

Copper Basin Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2013

Members Present: Alysia White, Nick Jackson, Jim Odden, Chuck McMahan, Karen Linnell, Mel Matthews, David Bruss, Mike Roscovius, Dave Sarafin

Members Absent Excused: Don Horrell, Bruce Dickerson, Loren Bell, Roy Ewan, Brad Henspeter, James Marchini, Elmer Marshall

Public Present: John Kowalski, John Kunik, Joel Elrod, Dale John, Liana Charley John, Roy Ewan, Michelle Anderson, Kathryn Martin, Katherine McConkey

Elections were held with the following members elected for three year seats: Tazlina – Elmer Marshall; Chitina – David Bruss; Tolsona – Bruce Dickerson; Gakona/Gulkana – Christopher Gene; Copper Center – Brad Henspeter. Glennallen was a one year seat - Dale John; Alternates elected for one year seats – Leif Sorlie and Katherine McConkey

David Bruss was elected to finish Mel Matthews Vice Chair term, as Mel Matthews resigned from the committee.

Board of Game Central Region proposal comments:

Glennallen Area – Units 11 and 13

PROPOSAL NO. 62 **ACTION: 11-0 Support**
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 13.
DISCUSSION: With the moose numbers coming up in much of the Unit, the moose numbers are getting closer to the population objectives. This goes in line with what our committee proposed in the next proposal. This was approved so that Proposal 63 could be utilized.

PROPOSAL NO. 63 **ACTION: 11-0 Support**
DESCRIPTION: Modify the cow moose drawing hunt for Unit 13.
DISCUSSION: This proposal is from Copper Basin AC. Right now we have a pretty healthy population the way it is, and pretty healthy harvest and people are pretty happy the way that it is. The committee proposed the range of population and set the harvest goals to what they are right now with a bit of a range. This proposal ties into the other two proposals that were submitted. The harvest range (if you took only bulls) would bring too many bulls, but with the number of moose available, if you harvest some cows, that range would still be acceptable and provide for a healthy population of moose overall. This was submitted to provide for harvest opportunity.

PROPOSAL NO. 64 **ACTION: 0-11 Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Open a youth hunt for moose in Unit 13A.
DISCUSSION: Youth already have plenty of opportunity to go hunting with their parents.

PROPOSAL NO. 65 **ACTION: 11-0 Support**
DESCRIPTION: Modify the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest Hunt in Units 11, 12 and 13.

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DISCUSSION: The amount of scrutiny Ahtna had to go through in order to qualify for a community hunt needs to be equally applied to others who apply for this hunt. Each group needs to meet the eight criteria.

PROPOSAL NO. 66

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the community subsistence harvest hunt and other changes.

DISCUSSION: We have a hunt that is trying to work. We are not supportive of creating corridors. The community hunt, while it is not perfect, is working.

PROPOSAL NO. 67

ACTION: 0-11 Opposed

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the community subsistence harvest hunt and conditions and establish a weighted subsistence drawing hunt.

DISCUSSION: Same discussion as Proposal 66. This doesn't specify what they mean by "weighted".

PROPOSAL NO. 68

ACTION: 3-7-1 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Increase the number of people per group who can apply for the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt.

DISCUSSION: If the number of the group is increased, it may reduce the number of groups applying. Concern of actually ending up with more people was expressed. Should be a higher number with so many that close to 50.

PROPOSAL NO. 69

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Increase the any bull quota for the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt.

DISCUSSION: The delegation of the number set for each sub-unit is up to the department. They already have the ability to lower the quota in the issuing of permits and in their announcements. This simply allows for the flexibility in management of the moose, if there is a harvestable surplus to increase opportunity.

PROPOSAL NO. 70

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Establish general harvest moose hunts for nonresidents in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: There are not enough moose for all the people in the state in Unit 13. There's already opportunity to regulate this. This would increase hunting pressure dramatically.

