RC 133

FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR MAINTAINING OR INCREASING SUSTAINABLE HARVEST OF MOOSE IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 20C

Prepared by

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

-February 2012-

Overall assessment of potential to increase harvest[1]: High

Department recommendation: The Department does not recommend implementing a 5AAC 92.125 intensive management (IM) plan at this time. The fall 2011 moose population estimate is within the IM population objective. The Department recommends extending the hunting season for bulls by 5 days which will likely result in progress towards achieving the lower end of the IM harvest objective.

I. Feasibility Assessment[2]

A. *Definitions*

1. Define the relevant geographic area for assessing abundance of prey and predators (Appendix A, part 1):
   - Unit 20C outside Denali National Park and Preserve is an IM area because it is identified in 5 AAC 92.108 as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, and population and harvest objectives are established.
   - Unit 20C East which includes the Teklanika and Kantishna river drainages north of Denali National Park and Preserve is a portion of the IM area. For purposes of this assessment, it is identified as a moose management area (MMA) because it is the most heavily hunted portion of the unit and has the most potential for a moose population increase because of recent burns (Figure 1).
2. Recommend a time period for evaluation of the proposed program that matches the regional Alaska Board of Game (BOG) cycle: 6 years[3], depending on what program is adopted.
3. Note if the feasibility assessment is for intensive management (IM; legal requirements in Appendix A and the *Intensive Management Protocol*) or another purpose: This feasibility assessment is for intensive management

B. *Review Management Objectives and Current Abundance and Harvest*

1. List the population and harvest objectives for prey species and current estimates of each; objectives may be in regulation for IM (Appendix A, part 2) or in survey and inventory reports otherwise: The IM population objective in Unit 20C is 3,000-4,000 moose and the IM harvest objective is 150-400 moose. The 2011 population estimate for Unit 20C outside Denali National Park and Preserve is 3141 moose, not incorporating a sightability correction factor (SCF). Using an SCF from adjacent Unit 20A, the population estimate is 3801 moose. The average reported harvest in Unit 20C during 2008-2010 was 126 moose annually. Using a 15% correction factor

[1] Component factors are discussed in Section II.
[2] The purpose of the feasibility assessment and process are described in *Intensive Management Protocol*.
[3] Six years is the recommended time period for evaluating progress toward objectives because it fits either a 2-year or 3-year regional BOG cycle and should provide adequate time to assess whether a program is causing improvement in ungulate abundance or harvest in the defined area.

from Unit 20A (Gasaway et al. 1983:9), the average annual harvest during these years was 145 moose.

2. Briefly review biological rationale of IM objectives (Appendix A, part 2) or other objectives for prey species: The IM population objective has been achieved, and the IM harvest objective is set at a reasonable level and could be achieved.

3. List the population and harvest objectives for predator species in survey and inventory reports: The management objective for wolves in Unit 20C is to maintain a fall density of $\geq$ 11 wolves/1000 mi^2 (Young 2009). The management/harvest objective for grizzly bears is a 3-year mean annual human-caused grizzly bear (≥2 yr of age) mortality in Unit 20C of 7 grizzly bears, with at least 55% males (Young 2009). The management objective for black bears is to maintain a black bear population that sustains a harvest of at least 55% males for the most recent 3 years (Seaton 2008).

C. *Recommended Management Strategy*

1. Briefly describe the proposed management strategy for the ungulate population (actions to be taken on habitat, predation, harvest, access, or other factors): The Department's strategy will be based on Board of Game actions on public proposals. The proposals include predator control methods such as black bear snaring, grizzly bear baiting, and aerial shooting of wolves. Increasing the harvest to reach the lower end of the IM harvest objective may be accomplished by increasing the length of the moose season. Harvesting moose near the upper end of the IM harvest objective under present access constraints would likely require increasing the population, although some reallocation of mortality from predators to harvest without population growth may be feasible near areas accessible to hunters. If predator control is approved, it would be conducted in the proposed MMA, which has the most access and hunting effort. Aerial wolf control by permitted pilot/gunner teams would likely have the greatest potential to increase the moose population. A significant reduction of wolves would likely increase moose survival over winter and facilitate population growth. Liberalized public black bear snaring and grizzly bear baiting could possibly reallocate some moose from bears to hunters in accessible areas. It is unlikely that localized bear harvest or bear control would result in growth of the Unit 20C moose population;

2. Propose measures of progress toward population or harvest objectives to be evaluated, identifying if additional data collection beyond survey and inventory program is necessary: Progress would be evaluated only within the MMA to focus Department effort. Progress towards achieving the IM population objective could be evaluated by periodic population estimation surveys within limits of statistical precision typical at low-moderate density. Annual surveys would likely not be possible because of limited funding and availability of survey aircraft. Progress towards achieving the IM harvest objective could be evaluated by hunter harvest reports.

3. Provide a brief explanation for collecting or evaluating data from untreated areas for comparison to areas treated under the management program as evidence in a scientific study design that the treatment effects are working as intended and not simply an artifact of nontreatment effects (e.g., widespread improvement in calf survival because of mild winter across region, not because of predation control in a specific area): An untreated area would be established in the western portion of Unit 20C outside the MMA. Periodic population estimation surveys would be conducted for comparison of population parameters such as numbers, bull:cow ratios, and calf:cow ratios to the MMA. Annual surveys would likely not be possible because of limited funding and availability of survey aircraft.
4. Provide an estimated cost of implementation (operations and field staff salary) for the proposed program over the evaluation time period: A 6 year IM program would cost approximately $200,000, with $90,000 for operations and $110,000 for staff salary.

II. Potential to Achieve Ungulate Population and Harvest Objectives[4]

A. Population increase in ungulates required to reach population objective (may be represented as comparable density): No increase is required. The estimated population in Unit 20C is 3801 moose, which is within the IM population objective of 3000-4000.

B. Increase in average estimated harvest (last three regulatory years [RY]; RY = 1 July–30 June) to reach harvest objective: An increase of 24 moose per year is needed to reach the lower end of the IM harvest objective of 150-400 moose.

C. Potential to mitigate biological limitations in proposed IM area (Appendix B.I): Moderate.

D. Potential to reduce or moderate hunting conflicts (Appendix B.II): Low.

E. Anticipated public participation based on expense and other factors (Appendix B.III). Moderate

F. Data availability for designing an effective management plan [Appendix C]: Moderate

G. Potential to measure or demonstrate progress in ungulate population recovery or an increase harvest within a defined time period (Appendices B.I.E. and Appendix C): Population is within the IM objective. Potential to measure progress towards achieving the IM harvest objective is high.

H. Potential to document reasons for success or failure in population recovery or harvest increase (Appendix B.I.E): Documenting reasons for success or failure may be difficult, however, measuring success or failure would be possible.

[4] The background data used in evaluating potential are found in Appendices B and C.

APPENDIX A. Legal elements and criteria for intensive management objectives and a feasibility assessment.

