines on Public Lands

#2004-148-BOG Authorizing Predator Control in Western Cook Inlet, Unit 16B

#2004-147-BOG Bear Conservation and Management Policy

#2004-146-BOG Americans with Disabilities Act Exemptions

2003

#2003-145-BOG Authorization of Airborne Shooting in Unit 19D East Predation Control Program

#2003-144-BOG Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13

#2003-143-BOG Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13

#2003-142-BOG Resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning a Statewide Bear Baiting Ballot Initiative

#2003-141-BOG Request for Commissioner's Finding Regarding Same-Day-Airborne Wolf Hunting in Game Management Unit 13

#2003-140-BOG Guidelines for a Unit 19D East Predation Control Program

#2003-139-BOG A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning Management of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Mortality

2002

#2002-138-BOG Request to US Forest Service re: Management of Guided Brown Bear Hunting in Unit 4

#2002-137-BOG Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings

#2002-136A-BOG Unit 1D Brown Bear Drawing Hunt Finding

#2002-136-BOG Government to Government Relations with Tribes in Alaska

2001

#2001-135-BOG Resolution concerning Unit 19D-East Adaptive Management Team Work

2000

#2000-134-BOG Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team Findings

#2000-133-BOG Habituation of Wildlife (unsigned – left in draft)

#2000-132-BOG Reaffirm Resolution re: Management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process

#2000-131-BOG Finding of Emergency: Unit 19D-East (Wolf Control Implementation Plan)

#2000-130-BOG Resolution re: Support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999

1999

#99-129-BOG Snow Machine Use in the Taking of Caribou

1998

#98-128-BOG Findings on Elk Management in Region I
#98-127-BOG Findings on Commercial Guiding Activities in Alaska
#98-126-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 25B and Unit 25D
#98-125-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 21D
#98-124-BOG Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 18
#98-123-BOG Emergency Findings – Caribou in Unit 9
#98-122-BOG 1998 Intensive Management Findings: Interior Region
#98-121-BOG Findings: HB 168, Traditional Access
#98-120-BOG Resolution re: Ballot Initiative Banning Use of Snares
#98-119-BOG Trapping and Snaring of Wolves in Alaska
#98-118-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox in Northwest Unit 23

1997

#97-117-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox on the Seward Peninsula
#97-116-BOG Dall Sheep Management in the Western Brooks Range
#97-115-BOG Resolution supporting Co-management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources

#97-114-BOG Resolution re: Dual Management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources
#97-113-BOG Resolution re: Methods and Means of Harvesting Furbearers and Fur Animals Including Wolves

#97-112-BOG Resolution re: Management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process

#97-111-BOG Finding to Include Unit 22 (except 22C) in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area

#97-110-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Stranded Musk Oxen
#97-109-BOG Findings re: Unit 16B-South Moose
#97-108-BOG Resolution re: Subsistence Division Budget
#97-107-BOG Findings re: Wanton Waste on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers

1996

#96-106-BOG Delegation of Authority re: Issuing Permits to Take Game for Public Safety Purposes

#96-105-BOG Delegation of Authority to Implement Ballot Measure #3
#96-104-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#96-103-BOG Findings – Antlerless Moose in Unit 20A
#96-102-BOG Findings – Nelchina Caribou Herd Management
#96-101-BOG Findings – Intensive Management for GMU 19D East
#96-100-BOG Establishment of the Nenana Controlled Use Area
#96-99-BOG Moose Populations in Unit 26A
#96-98-BOG Taking Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
#96-97-BOG Forty Mile Caribou Herd Management Plan
#96-96-BOG Finding of Emergency – Moose in Remainder of Unit 16B

1995

#95-95-BOG Resolution – Wildlife Diversity Initiative

#95-94-BOG Resolution – Change Name of McNeil River State Game Refuge to Paint River State Game Refuge

#95-93-BOG Requiring License Purchase in advance

#95-92-BOG *Open Number*

#95-91-BOG Delegation of Authority – Comply with Alaska Supreme Court Opinion in Kenaitze vs. State

#95-90-BOG Board Travel Policy

#95-89-BOG Findings – Noatak Controlled Use Area

#95-88-BOG Delegation of Authority to Increase Bag Limits in Unit 18 for Mulchatna and Western Arctic Caribou Herds

#95-87-BOG Subsistence Needs for Moose in Unit 16B

#95-86-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 19D

#95-85-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 20D

#95-84-BOG Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 13

#95-83-BOG Resolution: Subsistence Use on National Park Lands

#95-82-BOG “No Net Loss” Policy for Hunting and Trapping Opportunities

#95-81-BOG Resolution: Remove Federal Management of F&W on Public Lands and Waters