PROPOSAL NO. 71

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Establish a nonresident moose hunt in Unit 13B; close the other Unit 13 subunits to nonresident hunting.

DISCUSSION: The drawing hunts provide enough opportunity and can be regulated. They can also target where there are a lot of bulls. This should not include the Denali Highway.

PROPOSAL NO. 72

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the exclusive hunting restriction for Tier I caribou in Unit 13.

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DISCUSSION: The intent was to limit the caribou hunting pressure, but it has instead increased the number of moose hunters in the unit. It might work if they said they can't hunt caribou anywhere else.

PROPOSAL NO. 73

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the exclusive hunting restriction for Tier I caribou in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 72.

PROPOSAL NO. 74

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Allow the taking of brown bear over registered black bear bait stations in Unit 13D.

AMENDMENTS: All current meat salvage retention for black bear applied to brown bear; the intention to apply to residents only 11-0 Support

DISCUSSION: This would be for registered black bear stations that are already in place. Over the last several years, there have been lots of proposals regarding this issue. The proponent spoke to her proposal that she tried to incorporate the best of those various proposals. This will address habitual problem bears (identified over the last three years). This is a small area with a larger concentration of bears and a lower number of moose. Salvage of the meat could also be a requirement.

PROPOSAL NO. 75

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open Unit 13 to brown bear baiting.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 74.

PROPOSAL NO. 76

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open Unit 13D to brown bear baiting.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 74.

PROPOSAL NO. 77

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open Unit 13 to brown bear baiting.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 74.

PROPOSAL NO. 78

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open Unit 13D to brown and black bear baiting.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 74.

PROPOSAL NO. 79

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Exclude National Park Service lands from brown bear tag fee exemptions.

DISCUSSION: Tag fee exemption have been in place for many years and very few bears are taken in the parks.

PROPOSAL NO. 80

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify the moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 13B.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on their action on Proposal 81.

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PROPOSAL NO. 81

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Modify the moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: There was a request that the committee take a look at these numbers and this proposal is in response to that request. Since none of the objectives have ever been met in some areas in particular and we also want to have triggers to shut down predator control and be more realistic with what is considered healthy and sustainable populations, which can be adjusted later as needed.

PROPOSAL NO. 82

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify the wolf population objective under intensive management for Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action due to their action on Proposal 83.

PROPOSAL NO. 83

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Modify the intensive management plan for Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: This, in conjunction with Proposal 81, sets triggers for wolf control, intensive management and the moose populations. It was never meant to be a stand alone proposal. Also Proposal 63 addresses that some of those moose anticipated would be cow moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 84

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Establish a predator control program in Units 11 and 12.

DISCUSSION: This will help the Mentasta Caribou herd to recover. Their range is not as large of an area.

PROPOSAL NO. 85

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Establish a predator control plan in Unit 11.

DISCUSSION: This would be beneficial for caribou. This will provide another management tool.

PROPOSAL NO. 86

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Close an area near Denali National Park in Unit 13 to taking wolves.

DISCUSSION: There is a large enough area for the wolves.

PROPOSAL NO. 87

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of off-road vehicles for elderly and/or disabled to hunt caribou in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: The board lacks authority. You can hunt caribou off the Denali Highway.

PROPOSAL NO. 88

ACTION: 7-0 4 Supported

DESCRIPTION: Modify the hunting season open date and bag limit for Ptarmigan in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: Concern of the longer season may wipe out the population. Another member thinks its great. In March, everyone is going to the road system. Grouse seem to cycle in numbers, but ptarmigan not as much. There seem to be a lot less around Eureka.

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PROPOSAL NO. 89

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Establish and muzzleloader and archery hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 13A.

DISCUSSION: This would replace the general hunt and there are a lot of pressure on those sheep by people hunting caribou. They could use the muzzleloader in the general hunt.

PROPOSAL NO. 90

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Modify the resident sheep hunt and bag limit for Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: This would get rid of the drawing that is working good.

