

## ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS

### Intensive Management for Unit 19D(east)

96-101-BOG

1. The Board of Game considered the status of moose, wolf and bear populations in Unit 19D(east) at its March, 1995, meeting. At that time, the Board found that the moose population was depleted and its productivity reduced. The Board found that intensive management was appropriate for this area and directed the department to prepare an implementation plan to reduce wolf numbers for consideration by the Board at its October, 1995, meeting. The remainder of the Alaska Board of Game Findings, Intensive Management for Unit 19D(east), 95-86-BOG are reaffirmed, and incorporated by reference.

2. At its October, 1995, meeting the Board of Game considered testimony from the public and the department on the implementation plan proposed by the department. Based on that testimony, and in consideration of the requirements of AS 16.05.255 and 5 AAC 92.110, the Board authorized the Commissioner to reduce the wolf population in Unit 19D(east) to not less than 50 wolves, using whatever methods he deemed appropriate, safe, humane and efficient. In recognition of the Governor's decision to suspend wolf control until a study of the management of predators and prey in Alaska is completed by the National Academy of Sciences, the Board set the effective date for this authorization at July 1, 1997.

3. At its March, 1996, meeting the Board of Game receive a petition from the Tanana Chiefs' Conference on behalf of the people of the upper Kuskokwim requesting the Board amend the regulations authorizing wolf control in Unit 19D(east) to allow control efforts to begin October 1, 1996. The petition cited continuing hardship on the residents on Unit 19D(east) as a result of low and declining moose populations.

4. Testimony by the department regarding the results of a February, 1996, moose census confirmed the moose population density in Unit 19D(east) was low, averaging 0.4 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>, and that the moose:wolf ratio was 12:1.

5. The Board found that the situation in Unit 19D(east) warranted consideration. The Commissioner informed the Board that the Governor's prior decision to suspend action pending completion of the NAS study would not necessarily prevent the department from taking action at an earlier date if authorized by the Board.

6. In consideration of the foregoing, the Board found it appropriate to revise the effective date for the Unit 19D(east) wolf control program to July 1, 1996.

DATE: April 18, 1996  
Juneau, Alaska

  
Larry Holmes, Chair

VOTE: 6 Favor 0 Oppose 1 Absent