

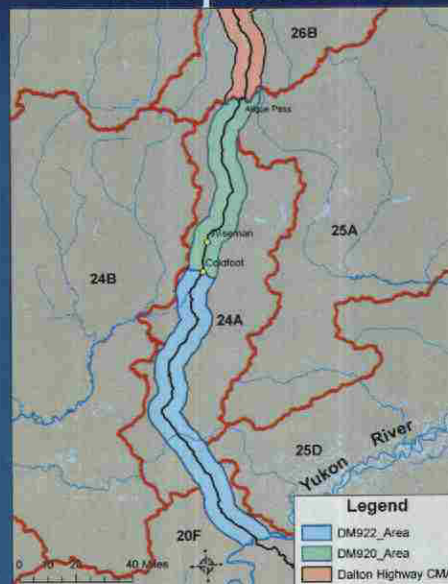
RC103

Proposal 60

Effects of the proposal: To modify the bull moose drawing permit conditions for the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area so that permit winners are not qualified for any other moose hunts.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Proposal 60



Proposal 60

Rationale

This is an allocation issue

It would reduce hunting opportunity.

The success rate for DM 920/922 is only 11%.

Unsuccessful hunters wouldn't have the opportunity to go hunt other areas.

It would create an enforcement issue.

Enforcement of the prohibition on hunting else where would be difficult.

Proposal 60

Year	Number of Permits	Number of hunters that hunted	Number of moose harvested
2002	70	48 (69%)	4
2003	70	34 (49%)	3
2004	70	36 (51%)	3
2005	70	45 (64%)	7
2006	70	45 (64%)	7
2007	70	51 (73%)	3

Proposal 60

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Proposal 95

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Develop a drawing or registration permit for a 10-day September-only use of licensed motorized vehicles on existing mining roads and trails in Unit 24A to access hunting areas.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

Proposal 95

Rationale

The Board of Game and ADF&G operates under Title 16 of the Alaska Statutes.

Title 16 does not allow the department to limit access into an area.

This is an access limitation not a hunting limitation.

Proposal 95

Department Recommendation: Take No Action.

Proposal 96

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Allow the use of licensed highway vehicles on existing mining roads and trails from August 31 to September 10 in 24A within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Take No Action.

Proposal 96

Rationale

The Dalton Highway Corridor area already allows the use of highway vehicle on publicly maintained roads in compliance with other state and federal regulations.

The Board of Game does not have the authority to grant access on non-publicly maintained roads on state or federal land.

Currently BLM and DNR do not grant access permits for recreational purposes.

Proposal 96

Other Issues

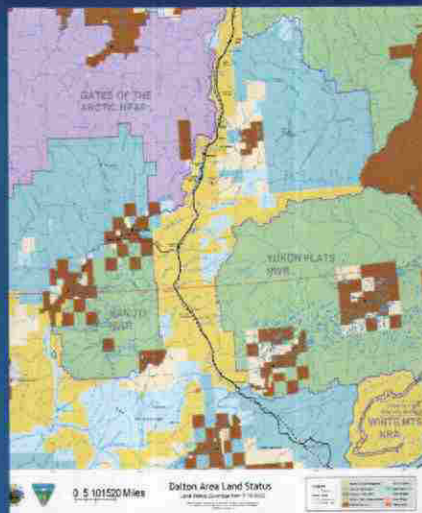
The proponent did not define specific mining roads or trails. Besides the mining roads, there is a matrix of trails in the Dalton Highway Corridor that vary from new to old and grown over. This would be difficult to define in definition.

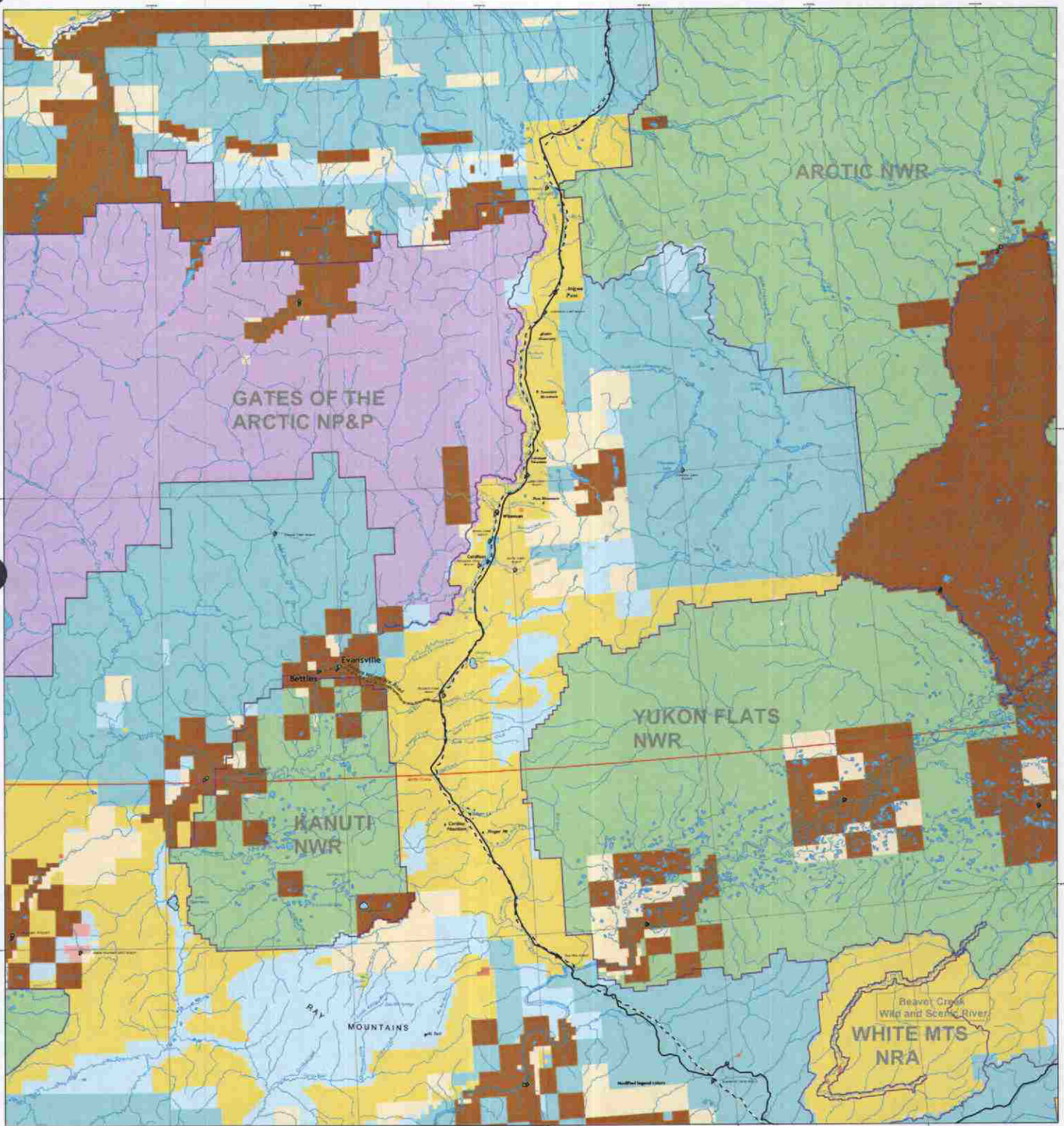
A majority of the mining roads and trails are on Federal land.

The mining roads and trails on state land zig-zag across federal land.

Some of the mining roads were built and bonded by the individual miner, therefore the miner is responsible for actions on the road.

Proposal 96





0 5 10 15 20 Miles

Dalton Area Land Status Land Status Coverage from 7-19-2002

The information shown on this map should be used for general purposes only. For official land status information, refer to the National Wetlands Inventory, National Wetlands Inventory, and other maps.

Legend

Bureau of Land Management	Native Allotment
National Park System	State Park or TX
National Preserve System	State Subsidized
National Wildlife Refuge System	Native Subsidized
Native Allotment or AC	Native Military
	Private Lands

K

Proposal 96

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Proposal 61

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL: Establish a May archery season for wolves in the Unit 24A portion of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

Proposal 61

Rationale

Season is currently August 10 –April 30.

An archery season would not increase the harvest enough to affect moose or caribou populations.

Wolf hides are of inferior quality in May.

A May season would make the wolf season inconsistent with the remainder of Unit 24.

Females will have wolf pups in the dens in May.

Proposal 61

Year	Unit 24 estimated Wolf Pop.	Reported Unit 24 Harvest	Estimated Harvest	24A Reported Harvest
2002-2003	374-541	66	116	20
2003-2004	374-541	37	87	3
2004-2005	374-541	61	111	20
2005-2006	374-541	23	73	7
2006-2007	374-541	25	75	8

Proposal 61

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Too whom it may concern,

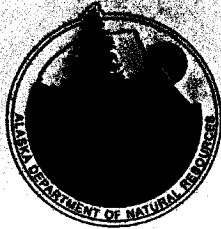
This is in regards to the Tangle Lakes Refuge Plan. I am on the Paxson F&G advisory board. This is where the Refuge plan first came up. I feel like this is nothing more then using F&G to try and lock up this area to insure no future development. When I brought that point up at the Advisory board meeting those that were supporting even admitted as much.

The Oil Fields and pipeline have proven to us, that with responsible development they do not have a negative effect on our wildlife.

I am definitely AGAINST the Tangle Lakes Refuge plan.

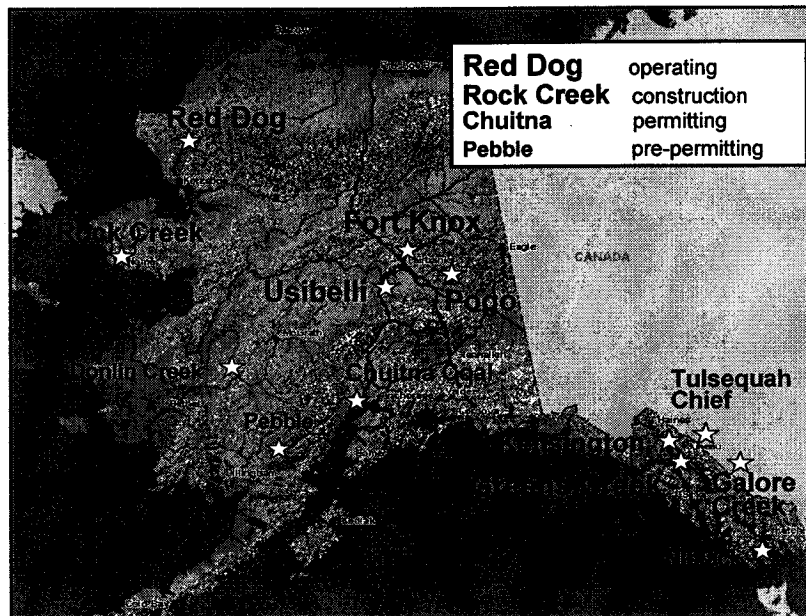
Alan Echols
Secretary
Paxson Advisory Committee
Operator
Maclaren River Lodge

The Process and Requirements for Large Mine Permit Applications in Alaska



Dick Mylius, Director
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Large mining projects in Alaska



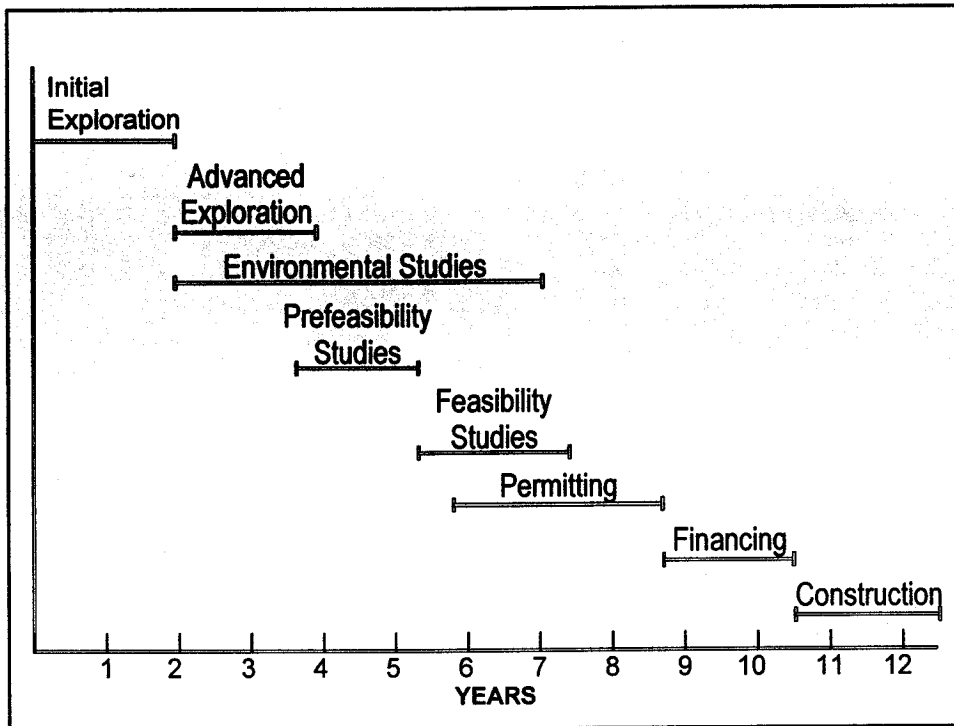
Presentation Outline

- What is the process?
- Mining 101
- The Permits
- The Agencies
- Mining Exploration – Tangle Lakes

No Single Permit to Mine; there are Lots and Lots of Permits!

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Plan of Operations (DNR) | ■ US EPA Section 402 NPDES Water Discharge Permit |
| ■ Reclamation and Bonding (DNR) | ■ US EPA Air Quality Permit review |
| ■ Waste Management Permits and Bonding (ADEC) | ■ US EPA Safe Drinking Water Act (UIC Permit) |
| ■ Certification of NPDES and ACOE Permits (ADEC) | ■ US ACOE Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit |
| ■ Sewage Treatment System Approval (ADEC) | ■ US ACOE Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act |
| ■ Air Quality Permits (ADEC) | ■ US ACOE Section 106 Historical and Cultural Resources Protection |
| ■ Fish Habitat and Fishway Permits (DNR) | ■ NMFS Threatened and Endangered Species Act Consultation |
| ■ Water Rights (DNR) | ■ NMFS Marine Mammal Protection Act |
| ■ Right of Way/Access (DNR/DOT) | ■ NMFS Essential Fish Habitat |
| ■ Tidelands Leases (DNR) | ■ NMFS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act |
| ■ Dam Safety Certification (DNR) | ■ USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Act Consultation |
| ■ Cultural Resource Protection (DNR) | ■ USFWS Bald Eagle Protection Act Clearance |
| ■ Monitoring Plan (Surface/Groundwater/Wildlife) (DNR/DEC) | ■ USFWS Migratory Bird Protection |
| ■ Coastal Zone Consistency Determination (DNR) | ■ USFWS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act |

(These are only some of the authorizations required)



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

-

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Usually triggered by Federal authorizations (e.g., clean water discharge permit or wetlands fill permit)

NEPA Process for EIS

**A means for considering and evaluating alternatives
Not a permit**

- **Designation of Lead Federal Agency**
- **Process starts with submittal of full application package**

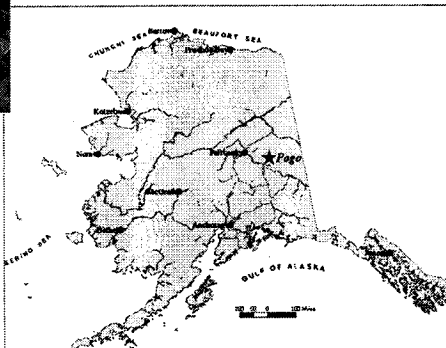
3 Steps

- **Scoping (delineation of issues)/public comment**
- **Draft EIS/public comment**
- **Final EIS/public comment**



**Underground Gold Mine
near Delta Junction**

Example: Pogo Mine



Pogo Process

- **Agency Discussions and Baseline Studies Initiated in 1997**
- **EIS Initiated in August 2000**
- **Public Input on Scoping 2000/2001**
- **Public Review of Draft EIS and Public Meetings, Spring 2003**
- **Final EIS Completed in October 2003-Public Notice**
- **Permits Issued in December 2003**

Pogo Public Participation

- **Pre-Application meetings and outreach (community groups, Native groups, NGOs)**
- **Environmental Impact Statement Process**
 - **Scoping (meetings, public notice)**
 - **Draft EIS (meetings, public notice)**
 - **Final EIS (public notice)**
- **Tribal Consultation with 12 Tribes (Government to Government)**
- **Open Communication (website, meetings, newsletters, etc)**

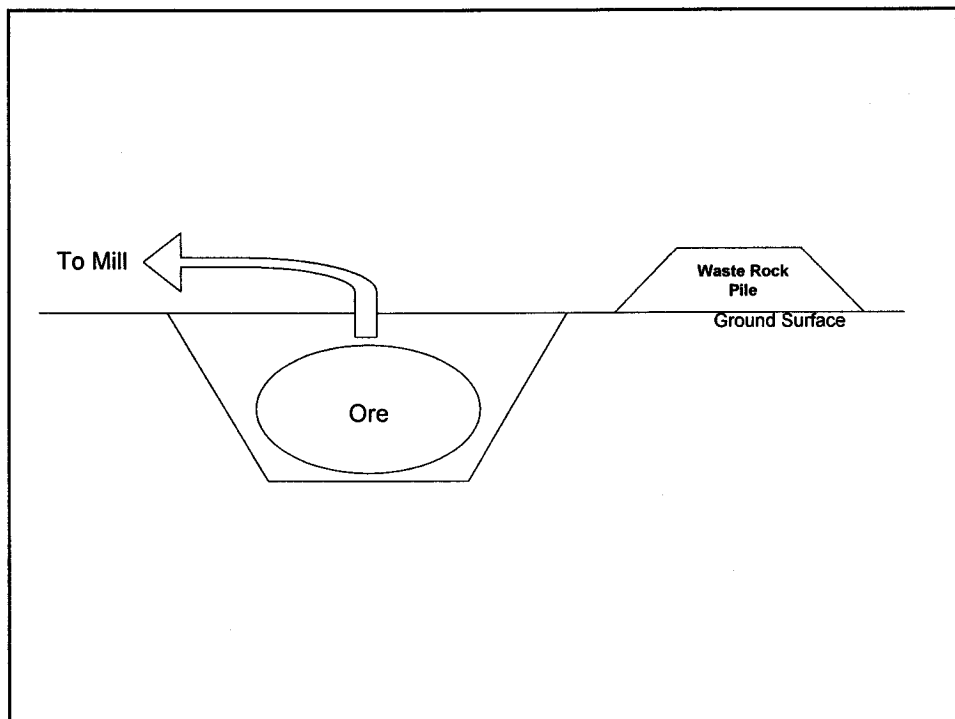
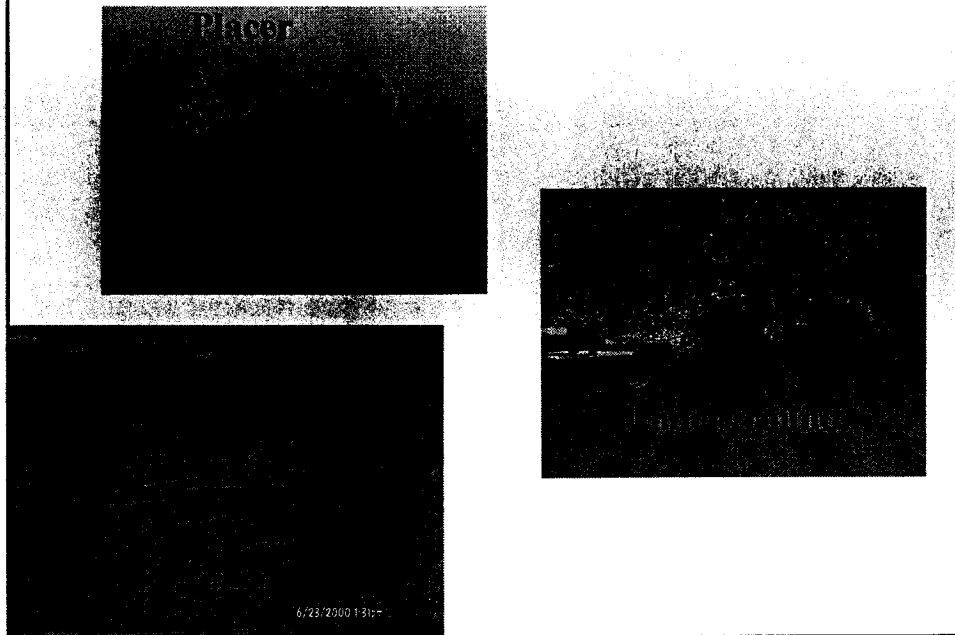
Do we ever say “No” ?

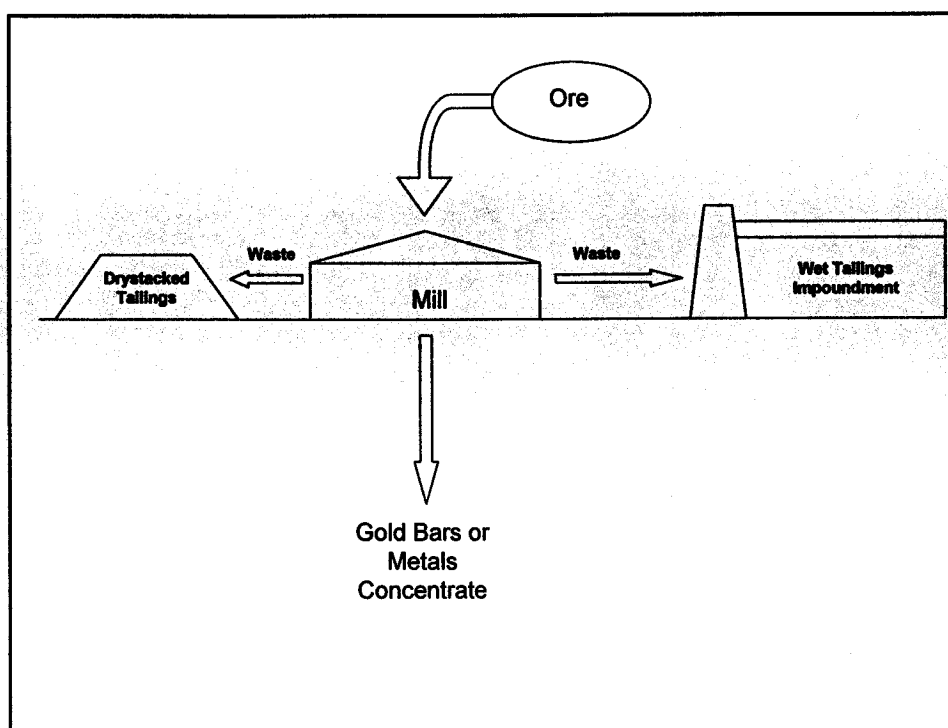
ANSWER: We say NO many times

- There is no single permit for mine
- There are numerous permits, each requiring YES/NO decisions
- A NO typically results in design changes to the project
- The final approved permit never looks like what was initially submitted – agencies require numerous changes to get to YES
- Sometimes applicants abandon a project before they get rejected (because they don't want to do what the permitters require)
- Sometimes applicants abandon project before they even submit development permits – economics or permit requirements make project infeasible or unattractive to company.

