

Eagle Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Andy Bassich
Chairperson

Eagle, AK

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

BOG 2025 Eagle AC Testimony

Eagle community Status:

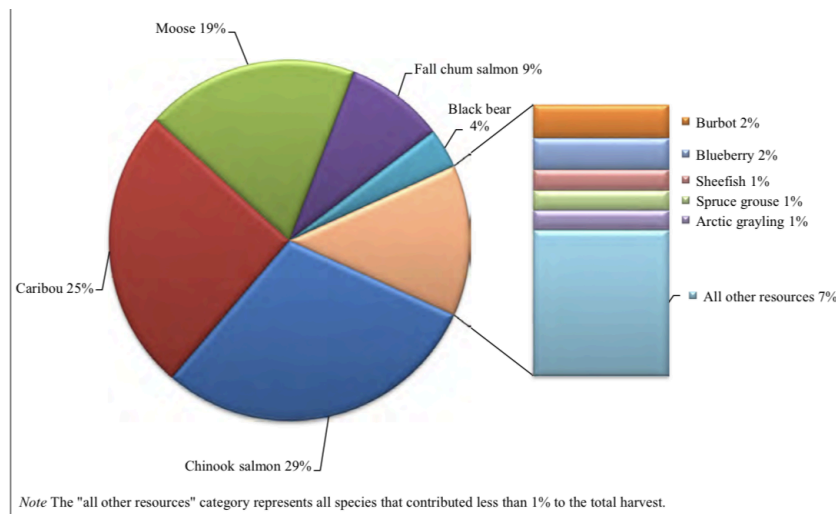


Figure 4-15.-Top resources harvested for human consumption by percentage of harvest for human consumption, Eagle, 2017.

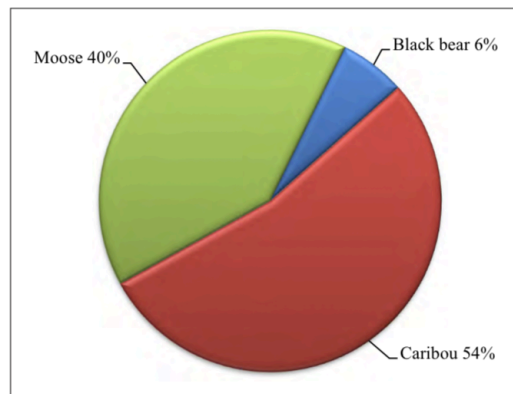


Figure 4-22.—Composition of large land mammal harvest by percentage of edible weight, Eagle, 2017.

1. The current Status of Eagle Community Subsistence ANS, and available food resources is the lowest in the history of the Community
2. All Salmon resources are in such poor decline there is NO Opportunity for harvest
3. 40 mile Caribou is on a Decline, with inconsistent year to year herd migration in the area. Herd decline is likely not provide for ANS in future years
4. Caribou are the most important mammal resource for Subsistence for Eagle, & Eagle Village residents.
5. Moose populations are historically low, but remain healthy. Non-local hunting on the Yukon in many years is negatively impacting local success rates.

Eagle AC position on Hunting Ethics, Methods, Management:

1. Adamantly opposed the use of Night Vision goggles, and electronic or artificial use for calling Game.
 - a. The use of night vision goggles goes against the principles of fair chase.(a long term guiding principle for hunter ethics) All wildlife must be afforded the ability to exist and flourish if populations are to remain sustainable.
 - b. Technology advances are creating increasing efficiency, and unfair advantages in hunting which is giving wildlife very few places to hide, or live without the fear of being killed.
 - c. Technology advances in Aircraft, Boating, Air boats, 4 wheelers, and other transportation craft are now to the point where NO Place is inaccessible for hunting, thus taking away the Oasis Game had in the past for unfettered reproduction and rebuilding.
 - d. Climate change is having unprecedented negative impacts to many species and is the slow creep of decline, which without understanding full impacts, and

proceeding conservatively, can create an atmosphere of all is good. When in fact over harvest of species can spiral down to low numbers quickly, before realized. This creates hardship to All Alaska User groups.

- e. It is better to harvest less, and maintain a healthy population, then to create a boom bust system of management. Recovery is often Slow!
- f. Long term sustainable resources are the key stone to good wildlife management.
- g. We support intensive management methods for short term recovery of declined species, However we do not support it as a means for long term substitution for Eco based management strategies, taking in account Habitat Change due to climate change.
- h. More outreach and instruction to young or new hunters going into the field is long overdue. Poor meat handling technique is a chronic problem, and they waste Tens of thousands of lbs. of edible meat per year around the state. many.
- i. Some BOG members have first hand experiences witnessing this problem.
- j. We do not Support Payment to proxy hunters in any manner. This will open up **Pandora's Box** of misuse of these important tools for Elderly or Infirmed Alaskan residents.
- k. We support the minimum Caliber for large game to be set at .243 cal. this Caliber is well proven to be effective for large game, yet suitable for women and Youth hunters. Any caliber below this is not suitable for large game in Alaska.
- l. the use of Snowmachs for chasing down Wolf or Wolverine is not a good **Fair Chase** method and does not promote good hunter ethics practices. We need to Promote and teach our Young and New Hunters to the State Good sound Hunter Ethics
- m. We do not support the sale of big Game trophies without a permit. This will allow for more illegal potential misuse of this privilege. the permitting process is an important Check Balance in this practice. and should be continued..
- n. We do not support eliminating evidence of Sex on big game with bag limit restrictions. This is a simple process and is a good check on illegal harvest of game.
- o. We support Grizzly bear fee exemptions. Most Rural hunter take of grizzly bear is incidental not a dedicated Hunt. this is an important cost saving measure, for Rural Communities, and has no Negative impacts to reporting or harvest.
- p.

Sheep management:

Eagle AC supports the formation of A Sheep coalition in the Interior region

- a. Sheep populations in the interior are at low or depressed levels.
- b. Populations are distinct by location, therefore a ONE SIZE FITS ALL management strategy is not a good course for rebuilding distinct populations.
- c. A coalition of all users similar to the 40 mile Caribou coalition IS warranted at this time to make recommendations for long term sustainable Sheep management.
- d. We ask the BOG to support this Initiative.

Delegation of Authority to the Commissioner:

Eagle AC opposes the transfer or delegation of Authority from the BOG to the Commissioner of ADFG.

- a. The State of Alaska is **correct** in developing the Public process for fish and Wildlife Management through each Board.
- b. The State Constitution states the resources of the State belong to the citizens of the State, therefore the public process must be maintained so citizens have a meaningful opportunity to help guide the management of Their Resources through public processes.
- c. No one Person should have this Authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Bassich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andy Bassich

Eagle Fish & Game Advisory Committee Chair