

APR 01 2008

BOARDS

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2008-177-BOG**

**Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 21, 2008**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by department staff and residents and users of moose in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway and 20E; and caribou in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway, Unit 20D within the Goodpaster drainage upstream from and including the South Fork Goodpaster River drainage and within the Healy River, Billy and Sand Creek drainages, Unit 20B within the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including the Goose Creek drainage and within the Middle Fork of the Chena River drainage, all of Unit 20E, and Unit 25C within the Birch Creek drainage upstream from the Steese Highway bridge and within the area draining into the south and west bank of the Yukon River upstream from the community of Circle. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108, in the Upper Yukon/Tanana predation control implementation plan in 5AAC 92.125 and in Board of Game Findings 2006-164-BOG and 2006-165-BOG.

1. The Fortymile Caribou Herd population size, currently estimated to be near 39,000 caribou, is less than the population objective of 50,000-100,000 caribou. The population objective has not been achieved since at least 1976.
2. The Fortymile Caribou Herd harvestable surplus, as described in 5AAC 92.106(3)(A), currently estimated at 850 caribou, is less than the harvest objective of 1,000-15,000 caribou. The harvest objective has not been achieved since at least 1976.
3. The moose population size in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway and Unit 20E, is currently estimated to be 4,000-6,100 moose, is less than the population objective of 8,744-11,116 moose (derived from the combined Units 12 and 20E objectives based on proportionate area). The population objective has not been achieved since at least 1986.
4. The harvestable surplus of moose in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway and Unit 20E, as described in 5AAC 92.106(3)(A), currently estimated at 160-244 bulls, is less than the harvest objective of 547-1,084 moose (derived from the combined Units 12 and 20E objectives based on proportionate area). The harvest objective has not been achieved since at least 1986.
5. The Fortymile Caribou Herd in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway, Unit 20D within the Goodpaster drainage upstream from and including the South Fork Goodpaster River drainage and within the Healy River, Billy and Sand Creek drainages, Unit 20B within the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including the Goose Creek drainage and within the Middle Fork of the Chena River drainage, all of Unit 20E, and Unit 25C within the Birch Creek drainage upstream from the Steese Highway bridge and within the area draining into the south and west bank of the Yukon River upstream from the community of Circle is, thus, depleted and reduced in productivity, which has already resulted in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.

6. The moose population in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway and Unit 20E is, thus, depleted and reduced in productivity, which has already resulted in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.
7. Enhancement of abundance or productivity of both moose and caribou in these areas is feasibly achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
8. The Board has repeatedly, since 1976, been required to significantly reduce the taking of Fortymile caribou in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway, Unit 20D within the Goodpaster drainage upstream from and including the South Fork Goodpaster River drainage and within the Healy River, Billy and Sand Creek drainages, Unit 20B within the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including the Goose Creek drainage and within the Middle Fork of the Chena River drainage, all of Unit 20E, and Unit 25C within the Birch Creek drainage upstream from the Steese Highway bridge and within the area draining into the south and west bank of the Yukon River upstream from the community of Circle by restricting harvest, seasons, and bag limits as compared to the level and timing of hunting opportunity that was previously allowed when the population was not depleted and reduced in productivity.
9. The Board has, since 2000, been required to limit the taking of moose in Unit 12 north of the Alaska Highway, and Unit 20E by restricting harvest, seasons, and bag limits as compared to the level and timing of hunting opportunity that was allowed when the population was not depleted and reduced in productivity.

10. The population and harvest objectives for both moose and caribou in this area have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf and brown bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the populations, to the extent that the populations are unlikely to recover, and objectives are unlikely to be achieved, in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
11. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achievement of the caribou and moose population and harvest objectives.
12. A person who has been airborne may on the same day take a brown bear with the use of bait or scent lure as authorized under a permit provided by the department, providing the permittee is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking.

Vote: 6-0-1
March 21, 2008
Anchorage Alaska


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game