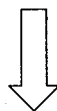
Mining 101

Types of Mining

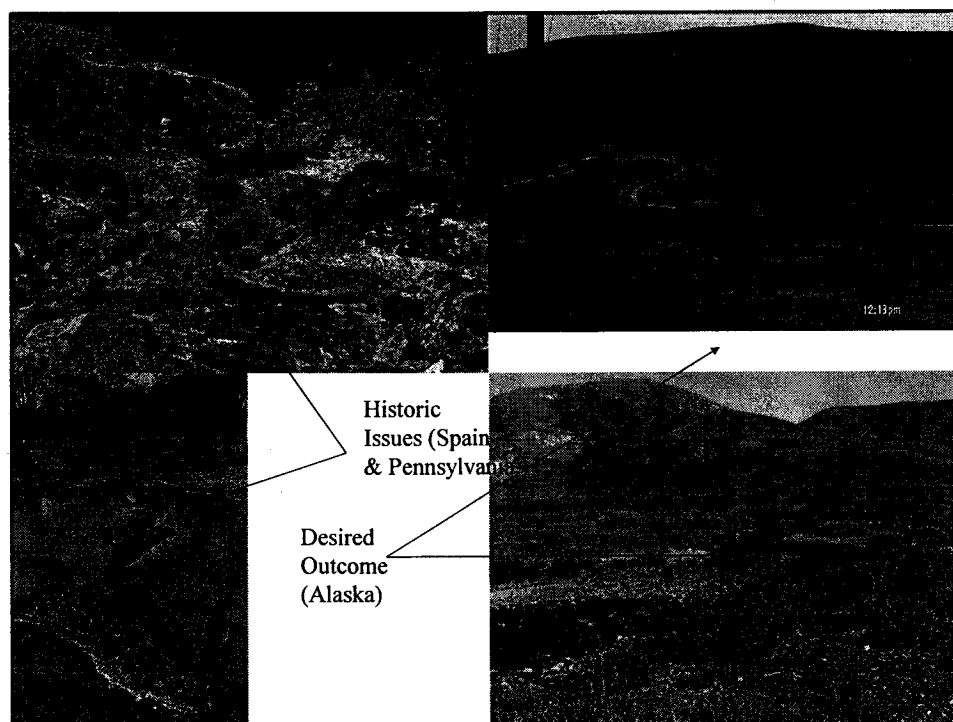
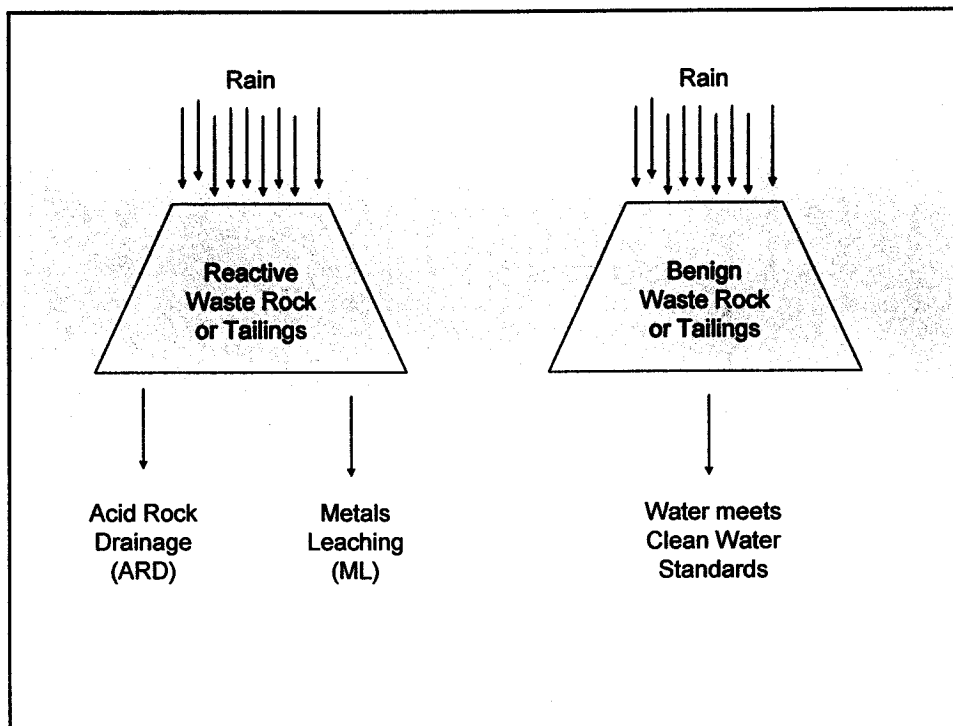


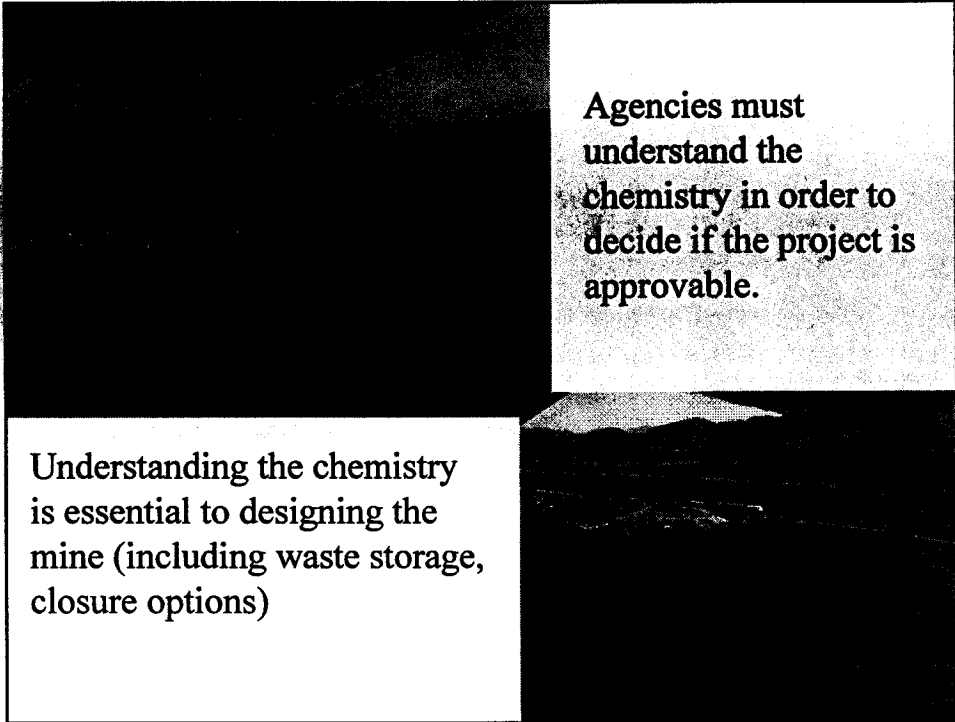


Tailings and Waste Rock
Geochemistry
(Water Chemistry)



Water Quality!





Agencies must understand the chemistry in order to decide if the project is approvable.

Understanding the chemistry is essential to designing the mine (including waste storage, closure options)

The Permits

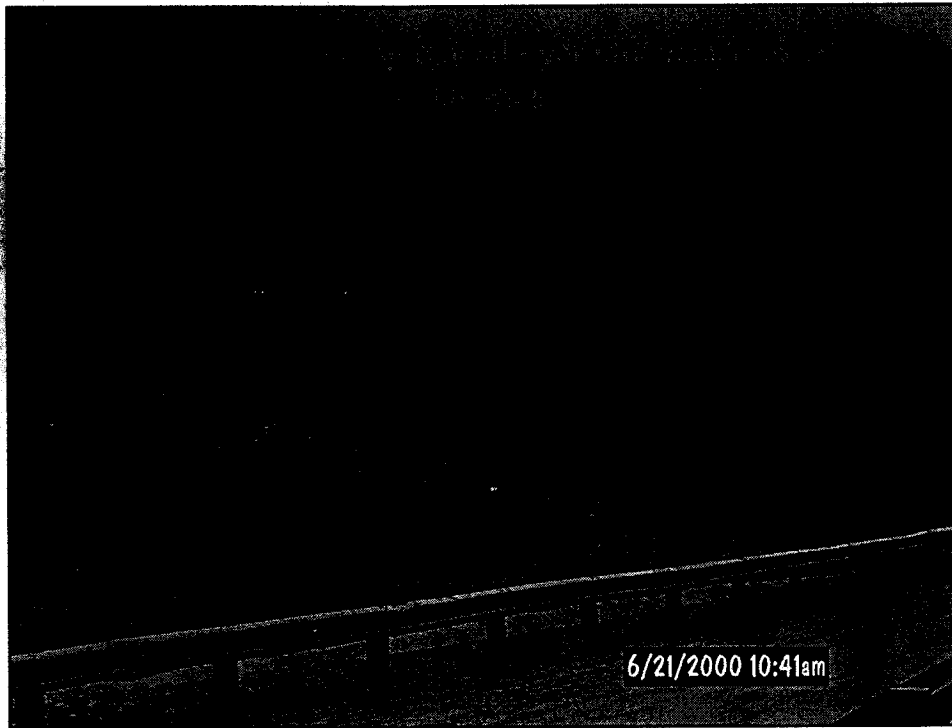
State of Alaska Regulatory Requirements

- **Waste Disposal Permits and Bonding - (ADEC)**
- **Coastal Zone Consistency Determination - (DNR)**
- **Fish Habitat Permits (DNR/OHMP)**
- **Certification of NPDES and ACOE permits - (ADEC)**
- **Sewage Treatment System Approval - (ADEC)**
- **Air Quality Permits - (ADEC)**
- **Water Rights - (DNR)**
- **Monitoring Plan Approval - (DNR/ADEC/ADF&G)**
- **Right of Way/Access - (DNR/DOT)**
- **Reclamation Plan Approval - (ADNR)**
- **Cultural Resource Protection - (DNR)**
- **Dam Safety certification - (DNR)**
- **Plan of Operations Approval - (DNR)**

Waste Disposal Permit

Issued by ADEC

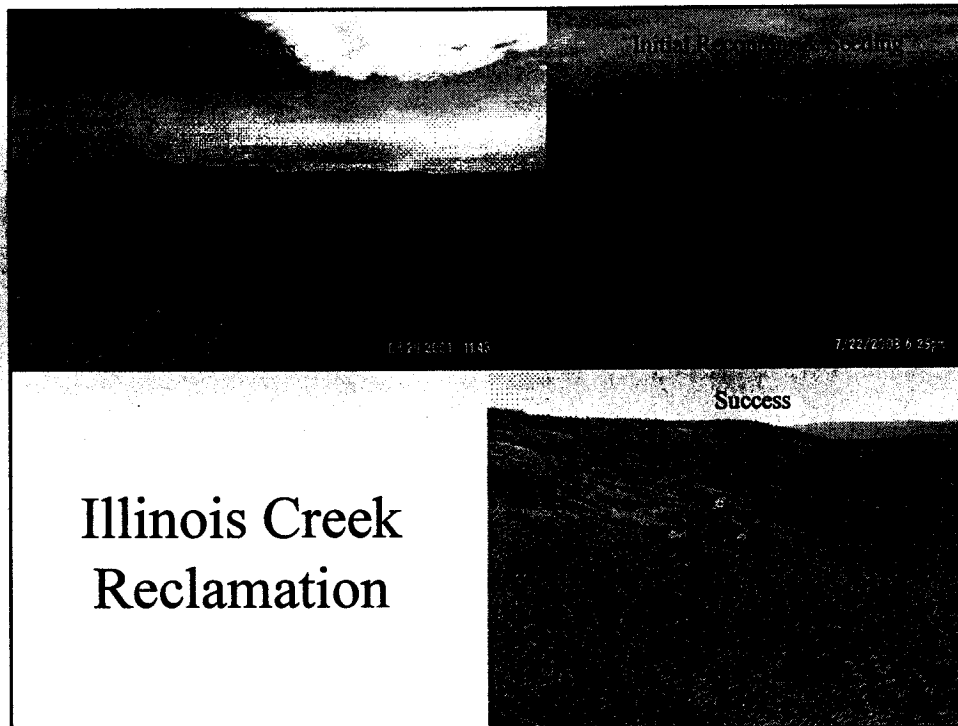
- 1) **Required for tailings disposal and waste rock dumps, as needed**
- 2) **Financial Assurance (bonding) required for reclamation and long-term monitoring and water treatment**



Mines Must be Reclaimed

RECLAMATION PLAN APPROVAL

- **ADNR**
- **Minesite must be returned to a stable condition, compatible with the post-mining land use.**
- **Financial Assurance (bond) must ensure State can do reclamation even if company cannot.**



Reclamation Bond is based on a detailed engineering analysis

The screenshot shows a document titled "Reclamation & Closure Plan Update". It contains a table with columns for "Item", "Quantity", "Unit", "Rate", and "Amount". The table lists various items related to reclamation, such as "Gravel", "Sand", "Lime", "Fertilizer", "Seed", "Mulch", "Erosion Control", "Vegetation", "Monitoring", "Maintenance", "Closure", "Reclamation", "Bond", "Insurance", "Legal", "Professional", "Administrative", "Miscellaneous". The table is followed by a list of items with their respective quantities and rates.

This screenshot shows another part of the "Reclamation & Closure Plan Update" document. It contains a table with columns for "Item", "Quantity", "Unit", "Rate", and "Amount". The table lists various items related to reclamation, such as "Gravel", "Sand", "Lime", "Fertilizer", "Seed", "Mulch", "Erosion Control", "Vegetation", "Monitoring", "Maintenance", "Closure", "Reclamation", "Bond", "Insurance", "Legal", "Professional", "Administrative", "Miscellaneous". The table is followed by a list of items with their respective quantities and rates.

Financial Assurance

- **What Mechanism? (Bond, Letter of Credit, Cash, Collateral) Most are Letters of Credit**
- **Trust Fund to be used for long-term obligations**
- **Applies equally to US and non-US corporations**

Financial Assurance

- **Amounts vary, mostly due to long-term obligations (water treatment, monitoring)**
- **Amount is reviewed every 5 years during Environmental Audit**

Financial Assurance Amounts for Alaska Mines

<i>Operation</i>	<i>Total Bond (\$ Millions)</i>
Greens Creek Mine	\$29.2
Red Dog Mine	\$155.9
Fort Knox (& True North) Mine	\$37.6
Usibelli Coal Mine & Exploration	\$11.3
Kensington Project	\$7.4
Rock Creek Mine	\$6.8
Pogo Mine	\$26.7
Nixon Fork Mine	\$3.5

Dam Safety Certification

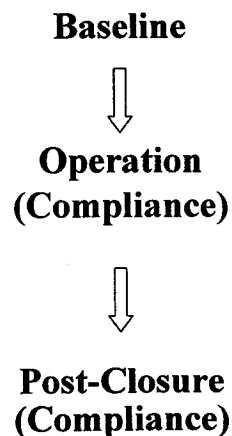
- **ADNR**
- **All dams (tailings and water storage) must be designed to State standards.**
- **Seismic standards**
- **Financial Assurance for Long term care and maintenance**

Other State of Alaska Regulatory Requirements

- Certification of NPDES and ACOE permits (ADEC)
- Sewage Treatment System Approval (ADEC)
- Air Quality Permits (ADEC)
- Fish Habitat and Fishway Permits (DNR)
- Water Rights (DNR)
- Right of Way/Access (DNR/DOT)
- Plan of Operations Approval (DNR)
- Cultural Resource Protection (DNR)
- Monitoring Plan (Surface/Groundwater/Wildlife) (DNR/DEC)
- Coastal Zone Consistency Determination (DNR)

Monitoring Plan Approval (ADEC/DNR/ADF&G)

- Air Q
- Water Q
 - Surface
 - Groundwater
- Fish & Wildlife Studies



Environmental Audits

- Permit terms are usually 5 years
- Env. Audits on 5 year schedule tied to reissuance of permits
- Audits by 3rd party experts
- Financial Assurances revisited and recalculated based on Audit results

The Agencies

State Agencies

LARGE MINE PERMITTING TEAM

- **Department of Natural Resources**
- **Department of Environmental Conservation**
- **Department of Fish and Game**
- **Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**
- **Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development**
- **Department of Law**

Large Mine Permitting Team (LMPT)

DNR Coordinates the permitting of large mine projects in the state in accordance with AS27.05.010(b):

The department is the lead agency for all matters relating to the exploration, development, and management of mining, and, in its capacity as lead agency, shall coordinate all regulatory matters concerning mineral resource exploration, development, mining, and associated activities. Before a state agency takes action that may directly or indirectly affect the exploration, development, or management of mineral resources, the agency shall consult with and draw upon the mining expertise of the department.

Federal Agencies

- **US Environmental Protection Agency**
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **National Marine Fisheries Service**
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **U. S. Forest Service**
- **National Park Service**

MAJOR FEDERAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- **US EPA Section 402 NPDES Water Discharge Permit**
- **US ACOE Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit**
- **US ACOE Section 106 Historical and Cultural Resources Protection**
- **NMFS Threatened and Endangered Species Act Consultation**
- **NMFS Essential Fish Habitat**
- **USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Act Consultation**
- **USFWS Bald Eagle Protection Act Clearance**
- **USFWS Migratory Bird Protection**

Summary of Large Mine Permitting Process

- **Coordinate public notice, hearings, public comments**
- **Technical review of operations plan and environmental data**
- **“DESIGN FOR CLOSURE”**
- **Ensure appropriate monitoring (air, water, reclamation success, etc)**
- **Calculation & maintenance of appropriate financial assurances**
- **Environmental Audits required every 5 years**

Mining on State Land – Generally

- **Most state land is open for mining exploration and staking of mining claims**
- **State law restricts DNR’s ability to close state land to mining – can only close areas of 640 acres or less**
- **At least 30 million acres of the land the state owns was selected for mineral values**

Mining on State Land – Tangle Lakes Area

- **State land is open to staking of mining claims**
- **State has selected much of the land along the Denali Highway for wildlife, recreation and mineral values**
- **Federal BLM will retain land around Tangle Lakes and Delta and Gulkana Rivers**
- **State land use plans call for multiple use management with emphasis on wildlife and recreation, but allow for mineral exploration and development**

Mining on State Land – Tangle Lakes Area

- **Large Blocks of Mining Claims have been Staked on state land**
- **Some placer activities in area (have been occurring for decades)**
- **NO SIGNIFICANT MINERAL DISCOVERY**
- **NO MAJOR MINE PROPOSED**

Mineral Exploration on State Land – Tangle Lakes Area

- **DNR regulates exploration and small scale mining on State mining claims through the Annual Placer Mining Application (APMA) process**
- **Technical Review and Distribution of APMA application to appropriate agencies**
- **Field Inspection of Mining Operations and Reclamation**

Mineral Exploration on State Land

- **A unified permit application for all permits required by DNR, DEC and ADF&G**
- **The APMA application is now used by EPA, the Corps of Engineers, ACMP, local borough governments and others**
- **Agencies issue their own authorizations and can request stipulations be added the DNR's Land use Permit**

APMA Review Process

- **Application is complete and accurate**
- **Legal Description and Maps are accurate**
- **Verify ownership of mineral estate**
- **Review consistency with land use classifications**
- **Narrative of operations and planned access**
- **Disturbed Acreage-Bonding Requirements**
- **Reclamation Plan**

DNR Land Use Permit for Mining Related Activities

Alaska Statute Title 38 Land Use Permit

A revocable permit

Used for relatively small scale activities on State land that do not involve a disposal of State Interest hence there is no preliminary or final finding that requires a formal public notice or public hearing

All documents are available to the public

If a significant resource is identified through the exploration process permitting is turned over to the multi- agency Large Mine Team

CHECK US OUT AT:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/opmp/>

or

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine.htm>

Dick Mylius

Dick.Mylius@alaska.gov

(907) 269-8625

314-7199

RC 106

We STRONGLY oppose Proposal #38.

The way it is written would make it a hunting area being set up for the sole use of those with aircraft and those that would use the area for profit. This leaves the majority of the public with no way to access an area that they have hunted for many years.

One of the main trails in the area is the Old Valley Trail which would be, to all intents and purposes, closed to the public by this action. It's my understanding that RS2477 may apply here.

We are shocked and embarrassed by our advisory board here in Delta.

The embarrassment arises from the fact that board members, with family members who would profit from this proposal passing, were involved in the writing and original submission of this proposal.

We urge the board to take a very close look at Proposal 38 and reject it.

Earl and Mary Malcolm
Delta, AL

Earl Malcolm
Mary Malcolm

Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
[UNIT 26(B) WITHIN THE DALTON HIGHWAY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT AREA		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, ONLY 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN FROM JULY 1 THROUGH SEPT. 30, AND COW CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM OCT. 1 - APR. 30	[JULY 1 - APR. 30]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 BULLS; HOWEVER ONLY 1 BULL MAY BE TAKEN JULY 1 - SEPT. 30]		[JULY 1 - APR. 30]
[REMAINDER OF] Unit 26(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from Oct. 1 through April 30	July 1 - Apr. 30	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		July 1 - Apr. 30

RC108



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R7/AEA

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



FEB 25 2008

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Game and Fish
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

I am responding to your request for information on the Federal laws governing or prohibiting predator control on Federal lands in Alaska. As you will recall, this was a verbal request made during my presentation to the Board of Game at the January 25, 2008, meeting in Anchorage.

The most precise summary I am aware of comes from a 2006 letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks responding to a request from the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Federal agencies take the responsibility, as mandated in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), of protecting the opportunity for continued subsistence uses in Alaska seriously; as well as that of conserving the nation's fish and wildlife and other natural resources on Alaska's Federal public lands, as directed by ANILCA and other Federal statutes. Each of the Department of the Interior (DOI) land management agencies within Alaska manage the resources entrusted to them according to these statutory mandates and the implementing regulations and policies. The legal requirements and policy guidelines for each of the DOI land management agencies regarding predator control are summarized below.

Fish and Wildlife Service

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages the National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska under the mandates of ANILCA and the Refuge Administration Act. There is nothing in ANILCA, or other applicable federal laws, regulations and policies, nor in the refuge comprehensive conservation plans, which specifically precludes predator control on national wildlife refuges in Alaska. However, these laws, regulations and policies do require comprehensive analyses prior to considering a predator control program to ensure that the action is both appropriate and biologically justified. The following are some of the general prerequisites for considering predator control on Alaska refuges.

**TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA** 

Foremost, such a management action must be biologically justified and used in a prudent and ecologically sound manner to conform to the agency's *Policy on Maintaining the Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health of the National Wildlife Refuge System (System)*. This policy requires that the agency 1) *identify the refuge purpose(s), legislative responsibilities, refuge role within the ecosystem, and System mission*; 2) *assess the current status of biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health through baseline... surveys and studies...*; 3) *assess historic conditions and compare them to the current condition ... This will provide a benchmark... for the relative intactness of ecosystem functions and processes*; and 4) *consider the refuge's importance to refuge, ecosystem, national and international landscape scales of biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health...* A thorough evaluation must be given to substantiate intended benefits of the control efforts, and alternatives to direct control must be evaluated, attempted, and exhausted as a practical means of achieving management objectives.

Because predator control of wolves and/or bears on national wildlife refuges is highly controversial, it would be considered a major Federal action subject to National Environmental Policy Act requirements which would include preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) or, at a minimum, an environmental assessment (EA). As part of the EIS or EA process, the FWS would evaluate predator control in the context of the purposes of the refuge and in consideration of the biological integrity policy. Additionally, the agency would evaluate the effects of the proposed predator control on subsistence uses and needs, as required by Section 810 of ANILCA. Section 810 requirements would be incorporated into the NEPA process and documents.

In addition, if predator control is proposed to be carried out on a refuge by an agency or others not acting as agents of the FWS, the refuge manager must find the proposed control program to be consistent with the FWS compatibility regulations implementing the Refuge Administration Act. These regulations require that permitted uses of the refuge be compatible with the purposes of the refuge, the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the resource management objectives identified in the refuge comprehensive conservation plans.

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages its Alaska lands primarily under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and ANILCA. While the agency manages land uses and habitat on its lands, management of fish and wildlife on BLM lands is conducted by the State of Alaska, consistent with the traditional role of the State in managing resident species of fish and wildlife. Essentially, predator control activities by the State of Alaska may take place on BLM lands, as long as they do not conflict with on-going or anticipated BLM authorized actions. The BLM views predator control as a State function and the agency neither supports nor condemns the predator control methods approved by the Alaska Board of Game.

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) lands in Alaska are managed according to ANILCA and the underlying 1916 Organic Act, which established and continues to guide NPS management. The ANILCA, per sections 802(1), 808(6) and 815(1)(3), established a standard of "conservation of healthy populations" for wildlife management in Alaska's parks, monuments, and preserves. The

legislative history to ANILCA clearly expresses congressional intent in regards to intensive management, including predator control. On Page 171 of Senate Report 96-413, November 1979, it states:

"In authorizing subsistence uses within National Parks, Monuments, Preserves, and National Recreation Areas, it is the intent of the Committee that certain traditional National Park Service management values be maintained. It is contrary to the National Park Service concept to manipulate habitat or populations to achieve maximum utility of natural resources. Rather, the National Park System concept requires implementation of management policies which strive to maintain the natural abundance, behavior, diversity, and ecological integrity of native animals as part of their ecosystem, and the Committee intends that that concept be maintained... Accordingly, the Committee does not expect the National Park Service to engage in habitat manipulation or control of other species for the purpose of maintaining subsistence uses within the National Park System units."

The same report goes on to state (Pages 232-233):

"The Committee recognizes that the management policies and legal authorities of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System may require different interpretations and application of the "healthy population" concept consistent with management objectives of each system. Accordingly, the Committee recognizes that the policies and legal authorities of the managing agencies will determine the nature and degree of management program affecting ecological relationships, population dynamics, and manipulations of the components of the ecosystem."

As you can see, the Congress understood and expected that the policies of the NPS were to play a significant role in interpreting how the mandate for "conservation of healthy populations" is carried out.

Those policies contain several sections (in Chapter 4) that relate to your request. In all, those sections direct the NPS to, in a manner consistent with ANILCA and its Senate history, maintain the natural population fluctuations and processes that influence the dynamics of individual plant and animal populations within their ecosystems. Section 4.4.3, *Harvest of Plants and Animals by the Public*, directly deals with the issues you have raised. Among other things, that section states: *The (National Park) Service does not engage in activities to reduce the number of native species for the purpose of increasing the number of harvest species (i.e. predator control), nor does the (National Park) Service permit others to do so on land managed by the National Park Service.*

To summarize, undertaking intensive management practices, including predator control activities as conducted by the State of Alaska, is not allowed on NPS lands.

I hope this addresses your concerns and helps you develop an understanding of the legal framework governing predator control on Federal lands. If you have additional questions regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please contact me at (907) 786-3431. I encourage you to contact the other agencies directly for more specific information related to Federal lands management. Questions regarding the Bureau of Land Management should be directed to Mr. Tom Lonnie, State Director at (907) 271-5076 and questions regarding the National Park Service should be directed to Ms. Marcia Blaszak, Regional Director at (907) 644-3510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry G. Bell".

Larry G. Bell
Assistant Regional Director
External Affairs

cc: Tom Lonnie, Bureau of Land Management
Marcia Blaszak, National Park Service

2 March 2008

Dear BOG members and staff:

I am editor and publisher of the Delta Vanguard Public Interest and Community News Magazine.

I have been attempting to get my personal e-mail included in the Fish and Game e-mails and notices list for the past three months, but have received nothing .

The Delta AC said that they didn't have a proposals change booklet to share, and one person said that they thought they were all gone.

I phoned the Delta Fish and Game office in late January or early February asking for a proposals book, and also e-mailed, but no booklet has been received.

I was given Rita's name and phone number by a Delta AC member on 27 February, and e-mailed her, but received no response back.

But a very helpful, sweet lady, Cathy Harms, of the Fairbanks office, gave me info about this weekend's meetings, which I included in the article on Proposal 38 in The Delta Vanguard. Unfortunately, in speaking with her on Friday, she said that testimony was being received that day, Saturday, and Sunday, and possibly Monday, but didn't include the information that to speak one had to sign up by 1 pm Saturday.

Thus, I drove in to Fairbanks on Sunday, having had the newspaper deadlines Friday and delivery on Saturday, and when I arrived Rita said that even though I had not been told about the sign-up deadline, that it was firm, and NO ONE could testify if they hadn't signed up by 1 pm.

First, I suggest that you make exception provision the public seeks to be involved in this process, but when critical information "falls through the cracks" such that a citizen is deprived

through that lack of info from testifying.

I DO know that the proposals booklet IS online, in PDF format. However, I have a Macintosh, and either something in the format online doesn't jive with a MAC, or it's too big to be downloaded at one time on dial-up. Although I CAN download the minutes posted on the AC minutes site, when I tried several times to download the booklet I received a message that my computer could not download it, because it could not unencrypt the file. I have a computer guru checking into what needs to be done to make such accessible to me.

I am attaching a copy of The Delta Vanguard, a special reprint, specifically for the BOG's consideration, with the information I WOULD have testified about printed with a yellow background, for your ease in finding it. It is attached, rather than faxed, for your consideration re Proposal 38.

Second, I recommend that you make sure that every news media in the state is sent a copy, for their review, and possible news coverage.

Third, I recommend that you arrange for "star" testimony -- providing a broadcast phone and number at the hearings where folks may phone in their testimony, rather than drive the 100 miles (in my case) to the hearings.

Fourth, I recommend that you make it easier, possibly with a link on your main page, for folks to sign up for e-mails of fish and game news releases, and info they want to get out to the public.

I appreciate your careful review of the attached article, my testimony against Proposal 38. Thank you.
M. A. Mullins, The Delta Vanguard
895-3222 LifelsJesus@aol.com (mine)
Delta Junction AK 99737-1711

Ice Sculptures (Cont'd from pg. 16)
is for high school students. Teams work on one 3,600 pound ice block, 3 x 5 x 4. The sculpting team may not use motorized tools or equipment to move the block, once it's placed. Experienced artists are on hand to answer questions and offer technical assistance allowed within the competition guidelines. Scholarship and gift certificates are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Abstracts and Realisms.

There is also an ice cannon (shoots tennis balls with black powder, provided) competition. Go to <http://www.icealaska.com/Cannon/Cannon.html>. 451-8250.

AURORA ALERT

Active periods for the aurora borealis (northern lights) for March are March 1-5, 9-19, and 26-31.

The aurora is also expected to be active April 1-4, and 6-16, and 26 to 2 May. Active periods are when the forecast is 3 or greater on the scale of 0 - 9.

New Passport Fees

Beginning February 1, 2008, the Department of State began charging a new fee schedule for passport services. At this time applicants will also have the option of pre-ordering a new Passport Card, a low cost, limited use (land and sea only) alternative to the Passport Book designed for those living along the border. In addition, the age for which both par-

ents must appear and sign a passport application on behalf of a child will increase from 14 to 16 years old.

Fees are being adjusted to cover the cost of providing efficient and secure passport services including infrastructure, technology and staff. The Passport Execution fee collected by passport acceptance centers and U.S. Consular sections abroad is being reduced from \$30 to \$25.

	New Passport Application Fee	New Passport Execute Total
Passport Book:		
Adult	\$75	\$25
Child	\$60	\$25
Passport Card:		
Adult	\$20	\$25
Child	\$10	\$25
Passport Renewal:		
Adult	\$75	N/A

To protect children from abduction, and to address concerns regarding runaway children, beginning February 1, both parents will be required to personally appear at a passport acceptance facility, passport agency or U.S. Consular section abroad with minor applicants under the age of 16 (up from age 14) and sign the application.

New application forms and updated information on applying for a Passport and Passport Card are available at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>, or at city hall.

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DELTA'S PUBLIC INTEREST & COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

The Delta Vanguard

10th Edition • 29 February 2008 • SDG
Liberty, Safety, Economy, Unity Through An Informed Public

URGENT: HUNTERS' INPUT NEEDED! IMMEDIATELY!

The Alaska Board of Game, at its current annual session, is considering Proposal 38 which prohibits the use of all land motorized vehicles for big game hunting, including transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of big game, from August 1 through September 30, in the portion of (Cont'd, pg. 2, col. 1)

NEWS FLASH Re F&G PROPOSAL 38: See page 8.

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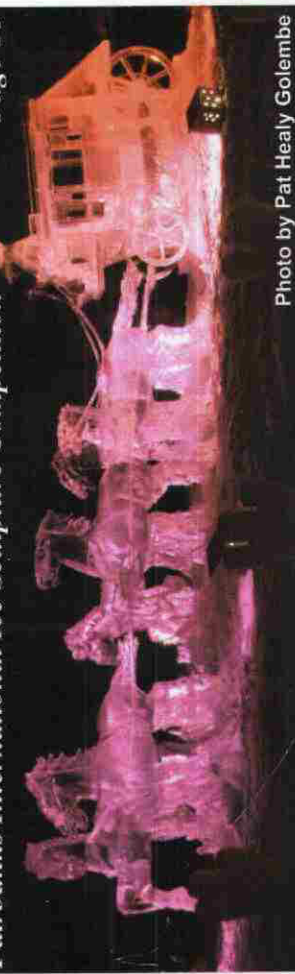


Photo by Pat Healy Golembe

Legislator Fights Ketchikan's LBC

Approved Expansion

The LBC's strong arming and violations of its own regulations and code of conduct, Alaska's statutes, and citizen's civil rights which Delta endured when fighting the Deltan Borough Charter, is now happening to the areas surrounding Ketchikan, Alaska.

Previously, The Delta Vanguard reported that the head of the LBC, Dan (Cont'd, pg. 17, col. 1)

Update re LBC Appeal, Alaska Supreme Court

Many area residents have mistakenly assumed that now that Senator Wilken has announced his retirement in December 2008, that the threat against Deltans and our sovereignty to choose our own form of government -- which was the intent of Alaska's Constitutional framers -- and which is the basic premiss of our US Constitution, that government be OF the people, BY the people, and FOR (Cont'd, page 9, col. 1)



The Delta Vanguard

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Delta Junction, Alaska

99737-1711

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E-mail your photos (jpegs preferred), announcements, and stories to

DeltaVanguard@aol.com.

Fish & Game Proposal

(Cont'd from pg. 1, col. 1)

Unit 20A that is drained by Delta Creek upstream from where 100 Mile Creek joins it. The reason given for the proposal was to avoid ATV damage to that terrain.

However, this proposal, if passed by the Alaska Fish and Game Board, limits hunters' access to this popular hunting



area (which is military property) to "hoofin' it in," gear and all, and out, body or horse packing out the meat also, or paying an air service to go in.

Because Proposal 38 is being considered at the current Board of Game meeting, February 29 to March 10 individuals who wish to comment on this proposal must give their public testimony to the Board THIS weekend, February 29,

and March 1, and 2. (The full set of proposals is downloadable at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetinfo/2007-2008/feb08.final.pdf>.)

Background

The Delta Fish and Game Advisory

Trivia Question

According to the State of Alaska's 2007 population estimate, what are the five largest actual cities in Alaska?

The surprising answer is on page 23.

Trivia Answer

According to the State of Alaska's 2007 population estimate, what are the five largest actual cities in Alaska?

The largest CITIES in Alaska are Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Wasilla, Kenai, and Kodiak.

Why not the cities of Anchorage, Juneau, and Sitka? Because those incorporated cities no longer exist.

When those areas formed unified governments, the corresponding city governments were dissolved (along with the smaller cities of Douglas, Girdwood, and Glen Alps, which generally had voted against unification).

According to the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, "unified municipalities are treated as boroughs in statute and regulation."

So, while Juneau may argue whether Juneau or Fairbanks is larger, they are not comparing like items. The former City of Douglas adds almost 5,000 persons to Juneau's population. When you compare borough to borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough has three times the population of Juneau.

If you consider all population centers rather than just cities, the fourth and fifth largest "communities" in Alaska aren't even incorporated. Fourth place goes to the Knik-Fairview community (south of Wasilla in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough) while fifth place goes to College (home of the University of Alaska Fairbanks).

Interestingly, at least two other states have unified governments similar to Alaska. In Hawaii, counties are the only incorporated local governments. And the urban community of Arlington, Virginia is actually a county, not a city. mem

JEWISH FILMS (Cont'd from page 15)
store clerks -- fought back in an extraordinary effort to safeguard, rescue and return the millions of lost, hidden and stolen treasures. The Rape of Europa begins and ends with the story of artist Gustav Klimt's famed Gold Portrait, stolen from Viennese Jews in 1938, and now the most expensive painting ever sold.

DEAR MR. WALDMAN (90 minutes, 2006). Documentary, Israeli, Hebrew with English subtitles. Director: Hanan Peled). In Tel Aviv in the 1960s 10-year-old Hilk knows his goal in life: to make his parents happy and compensate for the grief they both suffered in the Holocaust. Rivka and Moishe's fragile, new, post-war lives begin to waver when Moishe convinces himself that Yankele, his son from his first marriage, didn't actually die in Auschwitz, but rather survived, and is the "Jack Waldman" Moishe sees in a newspaper picture. When deluded Moishe writes Waldman a letter, Hilk takes matters into his own hands. A coming-of-age story written and directed by the son of survivors, this film beautifully captures the milieu of mid-century Israel and the peculiarities of growing up amid the emotional wreckage of the Holocaust. #

Alaskan Sudoku 8. Solution to puzzle on page 3. ©M.Mullins 2007

6	1	3	7	8	2	4	5	9
4	7	2	1	5	9	6	8	3
8	5	9	4	6	3	1	7	2
1	4	7	5	9	6	2	3	8
9	3	8	2	7	1	5	6	4
5	2	6	8	3	4	7	9	1
2	9	5	6	4	8	3	1	7
7	8	4	3	1	5	9	2	6
3	6	1	9	2	7	8	4	5

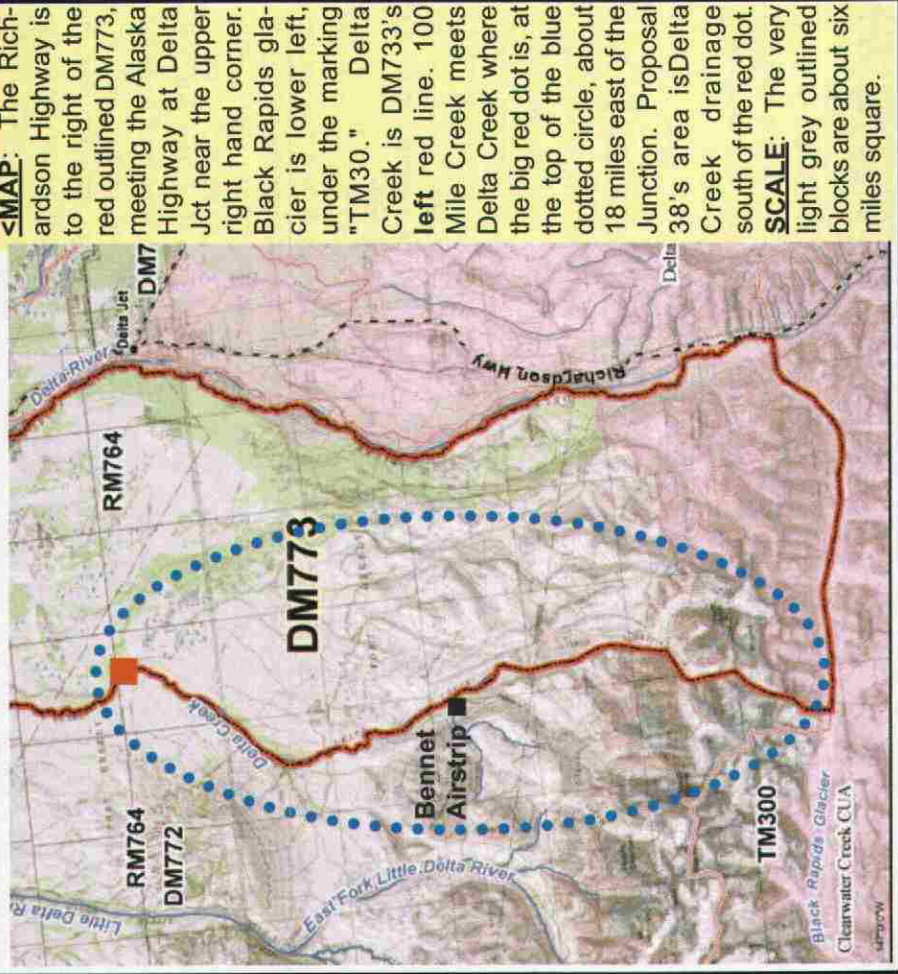
Creative Library Fun

One of Delta Library's free activities is Storyhour. A story, simple craft, and healthy snack describes it, in short. It is held on a Wednesday, at 11 am, for three to five year old pre-schoolers.

One session, the pre-schoolers excitedly Christmas wrapped an unmarked, tantalizing, large mystery box. "What's in it?" "Who is it for?" During the next session, they, opened it, puzzling and speculating what to make of long wood sticks, scarfs, feathers, and a tan cloth. Then the realization: "It's a teepee!" They put it together. It's now a fun reading and play nook in the library.



A caregiver must accompany each child. And bringing snacks and juice to share is asked. Contact Miss Nancy, at 4102, for more information. Voluntary library membership help support these fun, creative library events.



SMAP: The Richardson Highway is to the right of the red outlined DM773, meeting the Alaska Highway at Delta Jct near the upper right hand corner. Black Rapids glacier is lower left, under the marking "TM30." Delta Creek is DM733's left red line. 100 Mile Creek meets Delta Creek where the big red dot is, at the top of the blue dotted circle, about 18 miles east of the Junction. Proposal 38's area is Delta Creek drainage south of the red dot. **SCALE:** The very light grey outlined blocks are about six miles square.

Committee initially unanimously approved this proposal, and it was submitted to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). It was published in their December 2007 Spring hunting regulation changes/proposals booklet.

Proposal 38 Protested

At the 30 January ADFG's Delta Advisory Committee meeting, this proposal was protested by local hunters. Unfortunately, the actual specifics of the protest, and who testified against the proposal, are omitted from the minutes of that meeting. The minutes only say, "Don offered time for opponents of Proposal 38 ... to speak."

Proposal 38's Negative Effects

Comments made during the advisory

sory committee meeting on Wednesday, February 27, and during a break, revealed that, if approved, Proposal 38 would have several negative effects.

First, Proposal 38 denies ATV hunters fair and equal access to the region, compared to fly-in hunters.

Second, it puts severe financial and logistic hardships on low income and subsistence hunters (60% of this region's residents, according to the Department of Commerce stats) who can not afford the \$1,000 per hunt needed to hire air service into the area. These hunters previously depended on hunting there.

Third, it in effect creates a monopoly on hunting in that area for the two local air service companies that fly guides and their hunters in to Bennet Airstrip there,

gifting those guides and airplane pilots with a de facto private hunting preserve for their commercial businesses clients.

One person questioned: If protecting the area's ecology was the prime factor in making this proposal, why was this mixing of motorized land vehicles asked to be in effect ONLY during hunting season? And another attendee was concerned that the restriction involved only this area where there is an airstrip.

And the opposers of Proposal 38 held that if motorized land vehicles were forbidden in the area during moose hunts, that in fairness ALL motorized vehicles, including aircraft, should be similarly forbidden.

Lack of Public Access to Prior Delta AC Meeting Minutes

NOTE: It was difficult for the public (and for the Vanguard) to prepare for that 27 February AC meeting, because minutes from the last meeting, normally posted online (at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/advisory/mtgres/delta.php>) were NOT posted -- even by noon on the 27th. (The AC secretary, Mr. Johnson said he couldn't give a copy of the minutes for the Vanguard, because he had already purged them from his computer. (But he did have minutes to read at the meeting.) He had sent them to Rita, the overseer of ACs, and suggested I contact her for a copy. I did e-mail her, but received no reply.)

Thus, those who'd missed the previous meeting, could not prepare for the 27 February meeting by reviewing them. Also, NO minute copies were made available to the public at that meeting. [One man there HAD obtained a copy of the minutes and letters written since the last meeting, and kindly shared them.]

Compromise Proposal Fails

According to the 30 January minutes, because of the strong public pro-

tests against Proposal 38, the Advisory Committee recommended that Don Quarberg, Don Bunselmeier, and Abe Horshel attempt to draft a compromise proposal, with a phone vote by committee members to approve or disapprove the amended version. Proposal 38 was listed as "moved to table and amend."

Accordingly, "Abe Horshel, Jacob White, and Don Quarberg met on February 5, from 1 to 4:50 pm; but no compromise proposal evolved." An "amended proposal was written and submitted to the Delta Advisory Committee members with e-mail addresses. Rick Johnson (Advisory Committee secretary) polled the members via phone and e-mail on the amended proposal 38. On 20 February, the vote was completed, with seven opposed, 2 in favor, and two abstentions." The proposal failed.

When the minutes were read, Dean Cummings asked why he was not polled. He was told that contact with him had been attempted several times, but he didn't have an answering machine. So the eleven votes had been obtained by the vote of an alternate.

"Formal" AC Support Withdrawn

After the protest meeting, Don Quarberg wrote a letter on 15 February to the Alaska Board of Game -- who will make the final decisions on all regulation changes and proposals from 29 February to 20 March 2000. Don's letter said:

"The Delta ADFG Advisory Committee submitted proposal #38 to the Board of Game for consideration at their spring 2008 Meeting. This proposal was adopted by the AC with an unanimous vote and is published on page 28 of their proposal booklet.