Department staff should review and ensure the following four elements have been met:

1. Definition of populations:
   - The relevant area for defining an ungulate population under intensive management (IM) is that defined as a positive determination in Title 5, Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 92, Section 108 (5 AAC 92.108): Unit 20C outside Denali National Park and Preserve (Figure 1).
   - "Game population" is defined in AS 16.05.940(20) as a "group of game animals of a single species or subgroup manageable as a unit." Clarify the purpose of ungulate or predator management zones proposed to be smaller than areas under 5 AAC 92.108: The MMA would provide a more defined area to manage (Figure 1): It is a 2953 mi^2 accessible area where a large proportion of the harvest occurs. It is also likely to provide the best habitat due to large burns in the area in recent years.
   - Consider whether a population with a positive determination for IM (5 AAC 92.108) should match or differ from amounts necessary for subsistence (ANS) (5 AAC 99.025) for the same geographic area: The ANS for Units 20C and 20F is 100-130 moose.
2. The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) has established population and harvest objectives for IM of identified ungulate populations for a high level of harvest by humans:
   - Positive determination made for species and herd (caribou) or unit/subunit (moose, deer) per 5 AAC 92.106(1) by considering the following factors:
     - Historic harvest that meets or exceeds defined levels (caribou: 100, deer: 500, moose: 100); the highest three consecutive years and three most recent years are provided by department: The highest 3-year average harvest was 141 moose during 2006-2008. The average harvest during 2008-2010 was 126 moose.
     - Accessibility (roads, rivers, trails, landing strips): Accessibility is mainly boat, float equipped aircraft, and ATV.
     - Use of harvest primarily for meat: Yes.
     - Hunter demand (reported hunting effort, number of applicants for permits): An average of 470 hunters per year (2008-2010) reported hunting in Unit 20C.
   - Population and harvest objectives established in 5 AAC 92.108 based on these criteria in 5 AAC 92.106(2):
     - Effects of weather, habitat capability, diseases, and parasites. In MMA, 42% of the land has burned since 2007. The habitat improvement from these burns has not been determined.
     - Maintenance of viable predator populations (see definition in *Intensive Management Protocol*). Viable predator populations can be maintained by specifying in regulation

the minimum number of predators that must remain in a control area after predator removal.

- Maintenance of habitat conditions suitable for other species in the area. No habitat alterations are proposed.
- Effects on subsistence users. Subsistence users would benefit from an increase in moose population and harvest.
- Cost, feasibility and potential effectiveness of possible management actions. Potential actions include population estimation surveys, twinning surveys, and administration of public predator control permits. A 6 year IM program would cost approximately $200,000, with $90,000 for operations and $110,000 for staff salary. Actions are feasible and potentially effective.
- Landownership patterns within the range of the population. In the MMA, 89% of the land is state owned.
- Accessibility to harvest. Access is mainly by boat on navigable waterways, ATV's on a few available trails and float planes on lakes. A large portion of the area is inaccessible.
- Other factors considered relevant by the BOG. Substantial public resistance to antlerless moose hunts may be a concern if the population increases and these hunts are necessary to stabilize the population.

3. Depletion of the ungulate population (abundance or harvest below objectives) or reduction of the "productivity" (recruitment) of the population has occurred and may result in a "significant" reduction in the allowable harvest per Alaska Statute, Title 16, Chapter 5 (AS 16.05.255[e]). The 2011 population estimation survey showed that the moose population has not been depleted and productivity was high. Allowable harvest could be increased.

4. Enhancement of abundance or productivity of the big game prey population is feasibly achievable utilizing recognized and prudent management techniques (AS 16.05.255[e][3]). Enhancement of abundance is achievable with prudent management techniques such as aerial wolf and bear control. Similar to other low density populations, productivity appears to already be high, therefore enhancement of productivity is not likely achievable.

5. The BOG is not required to adopt regulations to provide for an IM program per AS 16.05.255(f)(1) if a proposed IM program is:

   - Ineffective based on scientific information. The available data indicates that an IM program would be effective.
   - Inappropriate due to landownership pattern. Landownership would facilitate this IM program. In the MMA 89% of the land is state owned.
   - Against the best interest of subsistence uses. Subsistence users would benefit from an increase in moose population and harvest.

6. The BOG may forego a feasibility assessment if per AS 16.05.255(f)(2) it declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate action to protect or maintain the big game prey population in conjunction with the scheduling for adoption of those regulations that are necessary to implement section (e): The Board has not declared a biological emergency.

APPENDIX B. Elements of a feasibility assessment for an area (deer, moose) or herd (caribou).

I. BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

Biological factors are the basis for evaluating potential to achieve population or harvest objectives. Information may be yes/no, numeric, categorical, or not applicable depending on species or area. Brief explanations may be warranted along with local data where available. In most instances professional judgment by department staff will be required to put numbers in context in the recommended management strategy (Section I:Feasibility Assessment, p. 1).

A. *Nonpredation and Nonhunting Mortality of Prey*

1. How frequently is there markedly reduced survival due to annual weather (snow depth, especially associated with complicating factors, such as severe cold; ice on snow events; flooding; drought)? Rare.
2. How extensive is vehicle mortality along road and rail systems that reduce harvestable surplus in the population (estimated number killed annually or as a percentage of total kill by humans that includes harvest and defense of life or property)? Relatively rare, < 20 moose per year.

B. *Productivity of Prey Population and Habitat* (may include prey density effects)

1. Evidence of inherent habitat limitation (e.g., nutrient deficiency) manifested in low reproduction, body weight, or survival? No.
2. How strong a negative effect from the local prevalence of diseases or parasites? Low.
3. Evidence of longer term weather trend changing forage production or other habitat requirements (e.g., markedly increased area in recent burns or noticeably less frequent flooding) and its consequence for the ungulate in question: Yes. Note trend in habitat capability: Positive from recent large fires.
4. Evidence of high or excessive levels of forage use (excessive means evidence of plant mortality from inability to rejuvenate after persistent grazing or browsing at some proportional level of biomass removal): No.
5. Has the combination of natural and human-caused disturbance produced an extent and mixture of vegetative seral stages capable of maintaining the present productivity if the population changes due to management treatment at a moderate level of increase? Yes. At a substantial level of increase? Yes.

C. *Potential Effectiveness of Proposed Predator Control* (based on number of predator species and seasonal prey location)

1. Is effect of predation by individual predator species known for the ungulate species of interest in the proposed area? Effect of predation by individual species is inferred from population parameters and extrapolation of research results in other areas.
2. Is predation control being proposed for one or multiple predator species? Multiple predator species including black bear, grizzly bear, and wolf.

3. Are there concentrated calving and/or young rearing areas of ungulates for focused bear or wolf control? No.
4. Are there concentrated winter ranges of ungulates suitable for focused wolf control? No.