#95-80-BOG Resolution to Legislature to Define Subsistence

1994

#94-80A-BOG Wolf Predation Control Program in Unit 20A

#94-79-BOG Delegation to Commissioner to Adopt Regulations Resulting from Kenaitze Decision which Invalidates Nonsubsistence Areas

#94-78-BOG Addendum to Findings on Unit 16B Moose

#94-77-BOG Resolution on SB325 (Repeal Antlerless Moose Statute)

1993

#93-76-BOG Findings on McNeil River Refuge Bears

#93-75-BOG Resolution on Adak Caribou

#93-74-BOG Delegation of Authority for Permits to Take Furbearers with Game Meat

#93-73-BOG Delegation of Authority to Make Emergency Regulations Permanent, Moose in Unit 19D

#93-72-BOG Wolf Control Findings – Delta Area

#93-71-BOG Resolution on Round Island Walrus Hunt

#93-70-BOG Findings on Unit 16B Moose Seasons and Bag Limits

#93-69-BOG Resolution on Popof Island Bison

#93-68-BOG Resolution on Commercialization of Moose

#93-67-BOG Resolution on Elk Transplants in Southeast

#93-66-BOG Resolution on Clear-cut Management in the Tongass National Forest

1992

#92-65-BOG Findings in Units 12, 20B, D, and E on Wolves

#92-64-BOG Findings in Unit 20A Wolves

#92-63-BOG Findings in Unit 13 Wolves

#92-62-BOG Findings Wolf Area Specific Management Plans for Southcentral and Interior

#92-61-BOG Resolution on Unit 13 Moose

#92-60-BOG Findings Unit 13 Moose Seasons and Bag Limits

#92-59-BOG Findings Unit 19 A&B Moose – Holitna and Hoholitna Controlled Use Area

#92-58-BOG Findings on Kilbuck Caribou re Fall Hunt

#92-57-BOG Report of the Board of Game, Area Specific Management Plans for Wolves

#92-56-BOG Relating to Moose in GMUs 19A and 19B per Superior Court order in Sleetmute vs. State

#92-55-BOG Relating to Endorsement of State Closure of Deer Hunting in GMU 4 and Requesting Federal Closure

1991

#91-54-BOG Findings on Strategic Wolf Management Plan

#91-54a-BOG Relating to Kilbuck Caribou Management Plan

#91-53-BOG Relating to Taking of Walrus from Round Island by Residents of Togiak

#91-53a-BOG Board Direction to Committee for Strategic Wolf Plan

#91-52-BOG Findings on Unit 13 Moose Season and Bag Limits

1990

#90-51-BOG Delegation of Authority

#90-50-BOG Relating to the Reporting of Hunter Usage of Air Taxi Operations

#90-49-BOG Findings on Kwethluk Emergency Caribou Hunt Petition

#90-48-BOG Relating to the Use of Furbearers by Rural Alaskans, Including Alaska Natives

#90-47-BOG Relating to the Commercialization of Moose and other Wildlife

#90-46-BOG Relating to Destruction of Moose by the Alaska Railroad

1989

#89-45-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Waterfowl Regulations

1988

#88-44-BG Delegation of Authority for March 1988 Meeting

#88-43-BG Resolution Supporting Funding for Division of Game

1987

#87-42d-BG Procedures for Delegations of Authority (Replacing #75-2-GB)

#87-42c-BG Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors

#87-42b-BG Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors Before Filing Regulations

#87-42a-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (Replacing #75-3-GB)

1986

#86-41-BG Finding of Emergency: New State Subsistence Law
#86-40-BG Delegation of Authority

1985

#85-39-GB Resolution on Resources v/s Logging
#85-38-GB Findings: Madison vs. State Requirements
#85-37-GB Lime Village Management Area Findings
#85-36-GB Findings: Waterfowl hunting in and near Palmer Hayflats

1984

#84-35-GB Resolution on Waterfowl Stamp
#84-34-GB Transplant of Musk Ox to Nunivak Island

1983

#83-33-GB Resolution on Guide Board
#83-32-GB Findings on Moose in GMU 16B

1982

#82-31-GB Supplement to Wolf Population Control

1981

#81-30-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Nelchina Caribou
#81-29-GB Finding and Policy for Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#81-28-GB Letter of Intent: Wolf Reduction in Alaska

1980

#80-27-GB Letter of Intent Regarding Use of Alaska's Game for Religious Ceremony
#80-26-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Bowhunting
#80-25-GB Standing Committee II on Deer
#80-24-GB Regarding Advisory Committee Coordinators