"Following publication of this Proposal Booklet, some members of the committee [sic -- perhaps he meant members of the public] attended the 01/30/08 meeting of the Delta AC and ob-

Some 50-Year-Old Science Theories Still Stand

Ned Rozell, a science writer at UAF's Geophysical Institute wrote:

Fifty years ago, in 1958 [a year before Alaska officially became a state], was the last time world scientists got together for an "International Polar Year." As part of that effort, Hugh Odishaw, who studied English literature, math, and electrical engineering, enthusiastically helped put together a booklet that accompanied six National Academy of Sciences posters designed to excite people about science. (One of those posters is shown at the right.)

In Odishaw's mind, the International Polar Year was "the single most significant peaceful activity of mankind since the Renaissance and the Copernican Revolution."

Odishaw and his partners' booklet, "Planet Earth: the Mystery with 100,000 Clues," contained what is today still respected scientific theory, simplified, but not too dumbed down. Here are a few excerpts from this hard-to-find booklet:

"As early as 1673, man developed the theory that as the earth spins, centrifugal force causes the equator to bulge and the poles to flatten..."

"Because the flattened poles are about 13 miles closer to the center of the earth, the pull of gravity is stronger there. In fact, a 200-pound man (at the equator) would about 201 pounds at the poles."

"Earth has daily tides, something like those in the

oceans but much less noticeable. Still, the island of Hawaii, for example, rises and falls several inches a day."

"The freezing waters of the Antarctic are by far the richest in sea life, while many of our tropical waters are relatively sparse."

"The South Pole receives more sunlight than any place on Earth during December, when its midsummer there. But almost all that sunlight is reflected back into the atmosphere. This is why there is very little melting."

"The word 'moving' is the key to an understanding of weather. No property



One of six beautiful posters produced by a New York company for the National Academy of Sciences in 1958 for the last International Polar Year, also known as the International Geophysical Year.

Sonshine Epiphanies

A holy hummm: Did you ever wonder why

'NO Sweat!'

Last issue, we saw that the Lord forbade the wearing of wool when ministering to Him because when we rely on what we (God's sheep) produce from works of the flesh, such is often with much struggle, complaining, "sweat". But when we serve the Lord in the Spirit, walking IN HIM, IN the JOY that IS Him, HE is our Strength, and thus we walk IN Him with NO struggle, NO sweat. HE totally empowers when HE guides us.

The very first time sweat is mentioned in God's Word is when Adam was in the garden, and had disobeyed God. Thereafter, the earth, which he had dominion over before, now resisted Adam's dominion, causing him to sweat.

In the same way, when we are NOT under the Lord's dominion: we do NOT have dominion, anointing, enduring power, and thus we rely on OUR own failing strength, ending up sweating. Mary and Martha reflect this: Martha thought she was serving the Lord, being busy in the kitchen. But she was busy in the flesh. Mary had the better part because she was making attention to Christ her FIRST priority.

"They that WAIT upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up on wings as eagles." Isa.40:31 Wait here does NOT mean twiddle thumbs, in boredom. It means restful serving -- "waitressing" God. Serving up to Him His due in worship, love, obedience. Mounting up ON His wings, as eaglets. "Mount up" here does NOT mean we get our own wings, and fly. It means to climb up onto, as in mounting up onto a bus. It is when we mount up on His wing that we enter into HIS perfect Rest, through intimate TRUST and worship of Him. When we walk IN HIM, HE carries us.

Even as He carried Israel once He had redeemed them by the blood marking their doorposts: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles wings, and brought you unto Myself. Ex.19:4 Oh, how glorious to see that the MORE spiritually mature we are, the MORE we draw nigh unto Him all the day., the more we REST, relying in all situations ON HIM, joyously trusting HIM to CARRY us through: "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him. Deut. 32:11 Glory to God! mm

Spaghetti For Alexis Feeds, Warms Hearts

Over one hundred people turned out to bless the Dave and Barb Flynn family, and Alexis, their daughter, raising over \$14,000 for Alexis' medical needs when her father donates one of his kidneys to her.

Heather StossMeister, an organizer of the feed, said: "People donated 77 great auction items. And Clearwater Lodge sponsored the event. It was a wonderful evening! A great success!"

Barb and Dave Flynn's co-workers personally served every meal, and helped put the event together. The Legends played live music.

Barb Flynn was overwhelmed, saying, "We just came from New York. And this kind of support is unknown there. It would never have happened! Especially for a child that is no one even knows."

The next fund-raiser will be the 8 March Skate-a-thon, from 12 to 6 pm at the Liewer-Olmstead Center on the right side of Nistler (school) Drive. Alexis and her mother will be skating at the Skate-a-thon also. [Sorry, the editor was sick, so didn't get any pics, and couldn't track any down to go with this article.]

jected to this proposal. A subsequent meeting between these members of the public and the Delta AC resulted in a revision to Proposal #38, but did not resolve the concerns of the public attendees. As a result of this impasse, the Delta AC voted 2 in favor, 7 against, and 2 abstentions to reject the amended version of Proposal #38. Consequently, the Delta AC requests that the original Proposal #38 be withdrawn from consideration by the Board at this time."

The Vague Info Ruling Request

One of the letters attached to those minutes was from Dan Quarburg, chairman of the Delta Advisory Committee, written to Rita St. Louis, on 15 February 2008: "In early February 2008, two of our Delta AC members (Don Bunselmeier and myself) met with two members of the public who were strongly opposed to a proposal (#38) submitted by the committee to the BOG for consideration at their Spring meeting. Proposal 38 would create the Delta Controlled Use Area restricting motorized land use vehicles in that area during August and September.

"Basically the two members of the public chastised me (and Dean Cummings, the other co-author of proposal 38) for the following activities:

"Submitting a proposal for the area in which we personally hunt.

"Convincing the AC to support the proposal.

"Personally voting in favor of the proposal.

"They were adamant that we were in violation of the Public's trust and were highly unethical; that we should not have presented a proposal to change a situation in which we personally would benefit; and that we certainly should have refrained from voting on the proposal.

"Consequently, I am requesting an opinion on those accusations based on

the ADFG Advisory Committee Bylaws Protocol.

"Our intent is to conduct the activities of the AC in the most prudent, judicious and sensible manner possible."

Don's letter did NOT include very pertinent, salient facts, such as that if Proposal 38 passes, it would in effect limit access to this fairly remote area by foot, horse, or by airplane. Or that there was an airstrip in the midst of this hunting area. Or that this restriction would create, in essence, a monopoly, a private game reserve for the guides and pilots who alone could easily access the area, the relative of one air service owner having submitted the proposal, and that air service receives a windfall monopoly from this limitation. Or that the public, without motorized vehicles, would experience severe hardship getting into this nearby area to hunt, and getting out, especially in packing their game out.

It also did not include the information, shared during the February 27 meeting by one pilot, that he turns away more than half of his potential fly-in clients desiring to hunt in that area. So, IF Proposal 38 passes, access to the area being predominantly both controlled, and limited, by the air services, all who would ordinarily exercise their right to hunt there couldn't -- not without ATV access.

During the break, some attendees expressed the thought that limited flights in would keep hunting rife for the pilots who take hunters in, and probably also would keep air service hunting fees high, due to the good hunting because of limited entry. Indeed, when asked how much it cost to fly in, one resident shouted, "TOO MUCH!" And the answer was \$1,000 or more, per person, per hunt.

So, IF access by air is allowed to become the main practical access, then the air service companies can charge whatever their monopolized, restricted-

access market will bear.

Based only on what WAS included in that letter, and without the above points before her, Rita submitted Don's letter to Jim R. Marcotte on 15 February, at 2:01 PM, saying:

"Would you please look over the attached letter from Don Quarberg from Delta AC? I was going to answer him and also notify the other AC members that in my opinion he did not do anything inappropriate nor improper."

"AC Need Not Have Ethics"

Jim Marcotte, at 2:23 pm, on 15 February 2008, replied to Rita:

"I fully concur that there were no improprieties. This is because the advisory committees are "advisory" and not "regulatory." The Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries are subject to the Executive Branch Ethics Act (AS 39.52) because they are regulatory bodies. Department of Law has consistently provided the advice that the advisory committees are not subject to the same guidelines.

"Virtually all public proposals are submitted by persons who have a direct interest in the area hunts or fisheries addressed in the proposal. The advisory committees are free to be persuaded by anyone with a logical basis for a proposal. Again, a personal vote for a proposal at an advisory committee meeting would not be a conflict.

"The checks and balances on the committee are the three year terms of the members and the open and fair public election process."

[In other words, if the public doesn't like a monopolistic private game preserve advantage submitted by the Delta AC members, that if it is passed by the BOG, then the public can, three years later, at the next election, vote out those who were for it.]

Jim Marcotte's reply continued:

"Please pass along to the committee members my appreciation for their public service. You may want to invite the disgruntled parties to attend AC meetings in Tok or Fairbanks to broaden their experience base, or invite them to attend the BOG meeting in Fairbanks."

The BOG meeting Jim referred to is evidently the BOG Spring Regulations Proposals of Changes being held February 29 through March 10.

Jim's response was read at the 27 February Delta AC meeting by Chairman Don Quarberg, who thereafter stated that that letter "should be read before every single AC meeting," to prevent AC members from fearing public ire if AC members present self-serving proposals, and to notify the public that AC members may do so, with impunity.

Public Meetings Are Open To PUBLIC

Also, during the 27 February AC meeting, Michael Bender stated loudly and angrily that he objected to Jacob White "storm troopering our meeting" with his objections to what he perceived to be public interest violations. Michael said that Jacob should have gone to the Board with his objection, not brought them to the AC.

However, this attitude and position is contrary to public policy and interest.

First, these meetings are NOT "our meetings" -- meaning they do NOT belong to the Delta AC. They are NOT private meetings. Jacob White is NOT excluded from that meeting also being "Jacob's meeting". The F&G Advisory Committee members represent him, and other hunting groups and non-hunting citizens as well. Or are supposed to.

This AC member also commented that "life isn't fair" and so it's ok if the F&G Advisory Committee supports proposals that are not fair.

Second, F&G Advisory Committee meetings are PUBLIC meetings. ANY-

Democratic Party News

Democratic Caucuses

On February 5, Alaska, one of 22 states, held its Democratic Presidential caucuses, with four times the number of voters participating than did in 2004: A record 8,880 Democrats voted at 41 Alaska locations for the Presidential nominee for their party.

6,674 voters (75% of Alaska's democratic vote) backed Barack Obama, gaining him 306 (out of 411) delegates who are "bound" to vote for him during the State Convention in May.

2,194 voters (25%) backed Hillary Clinton, giving her 104 (out of 411) State Convention delegates.

12 voters (1%) were uncommitted, resulting in one uncommitted delegate.

Delegates are "bound" to vote for their candidate unless that candidate withdraws from the race, in which case the delegate can back any other remaining Democratic candidate.

Over 3,000 newly registered voters participated in these caucuses -- many of them being members of the growing, active Alaska Young Democrats.

Interior Alaska Multi-District Convention

On 1 March, 2008, from 10 AM to 5 PM in the Westmark Hotel, in 813 Noble Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, the Interior Democrats will hold their multi-district convention to elect district officers, committee members and to propose Resolutions and changes to the Party's Organization Plan and the Party Platform.

Registration will begin at 9 am. Lunch will be served at noon with the convention reconvening at 1 pm. Contact: DavidWValentine@yahoo.com.

Democrat State Convention

Alaska Democrat's State Convention will be May 23-25 in Palmer, Alaska.

At that time, 13 delegates will be elected to the August 24-28, 2008 Democratic National Convention (in Denver) based on the candidates' proportional strength at the far-out there. These 13 delegates will be pledged to follow the caucus votes of Alaska Democrats and the will of the state convention.

National (not state) Republican Party rules give Alaska an additional five "unpledged" delegates, for a total of 18 Alaska delegates to the national convention. These additional five are often called superdelegates, because they may support at the Democratic National Convention whatever candidate they want, and aren't bound by who voters in their states picked.

Their purpose is to upset "fad" or "naive" political movements, by entrenching long-time party workers in the conventions who will vote for candidates who will maintain the long-term democratic party goals. Status quo to maintain the status quo, so to speak.

Four of these five Alaskans have been already appointed, based on their long-time party leadership: Cindy Spanyers, of the Alaska Public Employees Association, and Blake Johnson, party vice chair, remain uncommitted, possibly until the Convention. Two superdelegates have declared, one each for Obama and Clinton. A fifth will be elected at the Democratic State Convention.

Of the 29 regular delegates, three more are unpledged. One is John Davies, the Alaska Democratic National Committeeman, who favors Obama. Patty Higgins, Alaska Democratic Party chair, backs Clinton.

Delegates to the National Democratic Convention number 4,049. Twenty percent are superdelegates, and more of them are for Clinton. More regular delegates are for Obama. #

Republican Party News

Republican Presidential Preference
On 5 February 2008, Alaska Republicans held their "Super Tuesday" Presidential Preference straw vote. With out-of-district ballots still to be verified, and less than 200 votes still left to count, the 13,408 ballots cast thus far were split between four main candidates:

Mitt Romney received 5,920 (44%) votes, gaining him twelve of Alaska's 26 delegates to the National Republican Convention. **Mike Huckabee received 2,893 votes (22%),** for six delegates. **Ron Paul has 2,893 votes,** for five delegates. **John McCain has 2,070 votes (15%),** for three delegates. Unpledged votes totalled 221 (.4%), for 0 delegates.

District 12 Caucus

That same night, Republicans in Delta Junction met in the Senior Citizens' Lounge, joining via teleconference with District twelve's other communities, Valdez, Palmer, Glennallen, and Fairbanks, in its District Convention and caucus.

Speaker of the House John Harris, District 12's Representative shared that during these first 20 session days, the focus has been on the pipeline, energy costs, education, saving money for the future, and deferred maintenance of infrastructure. John thanked our military defenders for protecting our right to vote.

Senate Minority Leader Gene Theriault [1 800 860-4797] said that only one company, Trans Canada, is going into the gas line's public comment period, but that this came through a competitive process: Seeing that CONOCO has indicated a real interest to remain in the game, and that the Port Authority had possibly been working on submitting a proposal, TransCanada sweetened its bid by adding the possibility of a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) project and diversification of markets.

Debbie Joslin Receives Award

The P.R. Miller Award was presented to Debbie Joslin, via flowers, by Vice Chair Ruth Abbott, with a plack. Debbie

thanked her husband Steve and children and said: "God doesn't need people with abilities, but who are available to do this work." [Clem Boucher was the first recipient of this award.]

State Convention Delegates Elected

Over 500 delegates from Alaska's 40 legislative districts are expected to attend the State Republican Convention in Anchorage on March 13 through 15. Fourteen delegates will represent District Twelve, (which includes Delta): Mariah Niezei of Palmer, Don Haas, Joe Prax, Jason Floyd, and Scott Smith of Valdez; and Jesse Schexnayder, Beth Abbott, Dan Mannan, Margaret Mullins, Flower Cole, Autumn Abbott, Debbie Joslin, Ruth Abbott, and Patrick Dalton of Delta.

Alternates representing District 12, who will participate in all discussions, but will not be able to vote unless replacing a delegate who cancels out, are: Glenda Smith, Corey Kiser, Mary Woodbury, Bruce Grossmann, and George Hosier, with openings for nine more alternates.

District 12 Elects Officers

During District 12's Convention, Scott Smith by unanimous consent was re-elected District chair. Don Haas, Beth Abbott, and Jason Floyd ran for Vice Chair. Beth Abbott was elected. Margaret Mullins was elected as District secretary, by unanimous consent. Bruce Grossman had been secretary for eight years, but chose not to run this year.

Each Republican representative elected to in Alaska's Legislature by a district gains for that district a "Bonus Vote" delegate for that district at the State Convention. Debbie Joslin and Jason Floyd ran for Bonus Vote delegate. Jason Floyd was elected.

At the State Convention, Republicans will elect 26 pledged delegates and 3 member delegates for a total of 29 delegates, giving Alaska 2% of the delegates attending the Republican National Convention -- just one delegate less than Connecticut, Oregon or West Virginia. Fifteen states and territories have fewer National delegates than Alaska. #

ONE, even NON-hunters, may come and present to the Delta Advisory Committee their opinions and suggestions.

Third, expressing righteous indignation at public SERVANTS' actions which a citizen feels to be corruptive in at least appearance, or actual nature, is NOT out of place in our democratic republic. Expressing those opinions was Jacob's right, and was even his DUTY. "Silence condones." "And all it takes for evil to persist, and expand, is for good men to do nothing." Plus, public comment and correction often is protective of the board members, themselves, and is a very valuable public service. Like with children, correction IS true caring.

Double-Talk Confusion

During the 27 February meeting, the Vanguard was perturbed, pointing out to the Committee conflicting comments made about the area in question, seeing between all the motorized vehicles that are destroying the area, and making spider web trails across it, while at the same time claiming that restricting ATVs was no hardship because very few ATV folks ever went in there. It was confusing. Thus, the Delta AC was questioned: "What was the real skinny -- was the land being destroyed by sloughs of ATVs, or wasn't it?" And "was the place nearly deserted of ATVs and ATV hunters, or wasn't it?" The room was momentarily silent. Then Don Quarberg replied, "We are surrounded by Indians."

NO Flight Space For ATVs

Other similar unreconcilable and contradictory-to-each-other comments made during that meeting just did not jive with reason. For instance, committee members also said that a third Delta air service, no longer operating, had taken to this area ninety hunters, and they were so packed in there that "when one passed gas, hunters in the next tent

knew it" and that those hunters came out of there really upset.

If there's that much demand to go in, and that air service is NO longer flying, and a second air service (and possibly the third also) doesn't take in even half of those who WANT to go in to hunt there, then there is NO air service available for those who now hunt by ATV who would be forced to turn to already overbooked air services -- thus driving up the price to fly in there. That is how free markets work: Massive demand, and limited product -- or a monopoly on the product -- creates exorbitant prices.

The Vanguard pointed out at the 27 February meeting that 60% of this region is poverty level or below, being retired and limited income, handicapped, low income, and/or subsistence folks, according to Department of Commerce stats. Don countered, "Oh, yeah, but they can afford \$1500 to \$2,000 ATV's!" The Vanguard pointed out that many pool their resources. Also, one year's PFD paid for an ATV's 10-15 year hunting usage gets a family their meat twice a year, which is MUCH cheaper than spending \$1,000 twice a year to fly-in hunt! Opposers' general consensus was that NO person -- or commercial enterprise -- should have a monopoly. Thus the power to be able to remove the right to hunt from individuals in open hunting areas, by being able to choose, and control by economics, who is taken in and who is not.

The Bottom Line: Proposal 38 is STILL "In the Book," & MIGHT be BOG Approved

The Vanguard, at the 27 February 2008 Advisory Committee meeting, asked that, even though the Delta AC withdrew their formal support, Proposal 38 IS STILL in the proposal

book. So IS the BOG still considering approving Proposal 38?

The answer was an unequivocal **YES**. This proposal still might be approved by the Board of Game.

Dan Quarberg further stated that he had personally submitted his own support of Proposal 38, and that he would "use every one of his three minutes speaking in support of this proposal." >

Now, It's YOUR Turn

If you would like to comment on this or other proposed F&G regulation changes, which will not have an opportunity to be changed until the Board of Game again meets to consider regulation changes for THIS region in TWO years (except by legal appeal), then give your up to three minute input at the Board of Game Region III Meeting at Pikes Waterrfront Lodge (which is the building to the right of Pikes Restaurant), in Fairbanks.

Last Op: Friday, Saturday, Sunday
According to Cathy Harms in the Fairbanks Fish and Game office, **interested parties may appear to comment on this and any other proposal thru Sunday**. The comments are NOT scheduled according to proposal number, but according to speaker sign-up order. Once your time to speak comes, you can speak on any proposal you want, in any order.

Cathy also said that the Board hopes to be finished with public testimony by Sunday, and they will begin their deliberations on Monday. IF public comments are not finished by Sunday, then they will continue Monday until finished.

She further shared that the general public has three minutes to speak. Advisory Board members have five minutes. She stressed that **testifying this weekend is the public's last opportunity to input to the board on any pro-**

posal. NOTE: The BOG meets annually, but considers regulation proposals for each region only every two years. The NEXT opportunity to change this or any other proposal is two years from now.

Recommendations NEEDED

On the Fish and Game site, the ADF&G's recommendation re Proposal 38 was found under "department comments": "no recommendation." Cathy explained, "if it is a matter of a particular aspect of biology, the ADF&G WOULD make a recommendation. Since this proposal is about an allocation of who gets to hunt, they do NOT give a recommendation to the board. That is not their job." Therefore, it is clear that recommendations from the public are MUCH needed by the Board of Game. mm

NEWS FLASH!

The Vanguard had asked if Cathy would kindly check if there is a phone number to which folks may phone in their testimony. She checked and Friday phoned me back, saying: **There is NO provision for phone testimony. BUT, comments MAY be FAXED in to 374-7199**. Faxes on any proposal will be accepted up until the moment BOG decides on a proposal, even if it's received AFTER Sunday's public testimony ends. **There's also a phone number for checking the BOG, to check on their up to that moment deliberations progress on each proposal: 1-800-764-8901.** mm

REALLY COOL: This site has a wide range of wonderful classic books that you can read online. But not all "classic" writers are moral authors. Choose carefully. <http://www.4literature.net/authorlist.html>

Ketchikan Annexation Fought

(Cont'd from Pg. 1, Col. 1)

Brockhurst, after approving Ketchikan's proposed charter to annex the areas around Ketchikan, and then being hired by that same borough to be its Manager. The Attorney General's Office was called to investigate this grave appearance of collusion and political payback there.

Now, those areas that have been fighting annexation by the Ketchikan borough have some allies in the Alaska State Legislature:

A resolution disapproving the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's attempt to annex more than 4,700 miles of land outside its boundaries cleared a hurdle on its way to the House Floor today. House Joint Resolution (HJR) 30, sponsored by Representative Bill Thomas (R-Haines), passed out of the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee this week.

A recommendation from the Local Boundary Commission takes effect 45 days after submission to the Legislature or at the end of a legislative session, whichever occurs first. The only way to deny a recommendation is with a resolution disapproving it passing by the majority in both houses.

"We cannot allow for shady or back room deals in any area of state governance," said Rep. Thomas. "And this proposed annexation on the surface strikes many in Southeast Alaska as just that: unprofessional and posing a direct conflict of interest. At its core, the annexation request is nothing short of a money grab by the borough, since the area to be annexed is uninhabited land."

"The borough will receive money off the backs of the schools in the unorganized borough but won't be required to provide any services."

If the annexation is allowed to take place, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough

would receive \$200,000 in payments in lieu of taxes and \$1.2 million in Forest Receipt money from the federal government, funds that currently flow to schools in outlying villages near the Tongass National Forest area that would be annexed.

