

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
C/o Office of Subsistence Management
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1110 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Comments to the Alaska Board of Game addressing State Regulation: 5 AAC 92.003 regarding the Request to prepare a hunter education and orientation requirements for Dall sheep hunting in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek area in Unit 25A.

March 5, 2020

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) held its public meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska on March 3-4, 2020. Members reflect the interests of Federally qualified subsistence users, sport users, and commercial users throughout the region. The meeting reflected a quorum, with eight of eight members present including Susan L. Entsminger of Mentasta, Alaska; Andrew P. Firmin of Ft. Yukon, Alaska; William L. Glanz of Central, Alaska; Andrew W. Bassich of Eagle, Alaska; Robert C. Wright, Sr. of Tanana, Alaska; Charlie Jagow of Porcupine River, Alaska; Donald A. Woodruff of Eagle, Alaska; and Timothy J. McManus of Nenana, Alaska. The Council identified the following comments to the Alaska Board of Game addressing State Regulation: 5 AAC 92.003 regarding the request to prepare a hunter education and orientation requirements for sheep hunting in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek area in Unit 25A. The comments are provided under the provisions of Section 805 (a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns aligned with the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Eastern Interior Alaska Region.

The Council motioned to submit a letter to the Alaska Board of Game to request to go forward with developing a hunter education and orientation program for Dall sheep hunting in the Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek area within the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area within Unit 25A (5 AAC 92.003). Currently State of Alaska regulations has a requirement for this hunter education and orientation program established in 2011 for this area. The regulation requires that a person must possess proof of completion of the program to hunt Dall sheep in the area.

The Council emphasized that developing a Red Sheep and Cane Creeks Area hunter education program would be a first step to address the Council's desire to find a workable solution to a historically contentious issue and build mutual respect between village hunters and other parties. The Council added that the development of the program should be a joint effort with all parties involved.

The Council noted that the development of this hunter education program would be an excellent example of the Council's Hunter Ethics Program to build mutual respect and understanding between users groups within the Eastern Interior Region. The Council noted the program's

course would be available for use throughout the region or statewide for Dall sheep hunters if desired.

Thank you for the opportunity for this Council to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal Public lands and waters. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3676

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Entsminger".

Susan Entsminger, Chair