1979

#79-23-GB Authorization to Export Animals from Alaska
#79-22-GB Staff Directive to Subsistence Section
#79-21-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-20-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-19-GB Brown Bear, GMU 4
#79-18-GB Relating to Muskoxen

1978

#78-18-GB Statement of Direction: Use of Airplanes in Controlling Predation by Wolves
#78-17-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

#78-16-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

1977

#77-15-GB Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Address Petitions
#77-14-GB Repeal of Regulations Relating to Registration of Camps by Guides for Hunting Bears
#77-13-GB Regarding Closed Season for Caribou (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#77-12-GB Regarding the 17(d)(2) Land Settlement

1976

#76-11-GB Trapping Wolves by ADF&G
#76-10-GB Request for Public Safety Involvement in Enforcement of Caribou Regulations
#76-9-GB Management Goal: Western Arctic Caribou
#76-8-GB Export of Live Game Animals Outside of Alaska
#76-7-GB Musk Ox to Anchorage Children's Zoo (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#76-6-GB Taking of Wolves by Helicopter
#76-5-GB Regarding the Taking of Wolves in Units 23 and 26A

1975

#75-4-GB Endorsement of Trapping as a Legitimate Use of Renewable Resources
#75-3-GB Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (See #87-42a-GB)
#75-2-GB Procedures for Delegations of Authority (See #87-42d-GB)
#75-1-GB Effectuating Delegation of Authority

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2012-198-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Expiration Date: June 30, 2016

Purposes of Policy

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

Goals

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as trophy, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

Background

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, trophy species for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, problem animals in rural and urban settings, and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board and the Department will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing opportunities.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps, and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears has

been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management problems. The department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. Statewide, an average of about six bear encounters a year result in injuries to people. Most attacks now occur in suburban areas and do not involve hunters. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. An average of about 1,500 brown and grizzly bears is harvested each year. The trend has been increasing, probably because of both increased demand for bear hunting and increasing bear numbers. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g. Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department have begun to take a more active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, but the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

Brown and grizzly bears

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62nd parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after as trophy species and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have

expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km² (450 bears/1,000 mi²). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km² (1,420 bears/1,000 mi²). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km² (100 bears/1,000 mi²). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km² (12 bears/1,000 mi²) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a "species of special concern". The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g. Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

Black bears

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km² (175 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km² (750 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km² (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi²).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also important as trophy animals, predators of moose calves, and for their fur. The Board recently classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders), and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if trophy quality of bears is to be preserved, and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

Guiding Principles

The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
3. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
6. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
7. Primarily manage most brown bear populations to maintain trophy quality, especially in Game Managements 1 through 6, and 8 through 10.
8. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
9. Simplify hunting regulations for bears, and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.

10. Recognize the increasing value of brown bears as a trophy species and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
11. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

Conservation and Management Policy

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as a trophy species, food animals, or for viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily as trophy animals, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. However in some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

Monitoring Harvest and Population Size

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and trophy quality is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

Managing Predation by Bears

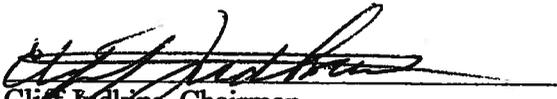
In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255 the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may elect to work with the Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons, or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state, and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: 7-0
March 9, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska


Cliff Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

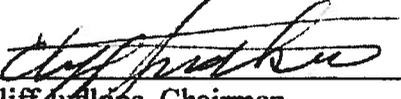
**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-192-BOG
Subunit 15C Moose
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
January 18, 2012**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Subunit 15C. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and 5AAC 92.125.

1. The moose in Subunit 15C has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 2,500 - 3,500 moose and an intensive management harvest objective of 200 - 350 moose annually for the herd.
2. The population size of the Subunit 15C moose herd is currently estimated to be 2,919 moose (± 277) which is within the intensive management population size objective of 2,500 – 3,500 moose.
3. The harvestable surplus of moose in Subunit 15C is currently estimated at about 180 moose, which is less than the harvest objective of 200 – 350. The harvest objective was not achieved in 2011.
4. Low moose calf recruitment has resulted in a reduction in harvestable moose that is predicted to continue without intensive management, and additional hunting restrictions in 2011 further reduced the harvest to only 23 bulls. The bull:cow ratio measured in 2010 and 2011 was 9 bulls and 14 bulls:100 cows respectively and remains below objectives of 20 bulls:100 cows. The decreased moose harvest from Subunit 15C has resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.
5. Recovery of the bull:cow ratio in Subunit 15C to provide adequate harvest will be prolonged unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment.
6. Habitat is not suspected as a limiting factor. Nevertheless, harvest objectives were not achieved in 2011 because of substantial harvest restrictions. Wolf and bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Mortality from predation has contributed to both the problems with calf recruitment and low bull/cow ratios. Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
7. Increases in moose recruitment and abundance in the Subunit 15C population are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management techniques including predator control in combination with recent habitat improvement from forestry practices, wild land fires and land clearing by land owners.

8. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to help achieve and help maintain a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: 7-0
January 18, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska



Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-191-BOG
Subunit 15A Moose
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
January 18, 2012**

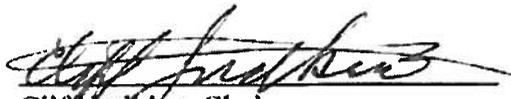
The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Subunit 15A. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and 5AAC 92.125.

1. The moose in Subunit 15A has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 3,000 - 3,500 moose and an intensive management harvest objective of 180 - 350 moose annually for the herd.
2. The population size of the Subunit 15A moose herd is currently estimated to be 2,088 moose (\pm 264) which is lower than the intensive management population size objective of 3,000 – 3,500 moose. The population size objective had not been achieved during the past 12 years.
3. The harvestable surplus of moose in Subunit 15A is currently estimated at about 104 moose, which is less than the harvest objective of 180 – 350. The harvest objective has not been achieved during the last 10 years.
4. The moose population in Subunit 15A remains depleted due, in part, to poor calf survival. The poor survival of calves on all lands has resulted in low calf recruitment, which is measured in the fall using calf:cow ratios. Fall calf:cow ratios have ranged between 13 to 31 calves per 100 cows since 2001.
5. The low moose calf recruitment has resulted in a lack of harvestable moose, and additional hunting restrictions in 2011 further reduced the harvest to only 4 bulls. The absence of moose harvest from Subunit 15A has resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.
6. Recovery of the moose population in Subunit 15A will be prolonged unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment. Because the majority of calves are born on Refuge lands managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service management actions designed to significantly increase calf survival should be conducted on both state and Refuge lands.
7. Habitat and predation are the main limiting factors. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf and bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Mortality from predation has contributed to both the problems with calf recruitment and low bull/cow ratios.

and these lands are available for bear control. Total land available for bear control is 72-74 percent of the unit.

7. Reducing predation is in the best interests of subsistence users because no harvest is currently taking place. An increase in the population that results in sustainable harvest will benefit all Alaska residents.

Vote: 7-0
January 18, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-185-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Policy duration: Date of finding through June 30, 2016.
This policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and
4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases, seasons will be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September and April, and opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are declared "depleted" or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced and these

populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish before an adequate level of population control is achieved.

In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

References Cited

- Boertje, Rodney D.; Valkenburg, Patrick, and McNay, Mark E. 1996. Increases in moose, caribou, and wolves following wolf control in Alaska. *Journal of wildlife management*. 1996; 60(3):474-489.
- Boertje, R. D., K. K. Kellie, C. T. Seaton, M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, B. W. Dale, L. G. Adams, A. R. Aderman. 2007. Ranking Alaska moose nutrition: signals to begin liberal antlerless moose harvests. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71(5): 1494-1506.
- Boertje, R. D., M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, K. A. Kellie, and C. T. Seaton. 2009. Managing for elevated yields of moose in Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 73 (3): 314-327.

National Research Council. 1997. Wolves, bears, and their prey in Alaska. National Academy Press, Wash., D.C.

Vote: 6-0-1

March 25, 2011

Anchorage, Alaska



Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Finding for the Alaska Board of Game
2007-173-BOG

Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy
March 12, 2007

At the March 2007, Southcentral/Southwest Region meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Game modified the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, #2006-162-BOG, by adding item #4 to the guidelines that shall be applied when determining the allocation percentage for drawing permits to nonresidents:

1. Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years.
2. Each client shall provide proof of having a signed guide-client agreement when applying for permits.
3. Contracting guides shall be registered in the area prior to the drawing.
4. When a guide signs a guide-client agreement, the guide is providing guiding services and therefore must be registered for the use area at that time.


Cliff Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0
Amended: March 12, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska

**Alaska Board of Game
2003-139-BOG**

**A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning
Management of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Mortality.**

Be it resolved that the Board of Game recommends that the Department manage brown bears in Game Management Units 7 and 15 so that total human-caused mortality does not exceed twenty bears per year.

Vote: 7-0

Adopted this 11th day of March, 2003
Anchorage, Alaska



**Mike Fleagle, Chair
Alaska Board of Game**