HJR 30 will be sent to the House Rules Committee to be scheduled for the House floor. Write your legislators supporting this nixing of the annexing of the areas surrounding Ketchikan into the Ketchikan borough. Let our state legislators who REPRESENT US know that Delta will NOT allow these kinds of shenanigans there, in Ketchikan, any more than we will stand for them here.

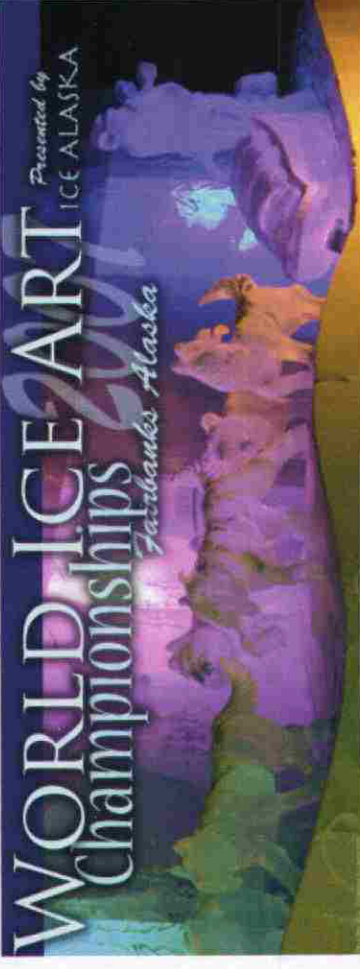
"It's a fool who complains only when it's his own ox that is being gored." mm

Spring Fling Bazaar Set

The Spring Fling Bazaar and Garage Sale is set for 22 March, from 10am-4pm, in Delta's High School's large gym. For booth, phone Denise: 895-4657, xtn.

Alaskan Soduko 8 - To solve this puzzle, the numbers 1-9 must end up in each horizontal AND vertical row, AND in every 9-plex box, with no duplicates in a row or box. (Solution: pg. 19)
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6			7	8	2			9
	7						8	
		9		6		1		
1			5		6			8
9	3	8		7		5	6	4
5			8		4			1
		5		4		3		
			8				2	
3			9	2	7			5



The 2008 World Ice Art Championships has begun and will continue through 23 March, open from 10 AM to 10 PM daily. The Ice Park is located off Pagar Road, just north of the Johanson Expressway, in Fairbanks. It is visited by approximately 45,000 Alaskan and world-wide visitors, with works created by more than 70 competing teams from all over the world.

The Flint Hills Resources Kids' Park — four acres of playground built entirely from ice by over 100 ice artists — is open now. It closes March 23. Slides and rides for all ages, challenging mazes, and life-sized sculptures of favorite animals, popular characters and toys can be touched and climbed on.

Ice Park season passes/day rates are: \$25/\$10adult; \$10/\$5child, 6-12 years; \$65/family; children under 6 free.

In the **Single Ice Block (5 x 8 x 3')** Competition, the sculptors are have only people power to lift and position the huge blocks, after they are first positioned.* Most

ICE PARK



worked long hours, even around the clock, to complete their sculpture on time. The resulting spectacular 40 pieces,* some over 25 ft. tall, were judged under white lights Thursday night. The finished pieces are exhibited for the public to see.

The Multi Block Classic Ice Sculpture Competition between 2 to 4 member teams begins at 9 am, Sunday, 2 March, and ends at 9pm Friday. Each team is given ten 4ft x 6ft x 3ft blocks of ice, aided by heavy equipment and skilled operators to lift and position the ice.

The public may watch the artists. The sculptures sometimes are taller than 25 feet. Friday night, the sculptures will be judged under white lights. Saturday, 8 March, at 8 pm, winners will be revealed.

The park's natural refrigeration and shade maintains sculptures in pristine condition through the end of March.

One and two member teams may register for the **27 February through 14 March Amateur Open Exhibition** to try out their ideas on a block of ice. Participants under 16 must have parental permission and be accompanied by an adult while they are working. Finished sculptures are illuminated with colored lights. Sam's Club Amateur Open teams are recognized at the Jr. Ice Art Championship Awards Ceremony at 8 pm on the Friday night.

The Junior World Ice Art Championship, Mar. 11-14, (Cont'd, pg. 24)

Update On Borough Appeal

(Cont'd to page 8, col. 1)

basic problem, before Wilken ever began his "force a borough on Delta" rhetoric was, and still is, the LBC and its handling of this region, through the LBC's ignoring facts and fraudulent misinformations, and violations of civil rights, and even violations of: Alaska statutes, the LBC'S own regulations, open meetings laws, and basic ethics.

Thus, the fight goes on in the Alaska Supreme Court to vindicate those rights, to prevent such illegal processes from happening to us again, even as they are happening to the Ketchikan area now.

Motion to Waive Costs Bond Unlawfully Denied

Normally, when appealing a case to a higher court, a filing fee and a cost bond is required to be posted, to guarantee that the party defending in the appeal, if it wins, would receive its expenses in defending.

When the LBC's denial of the seven petitions for reconsideration of its approval of the Delta Borough's Charter was appealed to Fairbanks Superior court, that judge DID honor that this was a public interest case, and DID thus waive the filing fee and bond. That helped, because it paid for many expenses of office supplies to organize the legal principle, cases, and decisions (hundreds of them), including cards on which to write the synopsis of the cases for easy referral when arguing motions before the court in person.

Indeed, when an appeal involves public interest issues, one main case. Conservation Council, has for years held that "public interest lawsuits are so valuable to the state and public that all costs should be born by the State or agency."

Yet, three judges in the Alaska Supreme Court have chosen to overturn their own long-standing precedent, and

have denied Delta's motion to waive the \$750 costs bond, and the \$150 filing fee.

Long has it been held in the courts that "the finances of the public interest litigant pursuer is NOT the main issue, but the nature of the case IS the main issue."

Yet the Alaska Supreme Court has held that the appeal would be dismissed unless the appellant filed a financial disclosure in order to prove financial neediness, and that in the event that such a financial disclosure was NOT made, that the case would be dismissed."

Motion To Reconsider, Denied

A motion for reconsideration of the waiver motion was filed, citing that financial disclosure by the appellant was wrong, and would put a chilling effect on public interest litigants if they had to expose their own personal finances, when pursuing public interests which have NOTHING to do with one's own income, and which seeks the public good. The argument is that the bond/fee issue was NOT the finances of the appellant, but the nature of the case, the public good. And that there should have NO blockages to pursuing the same.

The Alaska Supreme Court denied this motion also.

The Supreme Court clerk was asked to identify which judges had denied the motion, and she said that the names of the judges are NOT disclosed. So much for having the information needed to vote judges OUT of office if they violate citizen's rights, or rule UNrighteously. We need some court changes, BIGtime!

The following "Request for Clarification of Order Denying Motion to Waive Costs Bond & Filing Fee" was filed with Alaska Supreme Court:

Request for Clarification Of Order

COMES NOW the Appellant, pro se, and hereby requests that this court clarify on what basis in law and fact it denied

Appellant's Motion to Waive this appeal's Bond and Fees. I am pro se [meaning pursuing this appeal without the help of an attorney], and am in great confusion as to why this court denied this motion.

Conservation Council, 665 P.2d at 553-54 specifically held: It is entirely justifiable for a public or governmental agency to bear the FULL costs of litigating a public interest question because the public benefits. (caps, bold, mine.) If this is so, and this case still is good precedent, then WHY demand a costs bond from me? I need to know the law and reasoning of this court in its apparent overriding of this precedent.

Further, threatening dismissal of a valid, meritorious case is a grievous matter, per the following cases, and thus how much MORE so is it to threaten the case of a valid, meritorious public interest case?

Walter Process Equipment v. Food Machinery, 382 U.S. 172 (1965) held that in a "motion to dismiss, the material allegations of the complaint are taken as admitted." From this vantage point, courts are reluctant to dismiss complaints unless it appears the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief (see *Conley vs. Gibson*). (bold, mine)

Without knowing this Court's lawful basis of law and fact in denying my motion, I am both prejudiced thereby, and hampered in knowing how to proceed.

Kaiser v. Sakata, 40 P.3D 800 stated: "Judges should inform a pro se litigant of the proper procedure for

the action he is obviously attempting to accomplish, and inform pro se litigants of specific defects in their pleadings." The court in *REQUIRED* to ascertain what pro se litigants are trying to accomplish, and the court is give guidance to such litigant to accomplish that.

While I have been able to come up with the funds for this appeal, as demanded by this Court, they were paid under protest, and financial duress, and with a sense of coercion, because I don't know THE LAWFUL BASIS OR FACTS AS TO WHY this motion was denied. I feel that this fee and bond demand, in light of this being a public interest lawsuit, seeking the public good, is contrary to both law and public policy in light of these cases, which I respectfully urge this court to consider in clarifying for me the basis for its order.

Without fact or law basis being stated, I am led to assume that my pro se status and dealing with someone untrained in law is being avoided by this demand.

However, should this court be reasoning that I am pro se, and that pro se litigants are a headache, let me remind the court of these past rulings:

Matly v. Grasselli Chemical Co., 303 U.S. 197 (1938), held: "Pleadings are intended to serve as a means of arriving at fair and just settlements of controversies between litigants." They should not raise barriers which prevent the achievement of that end. Proper pleading is important, but its importance consists in its effectiveness as a means to accomplish the end of a just judgment."

Schwartz v. Board of Examiners, United State Reports 353 U.S. pages 238, 239 stated: "The practice of law cannot be licensed by any state/State." *Sims v. Aherns*, 271 SW 720 (1925) held: "The practice of law is an occupation of common right."

Elmore v. McGarran (1986) 640 F. Supp. 905, held: "the right to file a lawsuit pro se is one of the most important rights under the Constitution and laws."

In *Picking v. Pennsylvania Railway*, (151 F.2d. 240) Third Circuit Court of Appeals, the plaintiff's civil rights claim

the story of a love - the love of David and Lena who meet up in New York without realizing how much their lives are already connected with each other. David, the son of a traditional Jewish family from Brooklyn, feels at home in and yet alien to the conventions of his parents. Lena, from a liberal-secular Jewish home in Hameln, has come to New York to escape the spiritual narrowness of her family home and the middle-class values of the German provinces. But their love is over-shadowed by a murder. David's mother was the victim and both families are involved. Lawyer Kaminski enters the scene. His speciality is divorces. His calling is solving crimes against the Jewish people. He isn't impressed by David and Lena's love affair. He obstinately pursues the traces which point directly to Lena's family; a film about the perpetrators of crimes and victims and the realization that even victims are not immune from becoming perpetrators of crime.

THE LAST JEWS OF LIBYA (50 minutes, 2007, USA, Arabic, English, Hebrew, Italian with subtitles, Narrator: Isabella Rossellini, Director: Vivienne Roumani Denn) documents the closing decades of a centuries-old North African Sephardic Jewish community as told through the memories of the remarkable Roumani family of Benghazi. A large and thriving 36,000 population of Jews lived in Libya at World War II's end, but not a single one remains today. Filmmaker Vivienne Roumani-Denn draws upon the recently discovered diaries of her mother, matriarch Elise Roumani, to recount her family history from Turkish Ottoman rule through the age of Mussolini and Hitler, to the final destruction and dispersal of Libyan Jews in the face of Arab nationalism. Eloquently narrated by Isabella Rossellini and featuring multilingual interviews with several

generations of the Roumani family. The Last Jews of Libya is an unforgettable tale of war, cultural dislocation, and the role tradition and faith played in one family's perseverance.

LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER (50 minutes, 2007, Hebrew with English subtitles, Color, Director: Leonid Prudovsky): romantic comedy about a new immigrant from Argentina and his relationship with his Hebrew teacher at the Absorption Center. Marcelo is a non-religious young man, an actor and a single parent to his eleven years old daughter, Lucy. He desperately needs to improve his Hebrew accent, so he can pass an Israeli Soap Opera audition. Anat, his religious teacher, is probably the best solution, but she hates soap operas, and is not so fond of her pupil either. And, she has her own problem: her mother, Bruria, an energetic, not to say pushy lady, frantically seeks a perfect match for her daughter who has, in her eyes, passed the proper wedding age. This film won the Audience Award, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival, 2006 and Jury Citation, Girona International Film Festival Basaltu Competition, 2006.

RAPE OF EUROPE (117 minutes, 2006, USA, English, Documentary, Color, Creators: Lynn H. Nicholas and Robert M. Edsel, Filmmakers: Bonni Cohen, Richard Berge, Jon Shenk, and Josh Peterson): The epic of the systematic theft, deliberate destruction and miraculous survival of Europe's art treasures during the Third Reich and World War II. In a journey through seven countries, the film takes the audience into the violent whirlwind of fanaticism, greed, and warfare that threatened to wipe out Europe's artistic heritage. The Nazis looted and destroyed art on a scale unprecedented in history for twelve years. But young art professionals and ordinary heroes - from truck drivers to

Jewish Film Festival

Here are the intriguing story lines for the Jewish Festival Films listed on the activities calendar on page 12-14.



DARK NIGHT (30 minutes, 2005, Drama, Israel, in Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian w/ English subtitles, Color, Director: Leonid Prudovsky): An Israeli military jeep returning from a late night patrol strikes a land mine while still in hostile territory. The two surviving soldiers soon find themselves trapped in an enemy town teeming with militants, and they seek refuge in a house that happens to be inhabited by a Palestinian couple. As the night progresses, the situation becomes more desperate in this suspenseful and accomplished work that was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in the Student Film category and won an Audience Choice award at the 2006 NY Israeli Film Festival.

JOSEPH AND MARIA (55 minutes, Documentary, Hebrew and German, subtitled. Produced and Directed by Vared Berman. Vared is the wife of Gerry Berman, a sponsor of the Festival).

Josef, a 70 year old, never married waiter in Jerusalem, has had little in life. He is tormented by memories of sexual abuse as a boy in concentration camps. Maria is a German Christian who does deeds of atonement in Israel. Maria walks into Josef's coffee house one day, and Josef's life is instantly turned on its head. A sweet tale of love and romance.

THE GIRAFFE (107 minutes, 1998, Drama, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Language: English and German, Color, Director: Dani Levy) is a thriller ... and

2pm (F) "SEUSSICAL" FOR KIDS: See 29 February.

7:30-9:30pm (F) SQUARE DANCE See 1 March.

7:30pm (F) TWO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL MOVIES: Suggested donation per evening: \$10 Adult; \$5 students. At Alaska Coffee Roasting Company, 4001 Geist Road; "Dear Mr. Waldman" and "The Tribe."

8pm (F) "SEUSSICAL" FOR KIDS: See 29 February.

SUNDAY, 9 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

4pm (F) "SEUSSICAL" FOR KIDS: See 29 February.

MONDAY, 10 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

9am (D) DANCE AEROBICS: See 3 Mar.

8pm Buffalo **AA**, downstairs, Delta Presbyterian Church.

TUESDAY, 11 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

10:30-11:15am LAPTIME STORIES for kids birth to 3 yo. See 4 March.

WEDNESDAY, 12 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

9am (D) DANCE AEROBICS: See 3 March

5pm (D) WEIGHT WATCHERS: See 5 March.

6pm (D) Short LENTEN SERVICE See 5 March.

was 150 pages and described by a federal judge as "inept."

Nevertheless, it was held:

"Where a plaintiff pleads pro se in a suit for protection of civil rights, the court should endeavor to construe plaintiffs pleading without regard to technicalities."

Puckett v. Cox (456 F2d 233, 1972 Sixth Circuit USCA) held that a pro se complaint requires a less stringent reading than one drafted by a lawyer

In *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41 at 48(1957), Justice Black said, "The Federal Rules rejects the approach that pleading is a game of skill in which one misstep by counsel may be decisive to the outcome and accept the principle that the purpose of pleading is to facilitate a proper decision on the merits." That Court also cited Rule 8(f) FRCP, which holds that all pleadings shall be construed to do substantial justice.

Jenkins v. McKeithen, 395 U.S. 411, 421 (1959); and *Picking v. Pennsylvania R. Co.*, 151 Fed 2nd 240; *Puckett v. Cox*, 456 2nd 233, held: "Pro se pleadings are to be considered without regard to technicality; pro se litigants' pleadings are not to be held to the same high standards of perfection as lawyers."

Without specific and law-based clarification from this court as to why it denied Appellant's motion to waive these fees, my only choice is to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for relief, citing a lack of basis in law and fact, and thus that this order was discriminatory, arbitrary, and capricious, under color of law.

I do NOT want to do that, especially in light of my beloved Alaska's already having recently sustained embarrassing, negative, national publicity because of indictments of state corrupted officials.

WHEREFORE, please provide me clarification, in laymen's terms, of why this motion to waive the bond and filing fees in this public interest case was de-

nied. Just stating denied does NOT provide the information I need in order to understand if this Court is dealing with me fairly, or not, or according to the law, and thus I am stymied at what my next step should be in pursuing justice in this borough case, and in and through this Court. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, AFFIRMED, AND DATED 23 January 2008."

This last week, the request for clarification of the order was returned, with a most flabbergasting, amazing note from the clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court that the judges do NOT have to give a reason for denying a motion.

All research indicates that this is contrary to all law and practice, especially when a litigant is pro se. Without knowing on what basis this court denied the motion to waive bond and fees, the assumption can only be made that they have NO legal basis, either in fact or in law, and thus that their decision was capriciously and arbitrarily made.

Therefore, research and preparation is being made to appeal this case to the United States Supreme Court. These issues re the bond and fee for public interest litigants, and requiring such a litigant to divulge personal, private financial information in order to seek vindication of wrongs done by government officials and when seeking the public good need to be settled, as well as forcing Alaska's Judges to see that their rulings rule on issues best be based on, backed up by, both law and fact.

What is needed is a sharp, patriotic attorney to step forward to help with this case, pro bone, and funds to research the method of appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court and for wisdom in "every direction."

All it takes for evil to persist, and expand, is for "good men" to complacently be silent, thus condoning the wrongs. mm

Activities Calendar

(D) = Delta (F) = Fairbanks

All of Delta has the same 895 prefix.

FRIDAY, 29 FEB.

DELTA LIBRARY CLOSED.

ALL DAY (F) 35th NATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL: "One Song, Many Dances."

Celebration of Alaska Native culture, with traditional dancing, singing, Native Arts and crafts sale. <http://www.uaf.edu/festival>. 474-6889. Last day, Saturday, March 1.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: International ice sculpting event, over 180 sculptures; Multi-block Classic: March 2-7; Award ceremonies: March 8. Best viewing of finished pieces: March 8-16. www.icealaska.com; 451-8250. Runs through Sunday, 22 March, daily.

6pm (D) SHARE-A-DISH & BIBLE STUDY: 1st Baptist, gym building.

8pm (F) "SEUSSICAL" FOR KIDS: "Fantastical, musical extravaganza for all ages with Seuss characters, gumbo of musical styles, Latin to pop, R&B to swing, more. Your toes will tap, and imagination run wild." Admission: Reserved: \$25; Adult: \$20; Senior, military, student: \$15; Youth 10 and under: \$10.

8pm (F) ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: A classic for all ages by Fairbanks Drama Association, at Riverfront Theatre, 1852 Second Ave. Adults, \$18. Seniors, students, & military, \$16. Runs through March 2: Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 2pm. Fda-fct@mosquitonet.com. Advance tickets by phone only: 456-PLAY.

SATURDAY, 1 MAR.

DELTA LIBRARY CLOSED.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

2pm & 8pm (F) "SEUSSICAL" FOR KIDS: See 29 Feb.

7:30-9:30pm (F) SQUARE DANCE, every Saturday, Sept. 9-May 26. Adults, \$7. Youths 13-19, \$5. Under 13, free. Mainstream Square Dance: Easy Two-Step, Waltz, at the Pioneer Park Square, Round Dance Hall. Caller: David Smith. Jerrie: 488-6681 akjuj511@yahoo.com.

7pm (F) TWO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL MOVIES: TWO short movies will be shown at Coffee Roasting Company, 4001 Geist road: (1) DARK NIGHT, and (2) JOSEPH AND MARIA At 7 pm, at Blue Loon, on the Parks Highway, THE GIRAFFE (Meschugge) will be shown. Suggested donation per evening: \$10 Adult; \$5 students. See page 14 for movie story lines.

8pm (F) ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: See 29 Feb.

SUNDAY, 2 MAR.

DELTA LIBRARY CLOSED.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

2pm (F) ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: LAST PERFORMANCE! See 29 Feb.

7pm & 8pm (F) TWO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL MOVIES: 7pm: THE LAST JEWS OF LIBYA; 8 pm, LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER, both shown at Alaska Coffee Roasting Company, 4001 Geist Road: See 1 Mar. above, and page 14 for movie story lines.

MONDAY, 3 MAR.

9am (D) DANCE AEROBICS: Full body warm up, work out. Cool down. Bring towel, 2 lb. weights (if you have them), water. Child care provided. 1st Baptist Church. 590-1802.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

8pm Buffalo AA, downstairs, Delta Presbyterian Church.

7:15-8:30pm (D) KNITTING CIRCLE meets, Delta Library. Bring your latest project, pattern questions, yarn ideas. Friendly group, meets 1st Monday of every month. Tea, cookies, smiles. 895-4102.

TUESDAY, 4 MAR.

10am-noon (D) MOPS: Mothers of Pre-schoolers. Creative rest-break: free toddler, baby, child care. Weekly play groups, aerobics dance class, Meals-for-Moms in need, monthly Mom's Night Out! "Mom Sense" magazine subscription; helpful, inspiring monthly e-mails, a book for mom, DVD for children. 1st Baptist Church, Rich. Hwy. Andrea, 1857.

10:30-11:15am LAPTIME STORIES for kids birth to 3 YO. FREE themed story, music, hand, finger plays, with occasional craft or snack. Caregiver must accompany child. Siblings welcome; no reservations. Delta Library: Miss Nancy: 4102. (See story page 22.)

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

5pm (D) DELTA COUNCIL, at City Hall, 895-4656. Find agenda online at www.ci.delta-junction.ak.us, or at the PO, IGA, and City Hall on Fridays before meeting date. To add a topic to the agenda, please phone 895-4656 by Thursdays. Phone same number to request to speak before the council.

WEDNESDAY, 5 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

9am (D) DANCE AEROBICS: See 3 Mar.

11am (D) PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR Delta Library. 3-5 YO, with caregiver. Theme story, music, singing, hand and finger plays, maybe craft or snack. Older siblings welcome. Free. No

registration. Nancy, 895-4102. 2291 Deborah St.

5pm (D) WEIGHT WATCHERS: Jarvis West Office Center, Suite L5. ww_delta@yahoo.com.

6pm (D) Short LENTEN SERVICE: at Delta Presbyterian/Faith Lutheran Church at 1760 Richardson Highway (aka MP 266.5), one hour, preceded by a sparse soup and sandwich meal. 895-4322.

7pm (F) TWO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL MOVIES: At Civic Center/Pioneer Park: Rape of Europa: Suggested donation per evening: \$10 Adult; \$5 students. See movie story line, page

THURSDAY, 6 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

5pm (F) DELTA FAIR MEETING: Fair Office, AMC Building basement, Fair members and potential members welcome. 895-FAIR

8pm (D) BUFFALO AA: 12 step recovery program. Delta Presbyterian Church, downstairs. 4400 or 5290

FRIDAY, 7 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: See 29 Feb.