D. *Potential Effectiveness of Public Participation in Predator Control (under permit) or Predator Harvest* (see also III.A and III.B this appendix)

1. Number of licensed hunters and trappers within or near proposed management area (size of potential participant group) and the proportion of these hunters and trappers actively harvesting predators. During 2006-2010, an average of 14 trappers/hunters per year harvested wolves in 20C. The number of licensed hunters/trappers near the proposed area is in the thousands because of proximity to Healy, Anderson, Nenana, Manley, Lake Minchumina, and Fairbanks.
2. Estimated wolf harvest rate (percentage of estimated fall population, average of three most recent regulatory years). Harvest averaged 29 wolves per year during 2008-2010. A wolf survey is planned for late winter 2012 that will result in a population estimate and calculation of harvest rate.
3. Estimated black bear harvest rate (percentage of estimated spring population, average of three most recent regulatory years). Harvest was 33 black bears per year during 2008-2010. Population size based upon extrapolation from Unit 20A is approximately 950 bears. Harvest rate is likely around 3.5%.
4. Estimated grizzly/brown bear harvest rate (percentage of estimated spring population, average of three most recent regulatory years). Harvest averaged 6 grizzly bears per year during 2008-2010. Population size based upon extrapolation from Unit 20A is approximately 100 bears. Harvest rate is likely around 6%.
5. Historical effectiveness of a predator control program in this area (where applicable). None in Unit 20C.
6. Number of competing predator control programs in the region and the anticipated impact of adding an additional program (potential dilution of participation by skilled members of the public). Two wolf control programs are currently active nearby, Upper Yukon\Tanana and Unit 13. Public aerial control permits are being issued for both of these programs. If public aerial wolf control permits are also issued in Unit 20C, some dilution of public participation could occur.

E. *Ability to Confirm Treatment Response* (e.g., predator control, habitat enhancement, selective harvest) in treatment areas with data from nearby and comparable untreated areas through assessment of biological parameters using existing techniques. Low sample size for survey data may limit applicability in low density situations. Describe whether the following criteria for evaluating response to treatment are possible or recommended (*Yes/No* answers):

1. Established periodic survey for abundance: Yes.

2. Fall composition surveys for young to adult female ratio as index to survival [*e.g., bear predation during prior summer where wolf predation on young is comparatively low*]: Yes.
3. Fall composition surveys for yearling to adult female ratio as index to survival [*e.g., wolf predation during year since prior fall survey where bear predation on young is comparatively low*]: Yes.
4. Radiotelemetry for survival of specific age cohorts: Yes.
5. Total prey harvest and age-sex composition of harvest among local residents, state residents, and nonresidents (where applicable): Yes.
6. Harvest per unit effort, particularly in focused program areas where the initial intent is reallocation of mortality from predators to harvest to first meet local harvest needs: Yes.

II. Societal Factors

Societal factors associated with hunting conflicts (e.g., constraints to access, acceptable methods, and harvest expectations), hunter access, and public tolerance for intensive management practices.

A. *Public expectation for predator control and increased ungulate harvest* must be understood prior to initiating programs to increase ungulate populations. Public conflicts over ungulate harvest methods can reduce options for controlling population growth. Failure to limit growth can reduce the condition of habitat and ungulates to the extent of reduced productivity. Critical components of conflict mitigation are identifying acceptable predation control methods as well as the potential for additional ungulate harvest opportunities that are acceptable to the hunting and nonhunting public. Defining the benefits of increased harvest is complex because hunter motivation may include economic factors (cost of meat replacement) and intangible measures of satisfaction (continuation of hunting culture, time spent in the field with family or friends, etc.).

1. Has the public defined an acceptable quantity and sex/age structure of ungulate harvest? No.
2. Does the level of unreported or unknown harvest hinder the ability of the department to evaluate response to management treatments? No.
3. Has the department informed constituents about ecological and biological constraints (nutrition, forage condition) relative to setting upper limits for population densities of managed ungulates? No.
4. If possible from historic data, characterize hunter density where significant conflicts occur between hunters: Moderate and between hunters and nonhunters: Moderate.
5. If possible from historic data, what is potential for conflict in rural areas between local hunters and nonlocal hunters? Moderate.
6. Conflicts or problems associated with access, such as existing access constraints: Many.

7. Acceptable strategies to *s*pread out hunters and minimize trespass on private lands: Few.
8. Acceptable strategies to minimize unacceptable levels of trail damage on public lands: Some.
9. Acceptance of restricted methods or means for harvest, particularly near communities (e.g., archery or muzzleloader): No.
10. Anticipated increase in vehicle mortality with ungulate population growth (poses a public safety risk): Low.
11. Anticipation of strongly adverse public reaction to a management tool (e.g., predation control, prescribed fire, selective harvest), geographic area, or other facet of the proposed program: High (Appendix D).
12. Potential for predator control to have indirect negative effects on alternate prey, such as increase in medium predators that can prey on ungulate young, particularly in species of high interest to hunters (e.g., increased coyote abundance following extended periods of wolf control to benefit moose or caribou could increase predation on Dall sheep lambs during peak abundance of hares, with implications on number of legal rams in future years): Low.
13. Coordination among hunters and trappers about control methods and allocation among ground-based trappers, aerial gunners by permit, and department use of helicopters: Moderate.

B. *Landownership* may influence or restrict access for predator control or ungulate harvest. Proximity of restrictive status to communities or areas where management treatments would be most effective is the important context (see discussion of management strategy, Section I:Feasibility Assessment, p. 1). If the objective is to increase harvest in a local area as progress toward a larger area objective, a program to reallocate mortality from predation to harvest without a substantial increase in ungulate abundance may be feasible with harvest coordination (see Section III.A.3).

1. Percentage of national park or preserve and national wildlife refuge (where predator control may be restricted) in game management unit or subunit or caribou herd range: None within the MMA.
2. Percentage of area in federally designated wilderness or wilderness study areas where habitat or wildlife management may be subject to more extensive public process: None.
3. Percentage of Alaska Native corporation land: 4%
4. Access for predator control or ungulate hunting allowed on Alaska Native corporation lands? Public and ADF&G staff access for predator control is unknown at this time, but will be investigated. Public access to corporation land for moose hunting is generally not allowed.

C. *Access for Predator Reduction and Ungulate Harvest* (see also Sections II.A.6 and II.A.7)

1. What is the extent of all-season roads? Limited.
2. What is the extent of ATV trails? Limited.
3. What is the extent of navigable rivers? Moderate.
4. What is the feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in winter for predator removal? Low to moderate.
5. What is the feasibility of landing fixed-wing aircraft in fall for ungulate hunting? Low to moderate.
6. What is the feasibility of ocean shoreline access for hunting or predator removal? Does not apply.
7. Is use of helicopters by the public (under permit) allowed for trapping or retrieval of carcasses from aerial shooting? No.
8. Are there controlled use areas that prohibit aircraft access for ungulate harvest? No.

III. Economic Factors

Economic factors define estimated costs of management programs and expectations for public participation in predator control programs for comparison to perceived benefits by the BOG and the public.

A. *Cost of Participation* (in prey harvest or predation control by the public)

1. Price (dollars/gallon) of unleaded gasoline (average among communities): $3.75 to $4.75 per gallon of unleaded.
2. Price (dollars/gallon) of 100 octane low lead aviation fuel (average among communities): $4.50 to $6.00 per gallon.
3. Cost to hunters per prey animal harvested from alternative area (e.g., transportation cost to hunt in adjacent areas with harvestable surplus of ungulates): Low.
4. Value of predator hides or other parts legal to sell: $200 to $500 per wolf and $150 - $300 per black bear.

