

**Board of Game Subsistence GMU 11 & 13 Moose & Caribou
October 7-9, 2006**

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Sherry Wright

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

PROPOSAL 1

ACTION: Tabled to March meeting

DESCRIPTION: Revisit amount necessary for subsistence for moose and caribou in Units 11 and 13.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed the customary and traditional (C&T) use of moose and caribou in the area and the impact to the many subsistence users if the current amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) is changed. During the deliberation, the board discussed a draft board finding which addresses each of the eight criteria for determining the C&T pattern of use for caribou and moose. The finding was amended to apply only to Unit 13 and will be finalized for approval at the Spring, 2007 board meeting. The deliberation on proposal one and the draft finding focused on protecting the traditional use of moose and caribou in the area. Board members often referenced the large amount of public testimony; the majority of which was provided by members of Ahtna, Inc., regarding the importance and the customary and traditional use of the resources. Board members were concerned with the method of transporting hunters and salvaging requirements. The board felt that those hunters coming into the area with motor homes and multiple 4-wheelers were not traditional users of the resources. Other important issues discussed included the historical pattern of harvest, methods of salvage, the amount and type of other food sources consumed, the tradition of sharing the harvest with family and others in need, and the passing of hunting knowledge to the youth. The board expressed interest to discuss household income under the Tier II scoring regulation at the Spring 2007.

PROPOSAL 2

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Modify subsistence hunt requirements.

AMENDMENTS: The following requirements to the current Tier II system in Unit 13 were adopted: Salvage of the hide, head, liver, heart, kidney and meat on the bone, limitation of two Tier II permits per household; destruction of the trophy value of antlers for Tier II permits, establishment of the voluntary Nelchina Caribou Harvest Area.

DISCUSSION: The proposal maintains the existing subsistence caribou & moose hunting system for Unit 13 while applying stringent requirements. The board discussed reducing the number of Tier II permits per household and the ability of local users to acquire federal subsistence permits which count against the state's bag limit requirement. The board referenced the large amount of public testimony and comments regarding the methods and means of harvesting caribou and moose. Testimony included the need for off road transportation for elders, those with disabilities, and for transporting game. Testimony also revealed that there has been significant damage to the habitat over the years by the use of off road vehicles, particularly swamp buggies. The board discussed the need to limit ORV

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use in the area. The department expressed concern for the dangerous potential of concentrating hunters near the road system and for the risk of not meeting the caribou harvest objective. Board members recognized the difficulties of packing out the meat and hide under the newly adopted salvage requirements without the use of an ORV. The board agreed to bring the issue of limiting off road vehicles in the area and creating exemptions for disabled and the elderly at the Spring 2007 meeting.

The board inquired about the existing hunter education requirements in the area and discussed the custom of passing knowledge on hunting within families. Various salvage options and antler destruction were discussed, including the reasonableness of salvaging the hide, enforcement issues, and the scientific need by the department to collect data on antlers prior to destruction.

PROPOSAL 3

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Consider hunt options for subsistence harvest area.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action due to the action taken on proposal two.

PROPOSAL 4

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish preferential subsistence harvest area.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed that there was not sufficient support by the public for this proposal.

PROPOSAL 5

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify Tier II permit point system.

DISCUSSION: The department of Law provided the history of the Board of Game addressing this issue. It was noted that there has been a long term use of the resource by residents of the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage. Board members were concerned that adjustments to the scoring system will shift and eliminate subsistence users from the Tier II hunt in Unit 13. It is also likely to be legally challenged since the State Constitution provides subsistence rights to all Alaskans.

PROPOSAL 6

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify Tier II permit point system.

DISCUSSION: See discussion on proposal five.

PROPOSAL 7

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish a drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 13

DISCUSSION: The board did not support because there is not a harvestable surplus to provide for a drawing hunt.

PROPOSAL 8

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish a drawing hunt area and season for caribou in Unit 13.

DISCUSSION: The board did not support because there is not a harvestable surplus to provide for a drawing hunt.

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MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Board of Game elected officers as follows:

Ron Somerville, Chairman

Cliff Judkins Vice-Chairman.

Wildlife Enforcement:

Captain Steve Arlow from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) provided a report to the Board regarding the department's efforts to improve fish and wildlife enforcement in Alaska. The department is transferring five patrol troopers into the Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE) and is requesting five addition ABWE Troopers in the FY08 budget. DPS is also adjusting recruitment policies to ensure qualified applicants are trained for fish and wildlife enforcement.

Holitna River Basin Reserve

The board agreed to discuss statutory language drafted by former board member and chairman, Greg Roczicka, to create the Holitna River Basin hunting, fishing and trapping reserve at the Fall, 2006 meeting in Wrangell (See RC 22). The board passed a proposal at the Spring 2005 meeting to create the reserve, subject to legislative approval.