5pm (D) DELTA SPORTSMEN'S ASSN MEETING: 5pm dinner, 6:30 pm Directors' Meeting; 7pm business Meeting. DATE CHANGE is ONLY for this month. Bill Dunham.


6pm (D) SHARE-A-DISH & BIBLE STUDY: 1st Baptist, gym building.

8pm (F) "SEUSSICAL" FOR KIDS: See 29 February.

SATURDAY, 8 MAR.

10am-10pm (F) WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIP: 8 PM: International ice sculpting Awards ceremony.

RC 110

 You replied on 3/3/2008 12:01 PM.

Tibbles, Kristy R (DFG)

From: Chythlook, Joseph L (DFG)

Sent: Mon 3/3/2008 11:45 AM

To: Tibbles, Kristy R (DFG)

Cc:

Subject: Lower Bristol Bay AC Position on Proposal 97

Attachments:

The Lower Bristol AC met on February 12, 2008 by teleconference and took action Proposal 97. The motion made and passed by the quorum of members present was to support the amended version of Proposal 97 which would be presented to the Board of Game at Fairbanks meeting by the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Division. Please accept this as a comment from the Lower Bristol Bay AC as instructions from the Acting Chair, Dan Kingsley of Pilot Point. Thanks. -Joe.

Proposal 13

Support Documents

RC 45 Sleetmute Traditional Council proposal comments

***RC 46** ADF&G Comments on 13 with Stony Holitna AC (SHAC) responses in **RED**

(includes a 19A & B regulation map & covers main points)

RC 60 SHAC chairman verbal comments

RC 101 Info sheet on recent 19B regulation history

AC 7 SHAC minutes and comments on proposals

Dept. of Public Safety comments on 13

Public comments

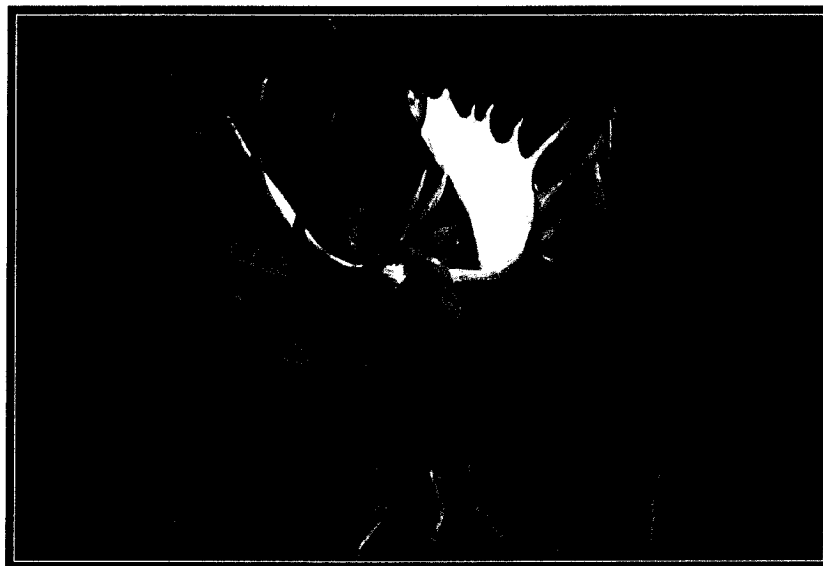
- **23** Red Devil Traditional Council
- **54** Stony River Traditional Council
- **55** Lime Village Traditional Council



RC1/2

Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan

For Game Management Subunits 21A and 21E



Prepared by:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Division of Wildlife Conservation,
in Cooperation With
The Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group

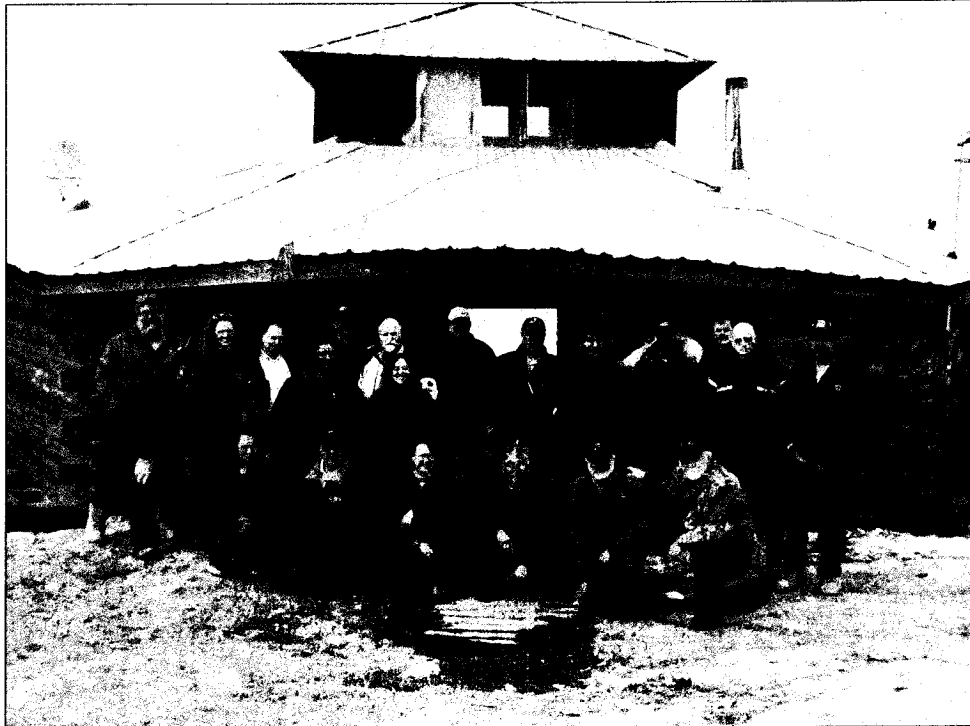
December 2006



Acknowledgements

A grant provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management helped fund this planning effort. The grant helped to cover ADF&G employee travel costs, materials and supplies, and printing and distribution of newsletters and other planning documents. The ADF&G appreciates this contribution to this cooperative planning effort.

All drawings in this plan were done by Michael Williams, Beaver, Alaska.



Participants in the April 2005 Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group meeting in Shageluk.

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- ◆ US Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203, or;
- ◆ Office of Equal Opportunity, US Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240

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- ◆ Publications Specialist, ADF&G/Division of Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526 or call 907-465-4176.

Mission: Maintain healthy and abundant moose populations by proactively managing moose, predation and habitat and keeping moose harvest within sustained yield so that subsistence needs for moose are met on an annual basis and there is sufficient moose to provide for personal and family use of Alaska residents and some nonresident hunting opportunity for generations to come.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan (YIMMP) is intended to establish a proactive management program that will help to maintain an abundant moose population to provide for high levels of human consumptive uses. This approach is designed to help prevent a decline in the moose population to a low level that would be very difficult to reverse. The YIMMP is a comprehensive management plan. The plan includes recommendations to manage moose harvest conservatively, maintain moose habitat, to provide public information and education materials and to increase harvest of black bears, grizzly bears and wolves through hunting and trapping.

The plan was developed through a cooperative effort involving a citizens' advisory group called the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group (YIWG or Working Group). State and federal agency staff participated in the project as technical advisors. The Working Group includes representatives of the Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk-Holy Cross (GASH) and Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Western Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Councils, non-local hunters and representatives of commercial interests in hunting in the region.

Initially the planning effort was focused only on Unit 21E. Members of the Working Group noted that moose hunting that takes place in the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A has a significant influence on moose management in Unit 21E. Based on the group's recommendation, the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A is included in this plan.

For several years prior to the planning process local residents and hunters reported observing a decline in the moose population in Game Management Unit 21E. In January 2003 the GASH Advisory Committee (AC) voted against reauthorizing the state winter antlerless moose hunt in Unit 21E to limit harvest of cow moose. This initial proactive action helped to maintain productivity of the moose population and may have prevented a significant decline.

At the first planning meeting held in January 2005 the Working Group reviewed data from a February 2000 moose population estimation survey and identified the need for a new survey to provide a better basis for developing recommendations. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G or department) worked in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the Association of Village Council Presidents and completed a new moose population estimation survey in Unit 21E in March 2005. The survey indicated the moose population is relatively stable but may have declined somewhat since the previous survey that was conducted in March 2000.

The March 2005 moose population estimate and population modeling later conducted by ADF&G biologists indicated that, in order to prevent a decline in the population, harvest should be kept within 4% or less of the total moose population, and that only minimal cow harvest can be sustained. The current estimated annual harvest is near the upper end of the harvestable surplus.

At the final meeting held in November 2005, the Working Group discussed how close the current level of harvest is to the maximum sustainable harvest. The group noted that a decline in the moose population would likely result in the need for more significant reductions in harvest, including the possibility of further action to reduce Alaska resident harvest. At this point, members of the Working Group who were present agreed to recommend reducing the nonresident season by 5 days and implementing a drawing permit system to prevent an increase in nonresident hunting at the current moose population level.

Based on this situation, the Working Group felt compelled to recommend intensive management of moose in Unit 21E, including pursuing adoption of a wolf predation control implementation plan. Department staff advised the Working Group that the resources available to implement predation control programs are limited and that supporting the predation control programs that are already in place would be given priority.

In March 2006 the Board of Game (board) endorsed the YIMMP and adopted the regulatory proposals recommended by the Working Group, with a few minor modifications. In May 2006 the YIMMP was endorsed by the Federal Subsistence Board. (The endorsements by the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board are provided in Appendix A)

In their endorsement of the plan the board requested the department develop a plan for Intensive Management (IM) of moose in Unit 21E. The department will work with the GASH AC and others to prepare a plan that considers all options for Intensive Management in Unit 21E. The plan will be submitted for consideration by the board at the next interior Alaska meeting scheduled for March 2008. At that time the department will have to re-evaluate resources available and priorities for IM programs and advise the GASH AC and board whether the department will be able to develop and effectively implement a wolf predation control program or other options for IM in Unit 21E.

The ADF&G greatly appreciates the dedication of time and effort by members of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group and participating agency staff in helping to develop the YIMMP. In addition, we appreciate the great hospitality of the communities of Grayling, Shageluk, Anvik and Holy Cross in hosting the meetings. This plan could not have been developed without the support and participation of all who were involved.

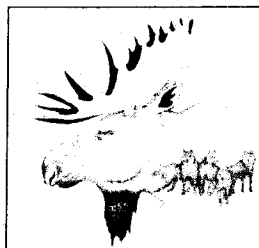


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INTRODUCTION

This plan is written to guide the management of moose and related wildlife in Game Management Units (GMU or Unit) 21E and Unit 21A in western Alaska (Figure 1). The plan is intended to be comprehensive by addressing moose hunting regulations, moose habitat, management of predation on moose, and information and education needs. The plan has been prepared through a cooperative effort involving state fish and game advisory committees, federal subsistence councils, local and non-local hunters, big game hunting transporters, Native organizations and others. The planning process was initiated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) but included involvement and coordination with the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge (INWR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (FWS/OSM).

Communities in the planning area include Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross. Below Unit 21E on the Yukon River there are several additional communities including Russian Mission, Marshall, Mountain Village and Emmonak. At the lower end of Unit 21E the Kuskokwim River is located less than 50 miles to the south and the communities of Lower and Upper Kalskag and Aniak are close by. Bethel, with a population of just under 6,000 is the largest community in the region and is located approximately 75 air miles from the southern tip of Unit 21E.

The Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk-Holy Cross State Fish and Game Advisory Committee (GASH AC) represents residents of Unit 21E for state fish and wildlife matters. Other state fish and game advisory committees (ACs) in the region which share an interest in moose management in Units 21E and A include the Lower Yukon, McGrath, Central Kuskokwim, and Middle Yukon ACs. Unit 21E and Unit 21A are within the area represented by the Western Interior Regional Council (WIRAC) for federal subsistence management issues. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council (Y-K Delta RAC) also has an interest in moose management issues in Unit 21E.

The majority of moose hunters in Unit 21E are Alaska residents. Moose are a very important subsistence resource for residents of the communities in Unit 21E. During fall, hunters from communities in the lower Yukon River and other locations in Unit 18 travel by boat to hunt in Unit 21E. In the past, before the winter hunt was closed under state regulations, residents of Units 18 and 19A traveled by snowmachine to hunt in Unit 21E. In recent years the moose population has grown in the lower Yukon River area in Unit 18 and has resulted in fewer hunters coming up river into Unit 21E.

Some resident and nonresident hunters from outside the region also participate in the fall hunt in Unit 21E and several guides and transporters operate in the area. The Paradise Controlled Use Area (PCUA) encompasses lands along the Yukon and Innoko Rivers and prohibits use of aircraft for hunting moose or transporting moose hunters (Figure 1). The PCUA access restrictions have the effect of reducing the number of hunters from outside the region that hunt in this portion of Unit 21E.

Within the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A a large portion of the hunters are Alaska residents who live outside the area or nonresidents who fly into the area. Many non-local hunters fly in and float down the Innoko River. Holikachuk Slough allows access from the Yukon River to the Innoko River above Grayling, well upriver from the mouth of the Innoko River on the Yukon. Residents of Grayling and Shageluk and occasionally other communities in the area travel up the Innoko River by boat to hunt moose in Unit 21A.

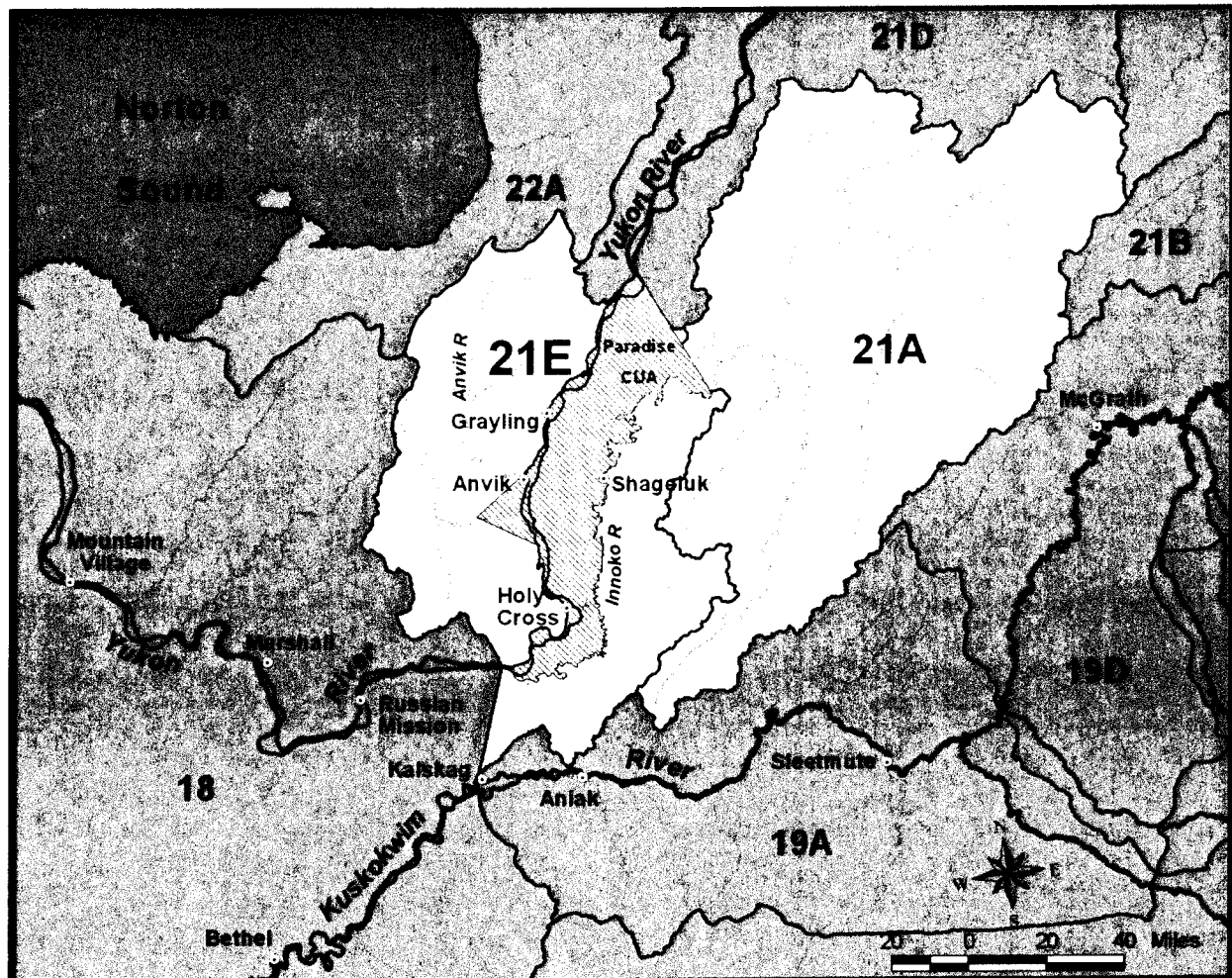


Figure 1. Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Planning Area

About 45% of land in Unit 21E is under state and private ownership with Native corporations being the primary private landowners (Figure 2). The remaining 55% of Unit 21E is federal public lands managed by the BLM (44%) and the Innoko and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges (11%). Land ownership in the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A is 39% INWR, 8.7% BLM, 49.6% state and 2.7% private.

When the planning process was initiated information on the status of moose populations was not as complete as desired. The data available suggested that compared with many areas of interior Alaska, the moose population in Unit 21E, was relatively healthy. In the northern and eastern portions of Unit 21E and within the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A moose population

densities are lower. Collaboration with the INWR on data they had obtained in the past and a cooperative moose survey conducted in Unit 21E during the planning process provided additional information on the moose population. As more data became available and was carefully evaluated it became apparent that the moose population cannot sustain a significant increase in mortality from harvest or predation without the risk of a population decline.

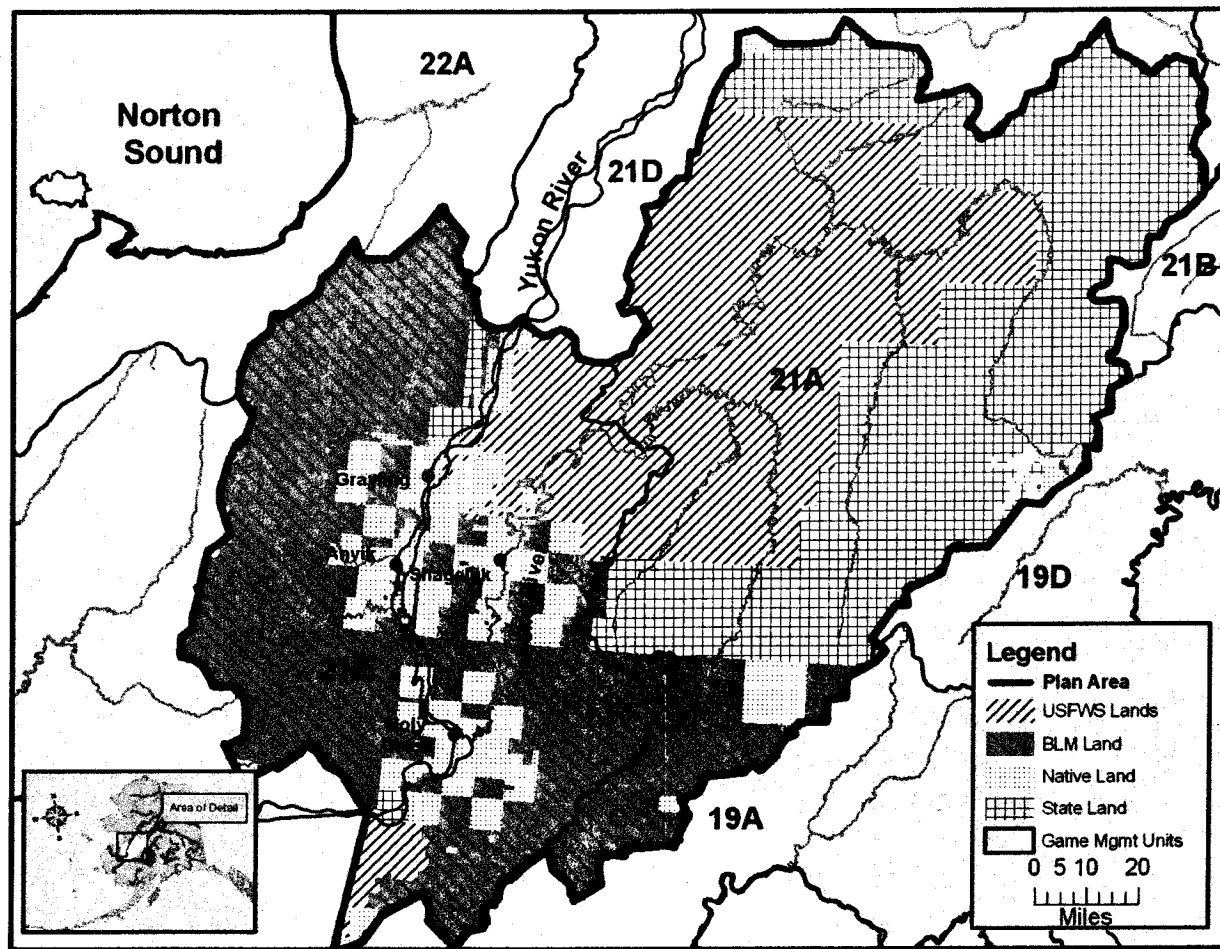


Figure 2. Major land ownership patterns in the planning area.

Factors That Led to the Planning Effort

For several years prior to the planning process residents of the GASH communities expressed concerns about increased competition for moose and the potential for declines in the moose population. Many local residents reported that predation on moose had increased and felt the moose population was declining. The WIRAC, GASH AC and others advocated for a planning effort in Unit 21E to address the moose management situation proactively rather than waiting for a severe decline in the moose population to occur, a situation that would be much more difficult to reverse. In January 2003 the GASH AC took the initiative to not reauthorize the state winter antlerless moose hunt in Unit 21E due to concerns about the possibility of a decline in the moose population.

Efforts to increase or maintain moose populations in adjacent GMUs have resulted in reduced hunting opportunity in those areas. Temporary restrictions in hunting opportunity to help increase moose populations in adjacent GMUs could lead to increased hunting pressure in Units 21E and 21A. In fall 2004 a five-year moratorium on moose hunting intended to increase moose numbers went into effect in the Kuskokwim River drainage in Unit 18. In March 2004 Unit 19A was closed to nonresident hunting and a registration permit was established for resident hunters. In March 2006 the eastern portion of GMU 19A was closed to all moose hunting and the western portion of Unit 19A was changed to a Tier II subsistence hunt with only limited numbers of permits available. In recent years drawing and registration permit hunts have been established in GMUs 21D and 21B upriver along the Yukon. These regulatory changes in adjacent Units have caused increased concern about displaced hunters causing increased hunting pressure in Unit 21E.