B. *Potential for Participation* (in predator control or harvest by public)

1. Would creating a new predation control program hinder ability to maintain public involvement in existing predation control programs in the region? Yes. Unit 20C is easily accessible from Fairbanks. Some of the permitted pilot/gunnar teams that participate in the Upper Yukon/Tanana and Unit 13 predator control programs may prefer to participate in the 20C program because of the logistics and better terrain for hunting wolves.
2. Will a predation control program, habitat enhancement project, or ungulate harvest strategy conflict with existing harvest of predators by reducing opportunity for local hunters or trappers? Yes.
3. Potential to conduct department-sponsored control programs if public participation is lower than expected: High.

C. *Potential for Cost Sharing* (in habitat enhancement) (see also Section II.B)

1. Potential to collaborate on prescribed fire where hazardous fuel reduction is the primary goal: Low.
2. Potential to collaborate on forest management or mechanical vegetation treatments to produce wood products or reduce hazardous fuels: Low.

APPENDIX C. Availability of population and harvest information.

Data include status of predators, ungulate species, and habitat for modeling predator removal rates and time until increase in harvest of ungulates is feasible [*Yes/No/Unknown/Not applicable*]

- Ungulate population status:
  - Abundance survey within last 2 years: Yes.
  - Abundance surveys on set schedule to estimate trend: No.
  - Composition survey within last 2 years: Yes.
  - Estimate of parturition rate within last 5 years: No.
  - Young survival estimate with mortality causes identified: No.

- Harvest of prey:
  - Trends in reported harvest by residents and "local" (game management unit) residents among general season, drawing permit, registration permit, and Tier II categories over last 10 years: See Figure 2.
  - Where unreported harvest occurs, public perception of trend: Does not apply.
  - Estimate of unreported harvest from telemetry, Division of Subsistence, or other sources: 15% (Gasaway et al. 1983:9).
  - Department estimate of current sustainable harvest: 152-190 bulls in all of 20C outside Denali National Park andPreserve.
  - Amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) (specify date of determination or updates, whether specific to proposed intensive management (IM) area or larger area, and number relative compared to IM objective). ANS is 100– 130 moose for both Unit 20C and 20F combined.
  - Historical harvest by nonresidents? Yes (Fig. 2).
- Present harvest by nonresidents? Yes.
- Status and harvest of predators:
  - Survey/census of wolf density within last 5 years: No (planned for late winter 2012).
  - Survey/census black bear density within last 5 years: No.
  - Survey/census grizzly/brown bear density within last 5 years: No.
  - Predator-prey ratio estimated: No.
  - Survey of alternative prey adequate to aid predator recovery: No.
  - Most wolf harvest accounted for by sealing data: Yes.
  - Most black bear harvest accounted for by sealing/harvest ticket data: Yes.
  - Department estimate of black bear harvest where sealing/harvest ticket requirement does not occur. Does not apply.
  - Most grizzly/brown bear harvest accounted for by sealing data: Yes.

- Habitat condition (methods may be specific to region or species):
  - Proportional removal of browse biomass in previous 5 years with no large population change or widespread disturbance (e.g., fire) since browse survey: 19% removal.
  - Proportion of browse species with broomed growth structure (history of browsing): Does not apply.
  - Proportion of area burned in last 10 years (potential browse availability): 42% of 20C East has burned in last 5 years.

- Proportion of area in appropriate habitat type based on vegetative classification (define as forage, cover, etc.). No classification has been completed since large burns have occurred. There is potential for browse abundance to increase.
- [*Other metrics? Describe*]: None.

- Ungulate nutritional condition (representative of environmental conditions experienced during the most recent population census or estimate; may be specific to area/region or herd) [*options currently being discussed*]:
  - Percentage of productive 3-year-old female caribou (cohorts are radiomarked for calf weights and monitored for photocensus coverage): Does not apply.
  - Weight of 4- or 10-month-old females (*caribou, deer, moose*): Nine month old calves weighed 430-450 lbs.
  - Weight of adult (5–6 year old) female caribou (herd specific; requires baseline): Does not apply.
  - Yearling female mandible length: Does not apply.
  - Ratio of femur to hind foot length: Does not apply.
  - Two estimates of moose twinning rate in previous 5 years with no large population change: Does not apply.
  - [*Other metrics? Describe*]: None

Literature cited

Gasaway, W. C., R. O. Stephenson, J. L. Davis, P. E. K. Shepherd, AND O. E. Burris. 1983. Interrelationships of wolves, prey, and man in Interior Alaska. Wildlife Monographs 84.

Seaton, C. T. 2008. Units 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20F black bear. Pages 217–233 *in* P. Harper, editor. Black bear management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2004–30 June 2007. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Project 17.0. Juneau, Alaska.

Young, D. D., JR. 2009. Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C brown bear. Pages XX–XX *in* P. Harper, editor. Brown bear management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2006–30 June 2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Project 4.0. Juneau, Alaska, USA.

Young, D. D. 2009. Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C wolf. Pages XX–XX *in* P. Harper, editor. Wolf management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2005–30 June 2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Project 14.0. Juneau, Alaska, USA.

