



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Central/Southwest

1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6736
Main: 907.861.2100
Fax: 907.861.2121

October 11, 2016

An Agenda Change Request (ACR) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.530(a) by creating a management area extending two miles each side to the new road in Units 20B and 20F from Manley to the Yukon River.

With respect to the board's ACR acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- (A) The department is unaware of any conservation concerns that require immediate board action to address a biological concern or a loss of hunting opportunity in Units 20B and 20F.
- (B) The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- (C) The department does not anticipate any conservation concerns arising from the change in access created by the new road that should be addressed with a change of the regulations.

The development of the new 40-mile road extending from Manley Hot Spring to the Yukon River upstream of Tanana does increase access to the area for people using highway vehicles. However, motorized access into this area has been available on the numerous mining roads that have existed in the area for many years. The first 18 miles of the new road follows an existing mining road that is used by miners and hunters. Many trails extend from the improved 18-mile portion of this road into the area where the new road was pioneered. In addition, much of the land along the new road is private corporation land and access into it can be denied by the landowner.

Hunting has occurred in this area for many years and is managed with seasons and bag limits for all species. It is unclear in the ACR what the intended hunting regulations would be within the management area that would be created and for what species the regulations are intended.

The first 12 miles of the road are in Unit 20B which has a healthy population of approximately 12,000 moose. The last 28 miles of road are in Unit 20F, which is a low density moose population. It is likely that the bull:cow ratio is high in Unit 20F, much like surrounding low density Units 20C and 21C. The average harvest in this portion of Unit 20F prior to construction of this road was 17 moose per year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Dale".

Bruce Dale, Director

Division of Wildlife Conservation