Another issue involving Unit 21E moose in the last several years has been proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) from residents of Unit 18 to be recognized as customary and traditional (C&T) users of moose in Unit 21E under federal subsistence hunting regulations. Currently Russian Mission is the only community in Unit 18 with a positive C&T finding under federal regulations for Unit 21E moose. Because there is still a federal winter moose hunting season in Unit 21E a change in the C&T determination could make many more people eligible to participate in this hunt and result in excessive cow harvest.

In addition, the proposed development of the Donlin Creek Mine and the possible construction of a road between the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River could increase the population in the area and provide improved access that may increase pressure on the Unit 21E moose population.

Finally, the DWC recognized the need to work more closely with the GASH AC and others concerned with moose management in this area. The division supported the concept of establishing a cooperative planning effort to take a proactive approach in managing moose in the Yukon-Innoko River area.

Process Used to Develop the Plan

In October 2004 DWC staff developed a Unit 21E moose management planning proposal and announced the intent to begin a planning process in the "Unit 21E Moose Planning News." The newsletter was sent to all residents of Unit 21E, persons who had reported hunting in the Unit in 2002 or 2003, guides registered for the Unit, transporters and others potentially interested in the planning process. The newsletter invited nominations for representatives to participate in a moose management working group from fish and game advisory committees, federal subsistence councils, guides and transporters and others who hunt in Unit 21E. The proposed planning process was discussed at the GASH AC meeting held November 2, 2004 in Anvik. The GASH AC chose to appoint one representative to the Working Group and recommended that each local village council also appoint a representative. The planning process was further discussed at a joint meeting of the four GASH village councils in Shageluk on November 4th and later each council appointed a representative. The Working group members appointed by the village councils have all been members of the GASH AC or served as alternates. The Lower Yukon AC, WIRAC and Y-K Delta RAC each appointed a representative. All of the non-local hunters and the transporter that were nominated and available to participate were included in the Working

Group. No persons who guide in the area expressed an interest in being involved. A second transporter, Gwen White expressed interest in participating and was added to the group after the first meeting. The resulting membership of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group (YIWG or Working Group) follows.

1. Bob Aloysius, Kalskag, Y-K Delta Regional Advisory Council
2. Ken Chase, Anvik, Chairman, GASH Advisory Committee
3. Arnold Hamilton, Shageluk Village Council, GASH Advisory Committee
4. Mike Hoffman, Bethel, non-local hunters
5. Carl Jerue, Jr., Anvik Village Council
6. Bill Lyle, Wasilla, non-local hunters
7. Gabe Nicholai, Grayling Village Council
8. Leroy Peters, Holy Cross Village Council
9. Steve Powers, Bethel, guides and transporters
10. Andrew Stephanoff, Russian Mission, Lower Yukon Advisory Committee
11. Robert Walker, Anvik, Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
12. Gwen White, Willow, guides and transporters

In addition, James Charles and Greg Roczicka served as alternate representatives for the Y-K Delta RAC, Stan Peters was an alternate for the Lower Yukon AC and Derral Godbee was an alternate for Gwen White.

Mike Smith, Director of Wildlife for Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Tim Andrew, Natural Resource Director for the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) were invited to participate as technical advisors and were able to attend some meetings. Phillip Demientieff, TCC Holy Cross Subregional Director attended all Working Group meetings. State and federal agency staff involved in the planning effort included:

ADF&G: Beth Lenart, Assistant McGrath Area Biologist; Roy Nowlin, Management Coordinator; Jennifer Eason, Statistics Technician; Toby Boudreau, McGrath Area Biologist; Randy Rogers, Wildlife Planner, and; Caroline Brown; Subsistence Specialist.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Bill Schaff, INWR Manager; Steve Kovach, INWR Wildlife Biologist; Clara Demientieff, INWR Refuge Information Technician; Polly Wheeler, Office of Subsistence Management, Anthropologist.

Bureau of Land Management: Jeff Denton, Wildlife Biologist

The Working Group met in Grayling in January 2005, in Shageluk in April, in Anvik in July and in Holy Cross in November. All of these communities made an extra effort to host the meetings and there was great involvement from elders, students and others. The hospitality shown by these communities was greatly appreciated.

At the January meeting the group determined that moose hunting within the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A has an important influence on moose and moose hunters in Unit 21E. The group recommended adding the portion of Unit 21A Innoko drainage to the plan. Based on this

recommendation the name of the group was changed to the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group, as was the name of the plan, and new boundaries for the planning area were established. In January 2006 the board revised the boundary between Units 21A and 21B so that the Nowitna River drainage is now in Unit 21B and Unit 21A all lies within the Innoko River drainage. The planning area now includes all of Units 21A and 21E.

A second newsletter, now called the Yukon-Innoko Moose Planning News, was distributed in fall 2005. All hunters who reported hunting Unit 21A in recent years and members of the McGrath Advisory Committee were added to the distribution list. This newsletter included a summary of the recommendations being considered for inclusion in the draft plan and a public comment form. Forty-four comments were received in response to the newsletter. The comments showed strong support for the mission and goals of the plan and the regulation changes proposed by the Working Group.

At the November 2005 meeting in Holy Cross the Working Group considered public comments received from the Yukon-Innoko Moose Planning News, new moose population modeling information provided by the ADF&G and reviewed the preliminary draft Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan. Members of the YIWG present at the meeting reached consensus on their final recommendations to be included in the plan and regulation proposals to submit to the board.

The regulatory proposals submitted as part of the plan were made available for review and comment by the GASH AC, other ACs and the federal RACs and the public. On February 1, 2006 the GASH AC unanimously voted to endorse the plan. The draft management plan and the associated regulation proposals were considered by Board of Game at their March 2006 meeting. The board endorsed the plan and adopted all the regulation proposals with a few minor modifications. The Federal Subsistence Board endorsed the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan in May 2006.

Primary Issues Identified by the Working Group

Moose Hunting Regulations: 1) With the current moose population and numbers of moose hunters, what changes, if any, are needed in state and/or federal moose hunting regulations to ensure that harvest is within sustained yield and subsistence harvest of moose is given priority?

2) If the moose population declines or if there is a major increase in numbers of hunters, what changes, if any, may be needed in state and/or federal moose hunting regulations to ensure that harvest is within sustained yield and subsistence harvest of moose is given priority?

Managing Predation on Moose: What can be done to manage the effects of predation on moose to prevent a decline in the moose population and maintain an abundant moose population that can provide for human consumptive uses?

Maintaining or Improving Moose Habitat: What needs to be done to maintain or improve moose habitat to ensure that habitat does not become a factor limiting the moose population size?

Cooperative Moose Management: How can we develop cooperative efforts between state, federal, Native and other wildlife and land management programs to improve moose management and increase involvement of local residents and others in the those programs?

Obtaining the Information Needed to Make Wise Management Decisions: What can be done to ensure that quality scientific information, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and the general knowledge of all users are available to support future moose management decisions?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

MOOSE POPULATION STATUS

Methods used to count moose

ADF&G used 3 techniques to collect information on moose population dynamics. The moose survey areas used by ADF&G in Unit 21E are shown in Figure 3.

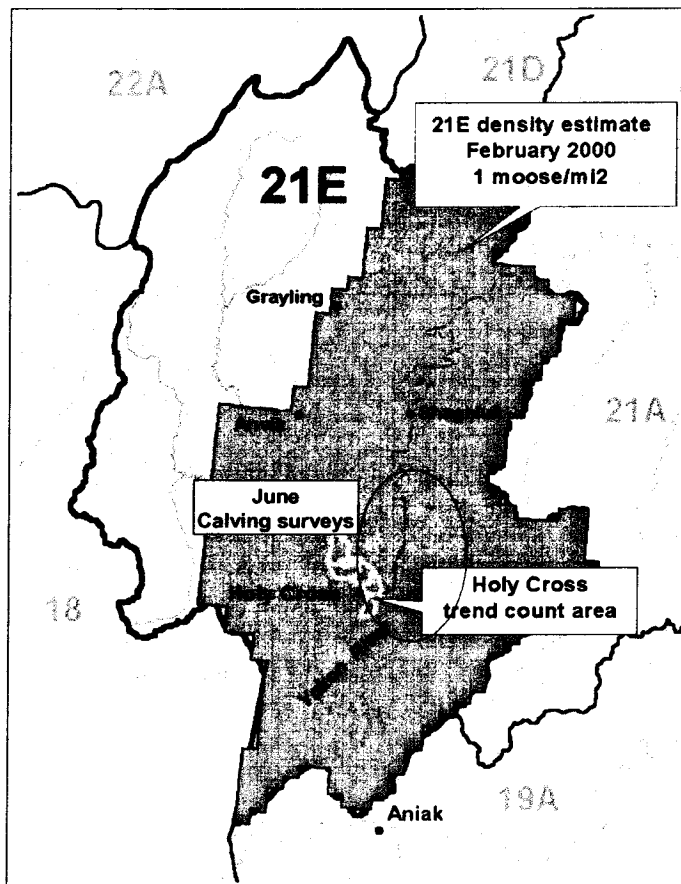


Figure 3. Moose survey areas in Unit 21E.

Fall composition counts provide information on the sex and age composition of the moose population (proportions of bulls, cows, and calves). Those counts are conducted in traditional trend count areas (TCA) during November when snow cover allows moose to be seen from the air. TCAs are frequently established where moose numbers and hunting pressure are greatest.

The Holy Cross TCA encompasses 60 mi² along the Yukon River near Holy Cross (shown in yellow in Figure 3). It was established in 1987 and surveyed until 1998. Managers frequently attempt to maintain a ratio of 25–30 bulls:100 cows to ensure adequate numbers of bulls are available for breeding. Calf:cow ratios in most interior GMUs with naturally regulated predator numbers are below 35 calves per 100 cows. Low calf:100 cow ratios are characteristic of populations that receive substantial predation by bears and wolves on summer calves. Where summer predation has been reduced autumn calf:100 cow ratios are often above 40 calves:100 cows. Low calf:100 cow ratios may also result from low birth rates of calves. Calf:100 cow ratios by themselves, do not necessarily indicate declining or increasing trends in population size.

Twinning surveys were conducted during June along the Yukon and Innoko Rivers (shown by the red circle in Figure 3) between Holy Cross, Anvik, and Shageluk from 2000 through 2004 (except in 2001). A twinning survey was also attempted in 2005, but leaf-out occurred early that year resulting in limited sightability and inadequate sample size, negating the survey results. Twinning rates are a general index to the nutritional condition of the moose population. If 25% or more of cows with calves have twins it is unlikely that poor nutrition is limiting production. If twinning rates are consistently less than 20%, forage conditions are probably less than optimal. However, year to year variation can occur as a result of severe weather events. Therefore, low twinning rates in a given year alone may not reflect habitat conditions; but when considered in the context of successive, annual surveys have proven quite reliable.

Estimates of moose numbers in Unit 21E were derived from aerial surveys conducted in late February 2000 and early March 2005 in a 5,070 mi² area on the eastern side of Unit 21E (shown by the light green cross-hatched area in Figure 3). From those surveys biologists calculated a density (moose/mi²) and an index to calf recruitment (% calves in the population). The density estimate calculated from the survey area was extrapolated to derive a population estimate for all of Unit 21E.

INWR moose surveys

The Innoko NWR conducted moose surveys with helicopters since 1994, primarily surveying river corridors where most moose are found. The INWR method of data collection is different than that used by ADF&G. However, ADF&G and INWR Wildlife Biologists collaborated to provide additional insight into the status of moose populations in the planning area. This data has been particularly helpful in the upper Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A where ADF&G has little survey data.

Results of Moose Surveys

Seven surveys were conducted in the Holy Cross TCA between 1987 and 1998. During most years bull:cow ratios and calf:cow ratios were at or above the minimum management objective of 25–30 bulls:100 cows and 30–40 calves: 100 cows (Figure 4). However, the Holy Cross TCA (60 mi²) contains less than 1% of the land area within subunit 21E (7,995 mi²), therefore composition data from that small trend area may not accurately reflect population characteristics of the entire unit.

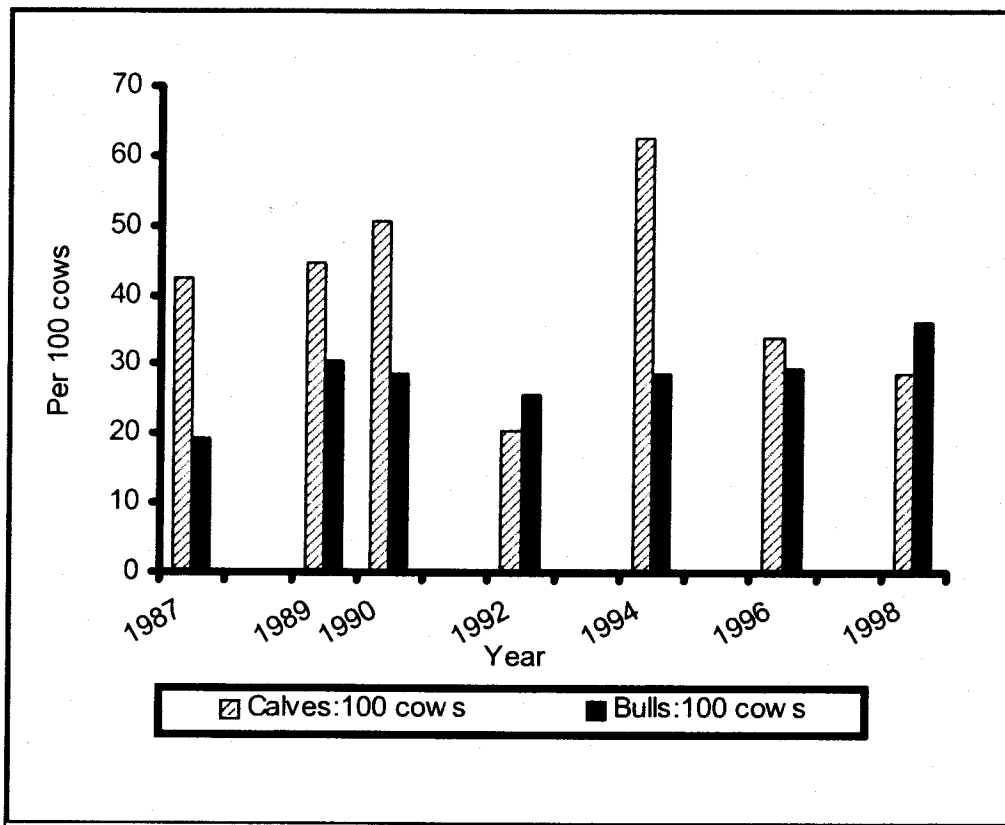


Figure 4. Holy Cross TCA data, 1987- 1998

In most years, twinning rates exceeded 25% in Unit 21E (Table 1). Those data suggest habitat conditions in Unit 21E are not limiting productivity of the moose population.

Table 1. Twinning rates in Unit 21E along Yukon and Innoko Rivers

Year	Number of calf/cow pairs located	Percent twins (%)
2000	36	38
2001	-	-
2002	40	20
2003	47	30
2004	28	32

Moose population estimation surveys were conducted in late February to early March in 2000 and 2005 in a 5,070 mi² portion of eastern Unit 21E (Figure 3). In 2000, the moose density was estimated at 1 moose/mi² or 5151 moose \pm 13% (90% Confidence Interval) with an estimated 16% calves. In February 2005, the moose density was estimated at 0.9 moose/mi² or 4673 moose \pm 17% (90% CI) with an estimated 18% calves (Figure 5). Because the confidence intervals overlap those estimates do not indicate a detectable change in the moose population size between 2000 and 2005. Extrapolating the spring 2005 survey data to all of Unit 21E results in an estimated moose population size was 7,000–9,000 moose.

The GASH AC, local residents and others reported that moose numbers have been declining, but those observations have not been confirmed by survey results. It is possible moose were at higher densities in the early 1990s, declined throughout the 1990's, but have stabilized since 2000. This could help explain the moose population decline reported by many people familiar with the area.

Moose Survey Results	
<i>(In 5000 square mile portion of Unit 21E)</i>	
<u>2000 Estimate</u>	<u>2005 Estimate</u>
4483 – 5819 moose	3897 – 5448 moose
or	or
1 moose per	0.9 moose per
square mile	square mile
&	&
16% calves	18% calves

Figure 5. Comparison of the moose population estimation survey results for a 5,000 square mile portion of Unit 21E, 2000 and 2005.

ADF&G has not conducted trend counts, June calving surveys, or spring population estimates on moose in Unit 21A. The INWR has conducted density estimates in the refuge portion of Unit 21A. Based on those surveys, there is an indication that the density of moose along the Innoko River in Unit 21A declined from 1998–2002. Based on the surveys conducted by INWR and extrapolating data from the Unit 21E surveys, we estimate that there are 4,300–6,480 moose in Unit 21A (0.4–0.6 moose/mi²).

Moose Population Distribution and Movements

Observations from local residents and BLM and INWR staff suggests that large scale movements of moose occur during early winter as moose move to the riparian area along the Yukon River, particularly south of Anvik. Many moose probably come from the Innoko, Anvik, and Bonasila drainages. Some moose may come from Unit 18, Unit 19A, and Unit 21A. During the 1980s, a cooperative moose radio-telemetry study was conducted by INWR, BLM, and ADF&G. Fifteen cows and 20 bull moose were radiocollared. Approximately half of the cows and 25% of the bulls spent their entire year in the lowlands. The remaining moose spent their winters in the lowland and summers in the mountains. Two bulls spent their entire year in the mountains. One bull and 1 cow showed extreme movements. The bull was caught near Holikachuk and spent his summers in the upper Iditarod River area. The cow was caught north of Holy Cross and spent her summers down river of Mountain Village.

MOOSE HARVEST

The department uses two methods to determine the number of moose harvested in an area. These are: 1) harvest tickets whereon a hunter reports activities of the hunt on a report card that is mailed to the department, and 2) household surveys conducted by the Division of Subsistence that involve house to house interviews with hunters and their families to determine the number of moose harvested.

In a paper published in 1992 Bill Gasaway, et. al. estimated that harvest is under-reported by urban residents of Alaska by approximately 17%. In many areas of rural Alaska harvest ticket returns probably report only 28% to 50% of the actual total harvest. Data from household surveys are likely to give more accurate estimates of resident harvest in surveyed communities. Nonresident harvest is assumed to be reported fairly accurately on harvest tickets.

The harvest of moose in Unit 21E, as reported on returned harvest tickets, increased during the early-mid 1990s, remained at about the same level for a few years, and declined since 2000 (Figure 6). During 1994–2001, a large proportion of the harvest (and hunters) came from Unit 18, however, since that time the numbers of hunters from those areas declined (Figure 7). Harvest in Unit 21E by other Alaskan residents has also declined somewhat in recent years. There has been a slight increase in the numbers of nonresident hunters, although the number of moose harvested is small at about 30 moose. Harvest data shown in Figures 6 and 7 only reflect harvest ticket reports and are likely underestimates. Harvest ticket report data that has recently become available for the 2005 season show a slight decline in total numbers of hunters (206) and number of moose harvested about the same as 2004 at 118 moose.

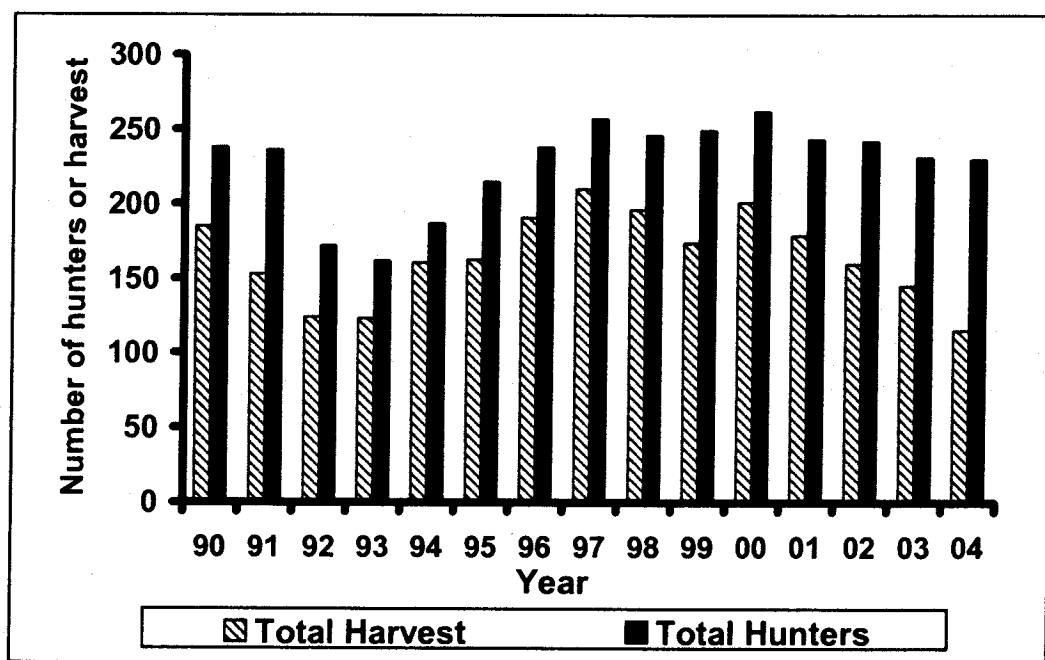


Figure 6. Unit 21E Moose harvest and hunters, 1990-2004.

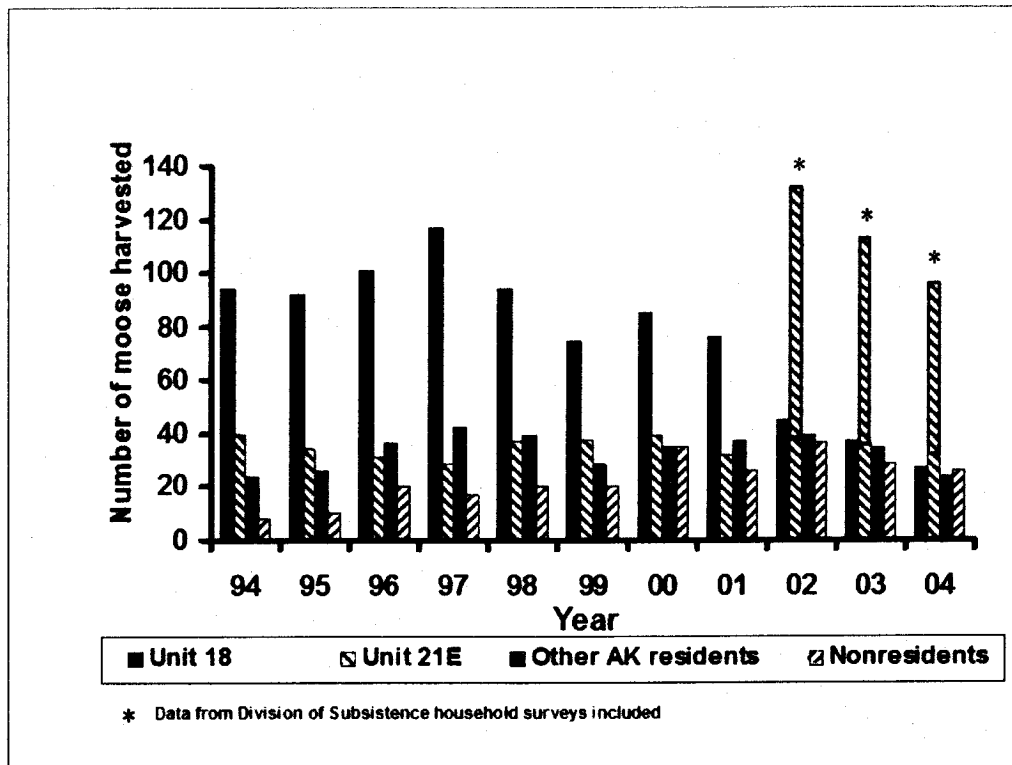


Figure 7. Number of moose harvested by residency in Unit 21E, 1994-2004.