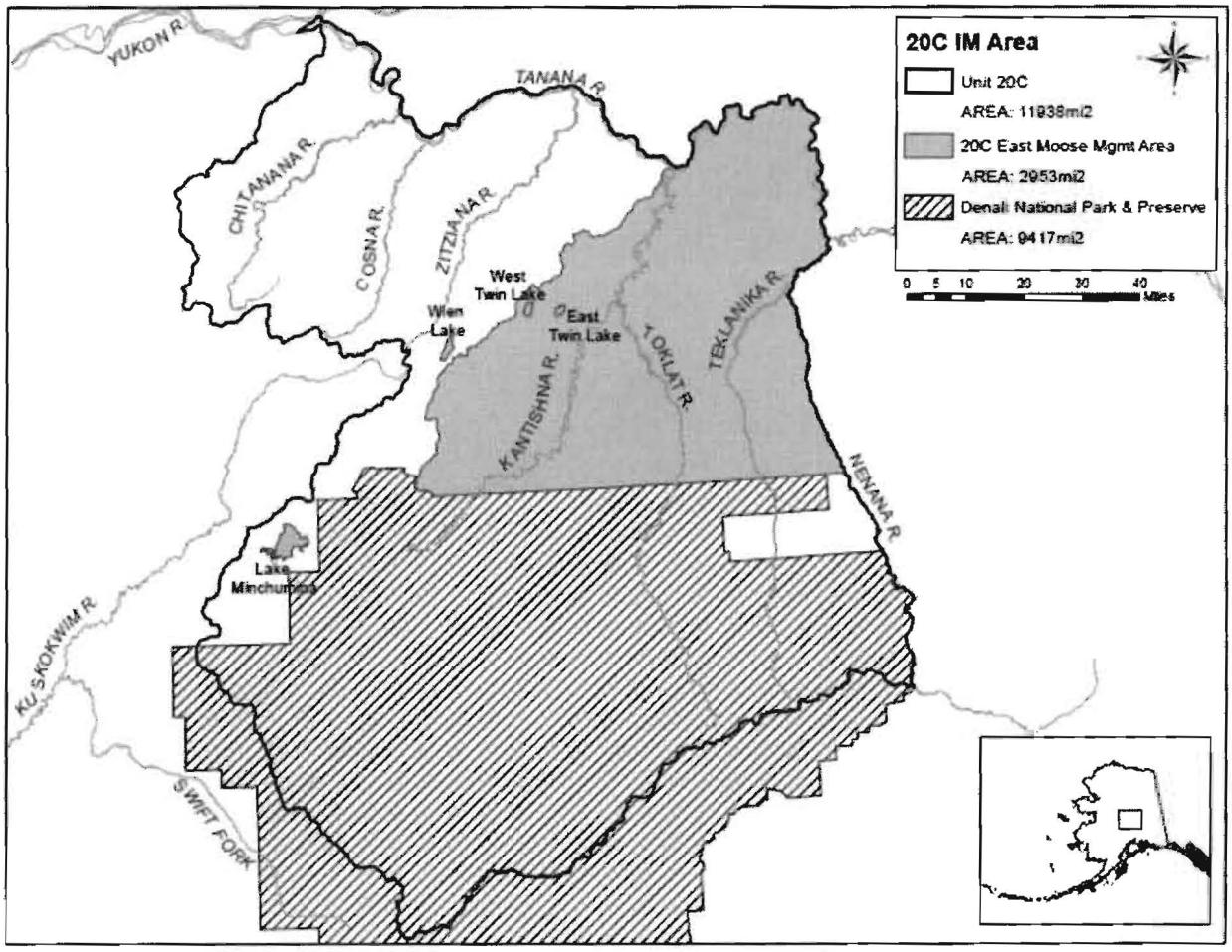

Figure 1. Location of proposed Unit 20C East moose management area (MMA) in northeast Game Management Unit 20C.

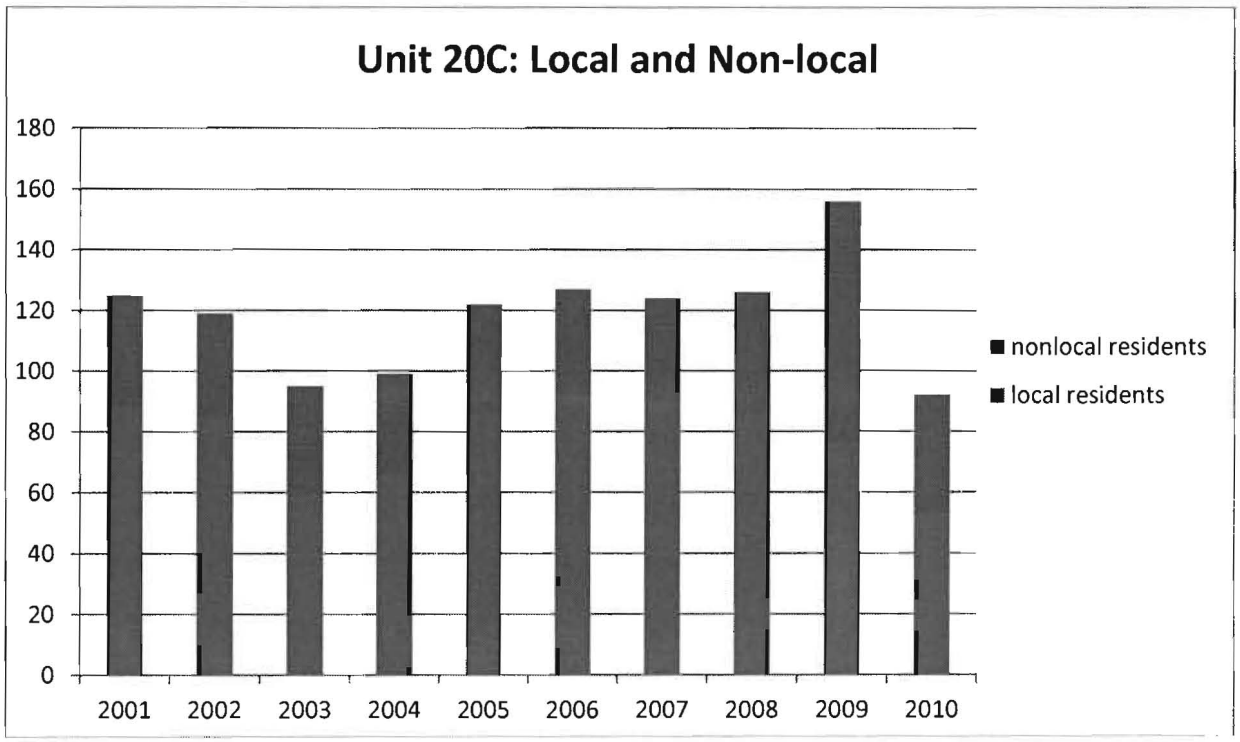

Figure 2. Local and non-local moose harvest in Unit 20C, 2001-2010.

APPENDIX D. Denali Borough Resolution

DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 12-02

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE REVIEW AND REPEAL INTENSE MANAGEMENT MANDATES DIRECTED AT THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND CENTERED UPON MOOSE IN UNIT 20A

WHEREAS, areas of the Denali Borough in unit 20A, which have traditionally sustained thriving population of moose, are now without herds, and recent wildfires have concentrated many remaining moose populations in smaller, accessible areas; and

WHEREAS, trails in the Denali Borough have received greatly increased pressure from these hunts, resulting in destruction, impassability, and regulation of many of these trails; and

WHEREAS, increased hunter pressure has resulted in a substantial negative environmental impact both from ATV damage to pristine wilderness ecosystems and large amounts of litter and trash; and

WHEREAS, hunts created for and by intense management dictates have created substantial trespass on private property; and

WHEREAS, general moose harvest opportunities have decreased for residents of the Denali Borough, causing the quality of life for residents of the Denali Borough to be adversely affected by the continuation of these practices; and

WHEREAS, overall health and viability of moose populations, and populations of other species which are inextricably tied to moose, are now in question due to hunts created specifically to meet mandates of intense management; and

WHEREAS, questions and concerns of both private individuals and the Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and resolutions of the Denali Borough Assembly, have gone largely untended by both managing officials of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game; and

WHEREAS, these issues have resulted in divisions between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the various interior Fish and Game Advisory Committees, bodies of local government, and private citizens groups and individuals, creating a lack of trust and inability to work together; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate origin of each of the above issues is found in the flawed concepts of intense management of moose for food production mandated by the Alaska Legislature, and the solution to these issues lies in the discontinuation of these same practices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Denali Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Senate Resources Committee to review the actions of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning mismanagement of wildlife resources within the Denali Borough, most specifically those which deal with the intense management of moose in unit 20A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Denali Borough Assembly requests the Alaska Legislature to repeal AS 16.05.255 (E-G).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Denali Borough Assembly requests the Mayor send copies of this resolution to the Governor of Alaska, The Alaska legislative representatives of the Denali Borough, all members of the Alaska Senate Resources Committee, all members of the Alaska Board of Game, all management authorities of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerned with the Denali Borough, all members of the Middle Nenana, Minto-Tanana, Delta, and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and any other groups or individuals he sees fit.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY this 11TH day of JANUARY, 2012.

