## Findings for the Alaska Board of Game 2006-167-BOG

## Unit 16 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 16B. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and in the Unit 16 predation control implementation plan in 5 AAC 92.125.

1. The moose population size, currently estimated to be 3193-3951 moose, is less than the population objective of 6,500-7,500 moose. The population objective has not been achieved for at least the last 9 years.

2. The Unit 16B moose harvestable surplus, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), currently estimated at 140 bulls, is less than the harvest objective of 310-600 moose. The harvest objective has not been achieved for at least the last 6 years.

3. The Unit 16B moose population is, thus, depleted and reduced in productivity, which has 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 techniques of predator control.

5. The Board has repeatedly, since 1990, been required to significantly reduce the taking of moose in Unit 16B 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 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: <u>6-0-1</u> May 14, 2006 Anchorage, Alaska

Mike Fleagle, Chairman Alaska Board of Game