

RC 5

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF GAME

Members of the Board of Game, I am Don Horrell a life long Alaska resident with fifty plus years as a sport and subsistence hunter and trapper of Unit 13. I have been a member of the Copper Basin Advisory Committee since 1977 and served in the past as the chairman for twenty years. I have also been a member of the Subsistence Resource Commission since 1985, for the Wrangell's.

The SRC held a meeting in early March in Mentasta and one of the main topics was the Copper Basin Community hunt. The commission's recommendation is to support a modified version that would retain the community subsistence hunt for moose in combination with the establishment of a Tier 11 moose season. The community hunt would retain the enforcement of the existing hunt conditions except that the community hunt participants who qualify under the Tier 11 rules would be eligible for any bull with a quota of 150 moose. The other community group members who do not qualify under Tier 11 rules would have to hunt under the general season rules of spike fork, 50 inch or four brow tines.

The biggest concern for all of us is the growing number of community groups, 73 groups for the 2016 season. Our second recommendation is to maybe eliminate the requirement that all people who participate in the community hunt for caribou must also hunt moose only in the community hunt area. Our biggest concern is the protection of our moose; maybe by eliminating this requirement some groups would hunt moose in their home game units.

I have participated in the community hunts helping friends and family both natives and non-natives, this hunt work if everyone would follow the rules and requirements.

This year the community group coordinators have had since the end of moose season September 20th till the end of February (five months) to sent in their reports to the department. From what I have heard only fourteen reports were sent in even though the department has sent out requests. This hunt is special and I know how hard the board, the department and even our advisory communities have put the hours into this hunt. I do not see that it is the department's job to be sending out requests, if these groups cannot spend the time to send in reports they should be dropped from the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and your time coming to our area.

Don Horrell