Mayor David M Talerico

ATTEST:

Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
ABSENT: ASBURY

[

RC 134

Summary of Advisory Committee Comment on Antlerless Moose Proposals Board of Game Interior Region Meeting March 2 – March 11, 2012

Prepared by Boards Support Section

Prop. number	Hunt area by GMU	Committee name	Committee location	Committee action (comment number)
240	1C (Gustavus)	Juneau-Douglas	Subunit	Support (AC 21)
		Icy Straits	Unit	
		Upper Lynn Canal	Unit	
239	1C (Berner's Bay)	Juneau-Douglas	Subunit	Support (AC 21)
		Icy Straits	Unit	
		Upper Lynn Canal	Unit	
241	5A (Nunatak Bench)	Yakutat	Subunit	
242	6A	Copper River/PWS	Unit	Support (AC 3)
		PWS/Valdez	Unit	
		Whittier	Unit	
244	6C	Copper River/PWS	Subunit	Support (AC 3)
		PWS/Valdez	Unit	
		Whittier	Unit	
243	6B	Copper River/PWS	Unit	Support (AC 3)
		PWS/Valdez	Unit	
		Whittier	Unit	
247	7, 14C	Seward	Unit	
		Cooper Landing	Unit	
		Anchorage	Subunit	Support (RC 134
		Matanuska Valley	Unit	Support (AC 18)
		Susitna Valley	Unit	
245	13	Tok Cutoff/ Nabesna	Unit	Support (AC 10)
		Copper Basin	Unit	Support (AC 7)
		Denali	Unit	Support (AC 11)
		Paxson	Unit	
248	14C (JBER)	Anchorage	Subunit	Support (RC 134)
		Matanuska Valley	Unit	Support (AC 18)
		Susitna Valley	Unit	
250	14C (Birchwood MA)	Anchorage	Subunit	Support (RC 134)
		Matanuska Valley	Unit	Support (AC 18)
		Susitna Valley	Unit	
249	14C (Anch MA)	Anchorage	Subunit	Support (RC 134)
		Matanuska Valley	Unit	Support (AC 18)
		Susitna Valley	Unit	
251	14C (Ship Creek)	Anchorage	Subunit	Support (RC 134)
		Matanuska Valley	Unit	Support (AC 18)
		Susitna Valley	Unit	

Prop Number	Hunt area by GMU	Committee name	Committee Location	Committee action (comment number)
246	14A	Matanuska Valley Anchorage Susitna Valley	Subunit Unit Unit	Support w/AM (AC 18) Support (RC 134)
253	15C (Homer)	Central Peninsula Homer Seldovia Kenai/Soldotna	Subunit Unit Unit Unit	Support (AC 5) Support w/Am (AC 16) Support (AC 6)
252	15A (Skilak Loop)	Central Peninsula Homer Seldovia Kenai/Soldotna	Subunit Unit Unit Unit	Support (AC 5) Support (AC 6)
254	16B (Kalgan)	Tyonek Mt. Yenlo Susitna Valley	Subunit Unit Unit	
154	19D	Stony Holitna Central Kuskokwim McGrath	Subunit Unit Subunit	 Support (AC 20)
218	20B	Fairbanks Minto-Nenana Delta Middle Nenana Eagle Tanana-Rampart-Manley Upper Tanana/40 -Mile	Subunit Subunit Unit Unit Unit	Support w/AM (AC 14) Support (AC 23) Support (AC 9)
206	20A	Middle Nenana Minto/Nenana Fairbanks Delta Eagle Tanana-Rampart-Manley Upper Tanana/40 -Mile	Subunit Subunit Unit Unit	Oppose (RC 6) Support (AC 23) Support w/Am (AC 14) Support (AC 9)
201	20D	Delta Fairbanks Eagle Tanana-Rampart-Manly Minto/Nenana Middle Nenana Upper Tanana / 40-Mile	Subunit Unit Unit Unit Unit Unit Unit	Support (AC 9) Support (AC 14) Support (AC 12)

Tibbles, Kristy R (DFG)

From: Rabe, Dale L (DFG)
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 8:57 AM
To: Tibbles, Kristy R (DFG)
Subject: FW: Anchorage AC antlerless reauthorizations.

FYI

Dale Rabe, Deputy Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(907) 465-4192 (office)
(907) 465-6142 (fax)

From: DelFrate, Gino (DFG)
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:34 AM
To: Rabe, Dale L (DFG); Vincent-Lang, Douglas S (DFG); Bowen, Suzan D (DFG); Coltrane, Jessica A (DFG)
Cc: Van Daele, Lawrence J (DFG); Weber, Natalie E (DFG); Battle, David C (DFG)
Subject: Anchorage AC antlerless reauthorizations.

Good morning everyone.

The Anchorage AC met last night for their regularly scheduled meeting with a quorum of 8 members. One of the agenda items was to discuss their February 7 votes on the antlerless reauthorizations. This was prompted by Department staff after we learned they had opposed all antlerless hunts. The February 7 meeting was scheduled for discussion of fisheries issues and therefore DWC did not attend. The AC voted to accepted the recommendations of a Game subcommittee and from what I could tell very little discussion happened.

Dave Battle gave an overview of the hunts affected by this action and the consequences including the loss of the 2 disabled veteran hunts created in 2010. I spoke a little more on the need for antlerless hunts to help maintain the moose population within objectives and the delicate balance to have enough moose to provide hunting opportunity while keeping the number of moose at a level that would minimize vehicle accidents and nuisance animals. The consensus of the group was that they did not want to see the Department's management hampered. At least one of the sub committee's members conveyed his dislike of cow hunts in general but concluded with everyone else his desire to keep the hunts on the books. We talked a bit about the deep snow winter and the realization that the moose population would likely decline. We had already adjusted some of the permit hunt numbers and will continue to watch this winter's effects. An emergency order was always possible if we felt necessary.

The AC first decided to reconsider the proposals that dealt strictly with 14C hunts (proposals 247-251) and unanimously reversed their earlier decision. After a bit more discussion they included proposals 246, 252-254 (Mat Valley, Kenai peninsula and Kalgin Island) and unanimously reversed those votes as well.

I am planning to travel to the Board meeting tomorrow until region II proposals are dealt with.

In one other piece of business Jeff Selinger was requested to give an overview of the research and IM activities for the Kenai. He presented an overview and answered questions from the committee and the 2 members of the public in attendance.

I will be available by cell toda[redacted] and email if anyone needs to contact me.

RC135

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Meeting of March 2 - 11, 2012
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
re: Interior Region

On March 6, 2012 The Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee held their monthly meeting, in part, to reconsider proposals 264 - 254. Eight members attended the meeting; their votes and comments regarding each proposal are recorded below. Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff Gino Del Frate provided additional information concerning these proposals.

Proposal 246 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14A
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 247 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Units 7/14C Placer-20mile
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 248 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 249 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C, Anchorage Mgt. Area
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 250 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C, Birchwood and remainder
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 251 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C, Ship Creek
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 252 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15A, Skilak Loop
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 253 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15C, Homer
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

Proposal 254 **Action:** Support **8- Support 0 - Oppose 0 – Abstain**
Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 16B, Kalgin Island
Discussion: Support for reasons stated in proposal.

