

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

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TO: Alaska Board of Game Members
THRU: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Boards Support
FROM: Dale Rabe, Deputy Director, Wildlife Conservation
DATE: May 14, 2010



SUBJECT: Request from a member of the public to repeal the requirement to destroy and leave in the field antlers from caribou harvested in Unit 13 Tier I Hunt

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has reviewed Mr. Olson's request for an emergency regulation to repeal the requirement to destroy and leave in the field caribou antlers harvested in the Unit 13 Tier I hunt. The primary premise for this the petition appears to be legal arguments questioning the Board's authority to make such a regulation. The department recommends that any legal analysis of the merits of these assertions should be referred to the Department of Law.

This regulation was passed by the Board in March 2009 as part of a package of regulations intended to establish and manage a Tier I caribou hunt in Unit 13. As a Tier I hunt, which is open to all Alaskans to participate, the Board was concerned about providing meat to traditional subsistence users and to implement requirements that would minimize trophy hunting or other non-subsistence uses of those caribou. Destruction of antlers was included, along with other requirements, to manage participation in the hunt and provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence users.

The Department does not support this petition and does not believe it constitutes an emergency under the Board's emergency regulations policy. We believe the proponent should submit this request through the normal proposal process for consideration at the next appropriate Board meeting, March 2011.