

**Findings of the Board of Game
2003-141-BOG**

**Request for Commissioner's Finding Regarding Same-Day-Airborne
Wolf Hunting in Game Management Unit 13**

Whereas: The moose population in Unit 13 continues to decline below the population objective of 17,600-21,900 and the harvest objective of 1,050-2,180 as established at 5 AAC 92.108;

and Whereas: The Board of Game approved a wolf predation control plan (attached) in 1999 for subunits 13A, B, and E and established the following moose management objectives:

Unit 13A	1.0 cow per square mile	25 calves per 100 cows
Unit 13B	1.2 cows per square mile	30 calves per 100 cows
Unit 13E	0.9 cows per square mile	30 calves per 100 cows

and Whereas: The wolf population in Unit 13 (estimated at approximately 350-430) is well above the spring population objective of 100 wolves within the predation control plan area and is contributing to the decline of the moose population;

and Whereas: Currently authorized harvest methods and hunter/trapper activity have been unable to reduce the wolf population to achieve management objectives;

and Whereas: The Board of Game concluded there is a need to reduce wolf numbers so there will be more moose available for human consumptive use;

and Whereas: The Board of Game believes the following criteria are appropriate for this predator management program:

1. **Effective:** The program must be able to achieve management objectives. Any techniques used must have a high probability of success or the Department should not proceed.
2. **Efficient:** The program must be implemented and completed within a preset time period with the widest use of resources possible considering weather conditions and calving activities.
3. **Affordable:** The program must be conducted within the resources available, including personnel, training, experience, and money.

4. Humane: Predation control should be conducted as humanely as possible.

and Whereas: The Board of Game believes it is necessary, efficient, and economical to allow the public to use land-and-shoot methods to further reduce the Unit 13 wolf population within the confines of the implementation plan;

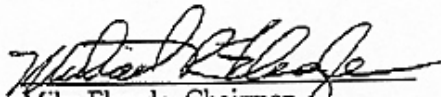
and Whereas: The Board of Game is concerned that, if public land-and-shoot hunting of wolves is implemented, it be conducted in a manner which complies with federal regulations.

Therefore, the Board of Game hereby requests that:

1. The Commissioner find that wolf predation is an important factor contributing to the low, declining moose populations in GMUs 13(A), 13(B), and 13(E), such that the Board's population and harvest objectives are not being met; and
2. The Commissioner find that a reduction of wolf predation can reasonably be expected to result in aiding increases in, or arresting the declines of the moose populations in GMUs 13(A), 13(B), and 13(E); and
3. The Commissioner determine that same-day airborne hunting of wolves, including land-and-shoot hunting, is necessary to accomplish the game management program authorized by the Board of Game at 5 AAC 92.125 (5).

Vote: 6-0

Adopted this 14th day of March, 2003
Anchorage, Alaska


Mike Fleagle, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game