PC 136

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-XXX-BOG
Unit 24(B) Moose
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 9, 2012

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Unit 24(B). These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.125.

1. This is an experimental program that will have limited impact on the moose and wolf populations in Unit 24(B). It is designed primarily to reallocate moose from wolves to humans in the 1,360 square mile Upper Koyukuk Management Area (UKMA) and is expected to make only a small contribution to the intensive management (IM) moose harvest objective in Unit 24(B).

2. The Unit 24(B) IM moose population and harvest objectives have not been achieved. The IM objectives established by the board are for a population of 4,000–4,500 and an annual harvest of 150–250. In early winter 2010 the observable moose population size in Unit 24(B) was estimated at 1,800–3,400, based on extrapolation of population estimates from survey areas in the unit. Estimated annual harvest in Unit 24(B) was 82–109 moose.

3. Predation by bears and wolves is an important cause of the failure to achieve moose population and harvest objectives. Moose surveys in Unit 24(B) during spring 2008–2011 indicated high twinning rates (average 57 percent), thus good body condition. Fall composition surveys in Unit 24(B) indicated high productivity, with calf:cow ratios averaging 44 calves per 100 cows, but cohort survival was low with yearling bulls averaging 11 per 100 cows. These survey data and a predicted calving rate of 80 percent indicate more calves are lost during summer (due primarily to bear predation) than winter (due primarily to wolf predation).

4. Only wolf numbers will be reduced in the UKMA as a component of this predation control program because lethal bear removal is not deemed feasible at this time.

5. Nevertheless, a reduction of wolf predation within the UKMA can reasonably be expected to make progress towards achieving the Unit 24(B) IM objectives. Modeling of the current moose abundance in the UKMA using estimated abundance of 45–55 wolves, 75 black bears, 25 grizzly bears, 405 (±97) moose, and a harvest of 20 moose annually, indicated that moose abundance should slowly increase in response to wolf control that increases calf and yearling moose survival. Wolf control alone likely will result in a positive response in moose abundance after 5 winters of control, including reallocation of some surviving moose to harvest.

6. Reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible utilizing recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information. Based on survey results indicating wolf predation is an important source of mortality, reducing wolves in a small geographic area will likely result in increased moose survival and additional animals available for hunter harvest.

7. Reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns. The UKMA was selected based on land ownership status (minimizing federal lands), proximity to traditional moose hunting areas for the villages of Allakaket and Alatna (maximizing inclusion of navigable river corridors), and habitat suitability. Within the UKMA, 125 square miles (9.2 percent) is federal land (BLM/USFWS), 576 square miles (42.3 percent) is Alaska Native corporation land, 659 square miles (48.4 percent) is State of Alaska lands.

8. Department employees may conduct aerial, land and shoot, or ground based lethal removal of wolves using state owned, privately owned, or chartered equipment, including helicopters, under AS 16.05.783.

Vote: _____
March 9, 2012
Fairbanks, Alaska

_____
Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

PC137

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-XXX-BOG

Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 9, 2012

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff and residents and users of moose in Unit 19A. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108, in the Unit 19A predation control implementation plan in 5 AAC 92.125, and in Board of Game supplemental Findings 2009-180-BOG.

1. The moose population size, currently estimated to be 2,791-5,782 moose, is less than the population objective of 7,600-9,300 moose (derived from the combined Units 19A and 19B objective based on proportionate area). The population objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.

2. The Unit 19A moose harvestable surplus, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), there is no harvestable surplus in eastern Unit 19A (upstream from and excluding the George River drainage), excluding the Lime Village Management Area. In western Unit 19A (downstream from and including the George River drainage), the harvestable surplus is 60 bulls. This is less than the harvest objective of 400-550 moose (also based on proportionate area). The harvest objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.

3. The Unit 19A moose population is, thus, depleted and reduced in productivity, which has already resulted in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.

4. Enhancement of abundance or productivity is feasibly achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.

5. The Board has repeatedly, since 2002, been required to significantly reduce the taking of moose in Unit 19A 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.

6. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf, black bear, and brown bear predation has been an important cause of mortality in the population, to the extent that the population is unlikely to recover, and objectives are unlikely to be achieved, in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.

7. The Department may reduce the black bear and brown bear populations using department employees to conduct aerial, land and shoot, and/or ground based lethal black bear and brown bear removal of any sex and age of black bear and brown bear using state owned, privately owned, or chartered equipment, including helicopters under AS1605.783

8. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achievement of the population and harvest objectives.

Vote:_____
March 9, 2012
Fairbanks, Alaska

Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

RC138

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-XX-BOG
Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd)
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 4, 2012

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff; Alaska residents and users of caribou in Subunits 9B, 17B, 17C, 19A, and 19B. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108.

1. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B 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 30,000 - 80,000 caribou and an intensive management harvest objective of 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually for the MCH.

2. The most recent minimum population size estimate for the MCH indicates that the herd contained between 30,000 and 40,000 caribou in 2008, which is at the lower limit of the intensive management population objective of 30,000 - 80,000 caribou.

3. The harvestable surplus of MCH caribou in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), is currently estimated to be 1,050 caribou annually, which is less than intensive management harvest objective established by the Board of 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually.

4. The cause of the decline of the MCH caribou population in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B is not known with certainty but was likely due to weather-related and/or density-dependent factors that resulted in range limitations and disease that caused low pregnancy, low calf production and low calf survival. The poor recruitment also affected a shift in the population's age structure toward older-aged individuals that was not conducive for population growth. The density-dependent factors affecting population growth have become less important in limiting population growth as the number of MCH has declined to 15% of peak numbers. Nutritional indices (pregnancy rates, calf weights, and the prevalence of disease) have improved, and the population's age should no longer be skewed to older animals.

5. The importance of predation in affecting population growth harvest has increased the current low population size. The poor survival of calves and calf recruitment currently observed can be reasonably attributed to the influence of predation on caribou calves. A caribou calf mortality study conducted in May and June 2011 found that predation by bears and wolves accounted for 89% of the of calves that died between birth and 1 month of age. Fall calf:cow ratios in the MCH have averaged 22 calves:100 cows since 2005.

6. The low MCH caribou calf recruitment in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B has prevented recovery of the bull:cow ratio to objectives (3-year average bull:cow ratio = 19 bulls:100 cows between 2009 and 2011), a decrease in the number of harvestable caribou, a complete closure of the nonresident season (closed in 2009), and season and bag-limit restrictions for resident hunters. The reduced recruitment and low bull numbers have resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.

7. The intensive management harvest objectives for the MCH in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B will not be achieved in the near future unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment.

8. Increases in caribou recruitment and abundance in the MCH are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.

9. The harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf and brown bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted. Population objectives are currently being met, however, low recruitment precludes this population from meeting harvest objectives.

10. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: X-X-X
March 4, 2012
Fairbanks, Alaska

Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

RC 139

BOG Resolution in support of Outdoor Heritage Foundation Funding

Whereas the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska (OHFA) is a leading provider of conservation and outdoor education programs produced in concert with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G); and

Whereas the OHFA mission is to preserve Alaska's outdoor traditions and the North American Model for Wildlife Management through the ADF&G; and

Whereas the scientific management of wildlife by the ADF&G creates support for those outdoor traditions which in turn provide financial support to the ADF&G; and

Whereas the idea of wildlife management under sustained yield guidelines as required in Alaska's constitution is no longer well understood by an increasingly urbanized culture; and

Whereas sustained yield management is still of vital importance in many areas of Alaska where a subsistence economy still exists; and

Whereas the OHFA acting as the official foundation for the ADF&G provides a wide scope of outdoor education classes intended to foster understanding and support for the North American Model and the attendant traditions of management and wildlife uses so important throughout Alaska; and

Whereas the OHFA produces demonstrated, quantifiable results for wildlife and the sustaining of Alaska's outdoor traditions; and

Whereas many national leaders involved in the health care industry are now saying that Americans, and especially children, need to get back outside where they may lead healthier active lifestyles; and

Whereas state funding accrues to many programs and projects, a solid case may be made for adding the OHFA to that list so that its efforts may be ongoing producing positive results for wildlife and Alaskans;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the legislature to assist the worthy goals of the OHFA by providing funding to assist them in sustaining and expanding their education programs; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Legislature invest that funding in the OHFA Endowment Account so that present and future generations of Alaskans may benefit from that investment of public finances.

pg 154

RC 140

Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Committee
Timeline Recommendation

1. February / March 2012 BOF and BOG Meetings:
    a. Under Miscellaneous Business, committee members will recommend scheduling a joint board meeting.
    b. Each Board will review, discuss, and vote on recommendations presented by the Joint Board Committee members.
    c. If meeting is agreed upon, the committee will recommend opening the Call for Proposals for all of the Joint Board Regulations (5 AAC Chapters 96, 97, and 99). The committee chose to exclude Chapter 98 (Areas of Jurisdiction of Antlerless Moose Seasons) because it is a BOG regulation.
    d. Date (duration) and Meeting Location: The proposed dates for the joint board meeting will either follow or precede the BOF Work Session, scheduled for October 9-10, 2013 in Girdwood. The location will be Anchorage rather than Girdwood.
2. March, 2012: The Call for Proposals will be issued following approval by the boards.
3. April, 2012: Boards Support will submit bid and secure meeting venue.
4. April - May 2012: Executive Directors for each Board will work with Department of Fish and Game Leadership to further discuss budget impacts and numerous details in preparation for a Joint Board Meeting.
5. May 2012: Joint Board Committee meeting to be scheduled for the purpose of discussing and providing input on proposed regulatory changes to the uniform rules of operation (5 AAC 96.060) for advisory committee regulations, particularly those that were of issue at the May 13, 2011 Joint Board meeting.
6. May – July, 2012: Boards Support, other department staff, and committee members to develop/finalize proposal language for advisory committee review in the fall.
7. August – November, 2012: Boards Support staff to circulate proposed language and solicit advisory committee input on changes to AC Uniform Rules.
8. November 30, 2012: Recommended proposal deadline which provides advisory committees opportunity to participle since many committees have limited meetings.
9. December 2012: Proposal book preparation.
10. January 2013: Proposal book printing and posting on website.
11. January – October 2013: Advisory Committee and public review period.
12. April – September 2013: ADF&G preparation for developing comments and reports.
13. September/October, 2013: Public Comment Deadline (3 weeks prior to meeting start date).
14. October 2013: Proposed Joint Board Meeting in Anchorage (following or preceding the BOF Work Session).

Prepared by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section: 2/14/12

Regulations Under Joint Board Authority

Chapter 96 – Local F&G Advisory Committees & Regional Councils

Article 1: Advisory Committee Regulations (Committee makeup & process)

Article 2: Regional F&G Councils (No longer used, but left in regulation)

Article 3: Administration of Local F&G Committees (Board assistance & attendance at meetings.)

Article 4: Administration of Regional F&G Councils

Article 5: Adoption of F&G Regulations:

- Meetings
- Procedures for developing regulation
- Joint Board Petition Policy
- Subsistence proposal Policy

Chapter 97 – Advisory Committee Closures

Article 1: Areas of Jurisdiction (for advisory committees)

Article 2: Advisory committee emergency closures

~~**Chapter 98 – Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Seasons**~~

~~Article 1: Areas of jurisdiction of antlerless moose seasons~~

Chapter 99 – Subsistence Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping

- **Subsistence Uses**
  - Boards of Fisheries subsistence finding standards
  - Boards of fisheries and game subsistence procedures
  - Joint Board non-subsistence areas
  - Activities permitted in a nonsubsistence area
  - Definition
  - Customary and traditional uses of game populations
  - Eligibility for subsistence and general hunts

Prepared by ADF&G Boards Support Section
November, 2011

Joint Board of Fisheries and Game Committee Meeting
February 3, 2012
Discussion of Topics of Interest for Joint Board Meeting

Meeting Summary

A committee of the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game met by teleconference on February 3, 2012 for the purpose of discussing topics of interest for a Joint Board meeting. The full committee was present for the discussion; those committee members included: Cliff Judkins and Teresa Sager Albaugh from the Board of Game, and Mike Smith, and Tom Kluberton from the Board of Fisheries. Listen in sites for the public were provided at Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

The members reviewed the recent activities by the committee and each board since the last Joint Board committee meeting on November 21, 2011. The committee members discussed whether there is a need for the Joint Board to meet more frequently and whether there is a need for the Joint Board to meet at regularly scheduled intervals (similar to the individual boards' schedules/cycles) which may provide better opportunity for the public to submit regulatory changes. Board members also expressed concern regarding the costs associated with more frequent Joint Board meetings. It was suggested that the topic of more frequent and/or regularly scheduled joint board meetings be addressed by the Joint Board when it meets.

The members discussed the preliminary solicitation process that was agreed upon at the November committee meeting; they concluded that it is not necessary to carry out this step in the process. Instead, the committee agreed to recommend to each board that the Joint Board open the Call for Proposals for all of the Joint Board Regulations (5 AAC Chapters 96, 97 and 99). The committee chose to exclude Chapter 98 (Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Seasons) because it applies only to the Board of Game and can be addressed in the normal Board of Game cycle or potentially through agenda change requests or emergency petitions to the Board of Game.

Committee members discussed a process for involving advisory committee input for the development of the proposal/s concerning 5 AAC 96.060 (Uniform Rules of Operation) which was a main concern at the May 13, 2011 meeting. The committee requested Boards Support staff to work with the advisory committees to solicit their input once the Call for Proposals is issued. The committee also reviewed the original timeline proposed for scheduling a Joint Board meeting (including the date for issuing the Call for proposals, the proposal deadline, and other pertinent steps that need to occur for a Joint Board meeting to take place) and requested the executive directors to make the necessary revisions to the timeline based on the results of this meeting. The committee members will then present the updated timeline to each of the boards for review with special consideration to a proposal deadline that will give the public and advisory committees ample time to submit proposals.

RC 141

Amended language to the Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy (*Policy 2011-194-BOG.)*

Page 6, last paragraph:

The Board intends **that with the exception of baiting,** the above listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. **The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state, and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.**