

**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 (± 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