PROPOSAL NO. 91

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Change the Dall sheep bag limit to full curl, convert the draw hunts to general hunts for Units 13 and 14A, and limit nonresident allocation.

DISCUSSION: Same discussion as Proposal and too many issues on one proposal. Currently, you don't have to shoot a full curl on the drawing hunts. This would be open to more people. This would also get rid of the drawing that is working.

PROPOSAL NO. 92

ACTION: 6-4-1 Support

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit to full curl in Units 14A and 13D.

DISCUSSION: Prefer the regulations go back to full curl. Concern of harvesting more sheep if there is "any ram" regulations in place. Prefer a drawing hunt for a full curl ram. The committee also mentioned they don't really have a lot of information on GMU 14A. This doesn't say if the drawing hunt stays in place.

Regional and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL NO. 109

ACTION: 0-9-2 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Open resident hunting seasons ten days before nonresident seasons, allocate 90 percent of drawing permits to residents; remove guide requirements, and increase tag and permit fees for Central/Southwest Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The board lacks authority and this is too general.

PROPOSAL NO. 110

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for the Central/Southwest Region Units

DISCUSSION: Residents already have a jump start on non-residents because they live here. Non-residents have to have a guide. There is a difference in the length of the hair on the cape in early August.

PROPOSAL NO. 111

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Central/Southwest Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on Proposal 110.

PROPOSAL NO. 112

ACTION: No action

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DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep seasons five days before nonresident seasons for Central/Southwest Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on Proposal 110.

PROPOSAL NO. 113

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open resident sheep hunting seasons five days before nonresident seasons for the Central/Southwest Region.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on Proposal 110.

PROPOSAL NO. 114

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open resident hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Central/Southwest Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on Proposal 109.

PROPOSAL NO. 115

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Limit sheep drawing permits to ten percent for nonresidents for Central/Southwest Regions.

DISCUSSION: Prefer to leave the regulations alone and this is too broad.

PROPOSAL NO. 116

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Limit drawing permits to ten percent for nonresidents for Central/Southwest Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on Proposal 115.

PROPOSAL NO. 117

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents for Central/Southwest Region hunts and exclude nonresidents in hunts with less than ten permits

DISCUSSION: The committee took no action based on Proposal 115.

PROPOSAL NO. 118

ACTION: 10-1 Support

DESCRIPTION: Develop a permit allocation formula for second degree of kindred hunters in Units 10, 13, and 14.

DISCUSSION: This may be a problem with lack of enforcement with the second degree of kindred drawing permits. There is no verification and a person just has to apply online and check a box that states they have a second degree of kindred taking them hunting.

PROPOSAL NO. 119

ACTION: 0 – 11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Open coyote hunting year round in the Central/Southwest Region Units.

DISCUSSION: This would create a bad taste. This would be like redesignating them as a varmint. There is a sufficient length of season for harvest opportunities.

PROPOSAL NO. 120

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Close the taking of coyotes on National Park Service lands during summer months and reduce the bag limit in the Central/Southwest Region.

DISCUSSION: It is already closed during the summer. The seasons are fine the way they are.

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PROPOSAL NO. 121

ACTION: 0-11 Oppose

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the taking of wolves March through November in the Central / Southwest Region.

DISCUSSION: Current regulations are fine.

PROPOSAL NO. 122

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the brown bear tag fees exemption for the Central/Southwest Region.

DISCUSSION: This is working well.

Statewide

PROPOSAL NO. 126

ACTION: 11-0 Support

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit some pack animals from being used for big game hunting.

DISCUSSION: We want to protect the natural resources and protect against the spread of domestic disease.

Chuck mentioned that the Call for federal subsistence wildlife proposals has been sent out.

Sherry mentioned the FSB MOU for input from the AC.

Chuck talked to the AC about the National Public Parks compendium. The advisory committee will draft a letter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.