Findings for the Alaska Board of Game 2006-166-BOG

Unit 13 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings May 14, 2006

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and users of moose in Unit 13. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and in the Unit 13 predation control implementation plan in 5 AAC 92.125.

- 1. The moose population size, currently estimated to be 13,020 moose, is less than the population objective of 17,600-21,900 moose (derived by combining the objectives for all subunits). The population objective has not been achieved for at least the last 10 years.
- 2. The Unit 13 moose harvestable surplus, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), currently estimated at 520-650 bulls, is less than the harvest objective of 1,050-2,180 (also combined subunit objectives). The harvest objective has not been achieved for at least the last 13 years.
- 3. The Unit 13 moose population is depleted, reduced in productivity, and has already resulted in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.
- 4. Increase in abundance and productivity is achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
- 5. The Board has repeatedly, since 1999, been required to significantly reduce the taking of moose in Unit 13 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 and brown bear predation have been important causes 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. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to achieve the population and harvest objectives.

Vote: 6-0-1

May 14, 2006

Anchorage, Alaska

Mike Fleagle, Chairman

Alaska Board of Game