The Division of Subsistence conducted household surveys in Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross to estimate subsistence harvest of big game species for the regulatory years of 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. For the regulatory years 2002, 03 and 04 the bars in Figure 7 depicting harvest by residents of Unit 21E have been extended to show the total estimated harvest based on Division of Subsistence household survey data. Table 2 provides a comparison of the harvest of each big game species for all three years.

Table 2. Comparison of big game harvests between all survey years.

Species	Total		
	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>
Moose	133	118	94
Caribou	2	2	2
Black Bear	0	5	3
Brown Bear	0	1	0
Wolf	39	52	54

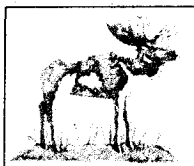
During the three years surveyed, moose harvest by residents of the Unit 21E has declined from 133 moose to 94 moose. For comparison, a March 2002 report to the Board of Game the Division of Subsistence estimated the average annual harvest of moose by residents of Unit 21E from 1996-1999 to be 226 moose. In recent years annual harvest has included approximately 20-25 cows.

Because harvest ticket reports alone are not reliable and household survey data is only available for local communities, the following approach was used to estimate total harvest by Alaska residents in Unit 21E.

1. Harvest of moose by residents of Unit 21E was estimated by taking an average of the harvest reported in subsistence use survey data. The average includes an estimate provided to the board in 2002 for average harvest during the years 1996-99 (226 moose), 2002-03 (133 moose), 2003-04 (118) and 2004-05 (94). This results in an estimated average harvest of 143 moose by residents of Unit 21E.
2. The estimate of the average moose harvest by residents of Units 18 and 19 was developed by taking an average of reported harvest during the five years from 2000-2004, and then multiplying that number by 2 to account for an estimated 50% non-reporting factor. Initially, in Working Group discussions reporting was estimated at 33% based on information used in a board determination of the amount of moose necessary for subsistence in Unit 19. In further discussion members of the YIWG felt reporting was better than 33% and recommended using a 50% non-reporting factor. The result is an estimate of an average of 127 moose harvested in Unit 21E by residents of Units 18 and 19.
3. The average reported harvest from Alaska residents who live outside of Units 18, 19 was calculated by taking an average of the reported harvest during the five years from 2000-2004 and then increased to account for an estimated non-reporting factor of 17%. The result is an estimated average annual harvest of 41 moose by Alaska residents from outside Units 18, 19 and 21E.

The result is an estimated average annual harvest of 311 moose in Unit 21E by all Alaska residents, for both subsistence and non-subsistence users. The average nonresident harvest between 2000 and 2004 was 30 moose. Rounded-off, this makes the total estimated annual moose harvest in Unit 21E 340 moose.

All of the harvest data collected in Unit 21A comes from harvest ticket reports. Most hunters use airplanes to access the area to conduct float hunts. Some hunting by residents of Shageluk and Grayling occurs on the main Innoko River and above the confluence of the Innoko and Iditarod Rivers. Hunting by residents of Takotna occurs near Ophir in the headwaters of the Innoko River. The number of hunters in Unit 21A has remained relatively constant since 1994, but reported harvest and success rates have declined since 1999 (Figure 8). Beginning in 1999, nonresidents harvested more moose than resident hunters except for 2004 (Figure 9). The average reported harvest from 2000-2004 was 61 moose. During that period the average resident harvest was 28 moose and the average nonresident harvest was 32 moose.



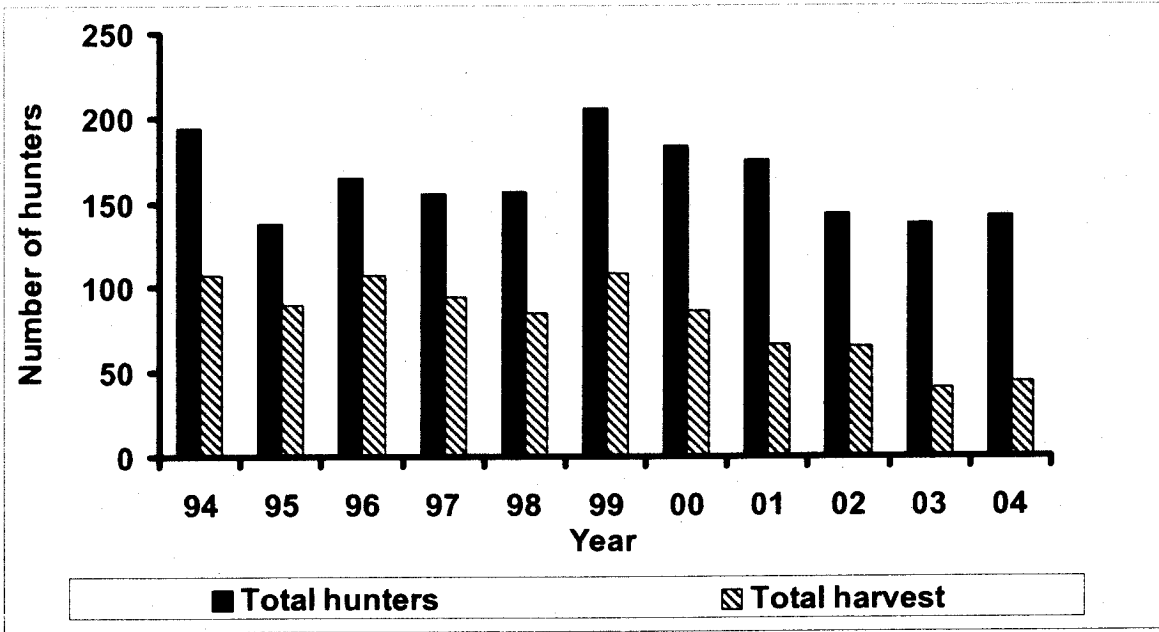


Figure 8. Reported numbers of hunters and moose harvest in the Innoko drainage in Unit 21A.

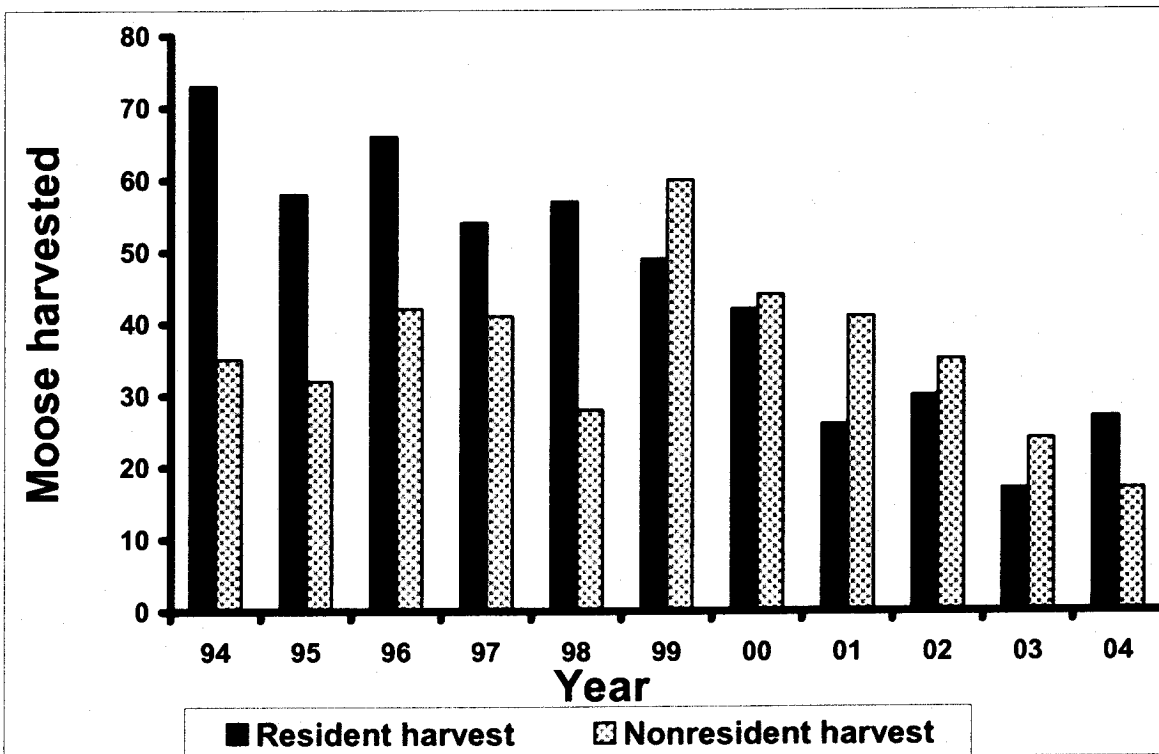


Figure 9. Reported resident and nonresident moose harvest in the Innoko drainage in Unit 21A.

BEARS AND WOLVES

ADF&G has not conducted wolf, black bear, or brown bear surveys in Unit 21E. The estimates in Table 3 are extrapolated from predator densities determined in other areas where habitat and prey densities were similar to those of Unit 21E.

Reported harvests of wolves and grizzly bears are relatively low (Table 3). Some wolf and grizzly hides used locally for handicraft items are not reported. There is no requirement to seal black bear hides and skulls so the harvest is unknown although an average of one black bear is voluntarily sealed each year. Table 2, above, which shows data from Division of Subsistence surveys provides a more accurate estimate of the harvest of black bears, brown bears and wolves by residents of Unit 21E.

Table 3. Extrapolated estimates of wolf, grizzly, and black bear populations and reported harvests of wolves and grizzly bears in Unit 21E, 2000-2004.

PREDATOR	Extrapolated Population Estimates	AVERAGE REPORTED HARVEST (years: 2000—2004)
Wolves	180—240	29 wolves/year
Grizzly Bear	120—200	5 grizzly bear/year
Black Bear	800—1200	1 black bear/year

The number of bears and wolves in Unit 21A has not been estimated. During 2000-2004, an average of 9 wolves and 2 brown bears were reported harvested annually. Black bears from Unit 21A are not required to be sealed; approximately 1 black bear per year was voluntarily reported harvested.

CONDITION OF THE MOOSE HABITAT

Moose forage changes with season. In late summer/autumn the best range is often in meadows (commonly diamondleaf willow). In winter the best range is found along large rivers (commonly feltleaf willow). Moose need to build adequate fat reserves by autumn to make it through the winter. Eating winter forage slows the consumption of body reserves; but does not allow a moose to gain weight. Good winter range (abundant forage within reach of moose) allows moose to survive severe winters. Forage between 18 inches and 10 feet tall is considered “available” to moose during the average winter.

Based on browse information from Units 19D and 18, moose density in Unit 21 E and twinning rates in Unit 21E, habitat is probably not limiting moose population growth in the GASH region. Habitat enhancement alone is not likely to cause a moose population increase in 21E and 21A. However, allowing natural forces to create or rehabilitate successional forage communities used by moose is a good long-term strategy that will allow for increased moose abundance if other limiting factors are managed.

In spring 2006, ADF&G conducted a moose browse survey in Unit 21E. Survey crews also measured snow depth and noted age of dominant plant species at each site. A total of 77 sites were visited and the helicopter landed at 29 sites, plus three subjective plots of high production in tall shrub.

Observers noted abundant feltleaf willow on the islands and floodplain of the middle Yukon River and diamondleaf willow in extensive meadows adjacent to the Yukon and lower Innoko Rivers provide high potential for moose population growth. Portions of most islands had lower terraces with cohorts of feltleaf willow 1-5 yrs old. However, similar to GMU 19A, browse availability is much less than historic highs because of decades since the last major flood disturbance, allowing large stands of feltleaf willow on higher terraces to grow beyond reach by moose. Lateral stems on the bole of feltleaf trees still provide available forage, although at far lower production than primary succession in the active floodplain. Snow was deep enough this year (average 0.7 m, range 0.3-1.0 m) to begin restricting moose movements to sites with higher biomass production or quality.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

MOOSE POPULATION AND HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Goal 1A: Achieve the Intensive Management¹ moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 21E (a population of 9,000–11,000 moose with a harvest of 550–1,100 moose).

The March 2005 estimate of the moose population in Unit 21E was 7,000–9,000. The upper end of this population estimate corresponds to the lower end of the Intensive Management (IM) population objective (Table 4). It is most likely that the population is lower than the IM population objective. The estimated allowable harvest of moose in Unit 21E based on the 2005 population estimate and using a 4% harvest rate is 280–360 moose. The estimate of the current average harvest in Unit 21E is 340 moose, near the upper end of the range of the allowable harvest. A significant increase in the moose population would be necessary before harvest levels could be increased to achieve the IM harvest objective.

Table 4. Comparison of IM objectives with current moose population and harvest levels in Unit 21E.

<u>Intensive Management Objectives for Moose in Unit 21E (5 AAC 92.108)</u>	<u>Current Estimated Moose Population and Total Harvest for Unit 21E</u>
Population: 9,000 – 11,000 moose	Population: 7,000 – 9,000
Harvest: 550 – 1,100 moose	Estimated Harvest: 340

¹ Intensive Management (IM) means active management to maintain high levels of game for human harvest using a variety of techniques that could include predation control, habitat improvement and manipulation of seasons, bag limits, and methods and means.

Goal 1B: Maintain or increase moose numbers and harvest levels in Unit 21A.

Based on the low average number of moose harvested in the past, the board made a negative finding for application of IM in Unit 21A. Due to this finding the board did not establish IM population and harvest objectives for Unit 21A. Nonetheless, the Innoko River drainage is used for moose hunting by residents of Unit 21E, Takotna and McGrath, other Alaskans and nonresidents. The moose population in the Innoko drainage in Unit 21A is at a fairly low density but there is also relatively little hunting pressure. While there is not a large number of moose taken in this portion of the planning area it still provides an important contribution to the overall moose hunting opportunity in the region and management efforts should be directed toward maintaining or increasing this opportunity.

Current harvest in Unit 21A is believed to be within the allowable harvest using the recommended 4% harvest rate. At the same time, success rates have declined in recent years. A moose population estimation survey is tentatively scheduled for Unit 21A in 2008. Following that survey harvest management should be re-evaluated.

Action Taken: The YIWG made no recommendations for changes to the moose hunting regulations in Unit 21A. The board did, however, amend a public proposal and shortened the nonresident season in Unit 21A by five days. This aligns the nonresident seasons in Unit 21A and 21E so they are both September 5-20 and is consistent with the Working Group's recommendations to manage moose harvest conservatively (Recommendation 1.8 below describes moose hunting regulation changes in Unit 21E).

Strategy 1A: Establish a framework for state and federal moose hunting regulations designed to maximize hunting opportunity when possible but which will also ensure that harvest remains within sustained yield and that priority for subsistence uses of moose is provided when restrictions in harvest are needed.

Strategy 1B: Manage harvest to help ensure the moose population remains stable or growing by periodically calculating the harvestable surplus of moose based on the most current moose population data and other information such as weather and predation and then adjusting harvest management as needed.

Objective 1A – Harvest Rate: Manage harvest conservatively throughout the planning area with a harvest rate less than or equal to 4% of the estimated moose population.

Harvest should be directed predominantly at bulls. The total allowable harvest includes any cow harvest that may be allowed (see the recommendations on managing cow harvest identified below). If the moose population in Unit 21E is documented to be within the mid to upper range of the IM population objective an increased harvest rate can be considered. Harvest levels should be adjusted, if needed, based on a 3-year mean estimated total harvest and the most recent moose population data.

Objective 1B – Moose Harvest by Alaska Residents: Provide the opportunity for harvest of approximately 310 moose in Unit 21E by residents of communities in Unit 21E and other Alaskans.

The board has determined that there is customary and traditional subsistence use of moose in Unit 21, and 600-800 moose is the Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) within all of Unit 21. Because all Alaska residents are potentially qualified as subsistence hunters it is difficult to distinguish between subsistence and non-subsistence harvest by Alaska residents. Nonetheless, the estimate of Alaska resident harvest of moose in Units 21E and A can be used in combination with moose population information to help judge when restrictions in non-subsistence harvest may be needed in order to provide the required priority for subsistence uses by Alaska residents.

Alaska residents harvest an estimated average of 310 moose each year in Unit 21E. The average Alaska resident harvest for the Innoko River drainage in Unit 21A from 2000-2004 based on harvest ticket reports alone is 28 moose.

Recommendation 1.1: The ADF&G should periodically review the level of subsistence use of moose in Unit 21E and the other subunits of Unit 21. If subsistence needs change, the board should re-examination the ANS for Unit 21 and, if necessary, increase or decrease the number of moose needed for subsistence.

Moose Population Management Objectives

The following objectives define the desired status of the moose population. Some of the objectives will be easier to achieve than others. For example, in 1998 the bull:cow ratio was estimated at 36 bulls:100 cows and meets the objective described below. In contrast, the moose population will have to grow significantly, or moose mortality from predation would have to be significantly reduced, in order to meet the IM harvest objective of 550–1,100 moose.

Objective 1C – Intensive Management in Unit 21E

- Manage to achieve the IM population objective of 9,000–11,000 moose
- Manage to achieve the IM harvest objective of 550–1,100 moose

Objective 1D – Bull:Cow Ratios for the Planning Area

- Manage for a minimum fall post-hunt ratio of 25–30 bulls: 100 cows.

Objective 1E – Calf:Cow Ratios for the Planning Area

- Manage for a minimum fall post hunt ratio of 30–40 calves: 100cows.

Objective 1F –Calf Over-winter Survival for the Planning Area

- Manage for a minimum calf over-winter survival of 20% of the total population in late winter moose population surveys.

Recommendations for Moose Harvest Management in Unit 21E under Present Conditions

This section provides recommendations for moose harvest management at the current moose population level (7,000 – 9,000 moose) and numbers of hunters (about 225). The next section provides recommendations on how harvest management might change if the moose population increases or decreases or if there were to be a significant change in the numbers of hunters in the area.

The Working Group carefully considered available moose population and harvest information and evaluated many options for possible changes to the hunting regulations in Unit 21E. An important factor taken into account by the Working Group was the closure of the state winter antlerless moose seasons that occurred in 2003 based on the recommendation from the GASH AC. This winter season closure resulted in reduced subsistence hunting opportunity while nonresident hunting opportunities were not reduced at that time.

Early in the planning process it was thought that the allowable harvest of moose in Unit 21E was large enough to accommodate all the existing uses and few, if any, additional restrictions would be needed. When moose population modeling information provided by the department indicated that a more conservative harvest level would be required to prevent a decline in the moose population, it became apparent that additional measures were needed to ensure that harvest does not increase at the current moose population level. The recommended changes to the moose hunting regulations, some of the rationale behind them and the action taken by the Board of Game are described below. There is also a list of some of the alternative ideas for changing moose hunting regulations that were considered and rejected by the Working Group.

Recommendation 1.2: Provide for a small harvest of antlerless moose in the winter in Unit 21E (no more than 40 cows annually) by keeping the state winter season closed and the federal season (Feb. 1-10) open.

Recommendation 1.3: If the total cow harvest in Unit 21E (including cows taken in the federal season and those taken for potlatches and other estimated cow harvest) exceeds 40, use public information and education programs to encourage reducing cow harvest. If cow harvest remains greater than 40, consider the need to recommend closing the federal winter season.

The YIWG reaffirmed the action taken by the GASH AC in January 2003 by agreeing that a large cow harvest would be detrimental to the moose population and a state winter season for antlerless moose should not be proposed. The group recommended keeping the federal winter season for any moose from February 1-10. The federal season applies only on federal lands and is only open to federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Unit 21E and Russian Mission. With limited eligibility for this hunt there is only a small harvest of cow moose in the winter (approximately 20-25 cows in recent years). This allows some opportunity for winter harvest of moose by local residents but does not have a significant affect on the moose population. A winter season under state regulations open to all Alaska residents would likely have a significantly higher harvest of cow moose that could be detrimental to the moose population. In the past it was estimated that possibly up to 150-200 cows were being taken in

winter when the state season was open, although there is no reliable harvest reporting data to document the exact harvest.

Recommendation 1.4: Develop information and education programs to encourage better harvest reporting, and understanding of state and federal hunting regulations. Components of the program should include: 1) an explanation of how the hunting regulatory year of July 1 – June 30 works; 2) the requirements for harvest reporting under both state and federal regulations, and; 3) clarify that there is a one moose bag limit per regulatory year that includes the fall and winter hunts (Some of this information will be included in a winter 2007 issue of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Planning News).

In recent years knowledge of subsistence harvest of moose by communities in Unit 21E has been greatly improved through the community household surveys conducted by the Division of Subsistence, made possible by funding from the FWS/OSM. Members of the YIWG expressed concern that if household surveys are not continued there may not be good data to determine the number of cows being taken.

Recommendation 1.5: When household subsistence use surveys are discontinued in Unit 21E, federal subsistence managers and/or the ADF&G should work with tribal councils to track winter harvest in each village eligible to participate in the federal winter hunt in Unit 21E. This effort should also apply to a state winter hunt if one is opened in the future.

At the time this final plan was prepared there was no longer funding available to conduct household subsistence use surveys in communities in Unit 21E. At the January 2007 GASH AC meeting, ADF&G staff will discuss working in cooperation with tribal councils and the FWS to track winter moose harvest.

Recommendation 1.6: Maintain the current August 20–September 25 federal subsistence moose hunting season in Unit 21E.

The early federal season opening provides some opportunity for federally qualified local rural residents to take a moose before hunters from outside the area are present. The early opening does not change in the total number of moose harvested by local residents. The YIWG determined it would be better to keep this early season opportunity than to endorse a proposal to extend the fall season to October 1 when bulls may be going into rut and quality of the meat may be reduced.

Recommendation 1.7: Maintain the Paradise Controlled Use Area as currently established.

The Paradise Controlled Use Area (PCUA) prohibits use of aircraft for hunting moose in the core area between the Yukon and Innoko Rivers used by local residents and others who hunt by boat. Eliminating or changing the PCUA could result in an increase in the number of hunters and harvest level in this portion of Unit 21E and possibly result in a need for more restrictive hunting regulations. There were no comments or suggestions for changing the PCUA received from the public during the planning process.

Recommendation 1.8: Revise the nonresident moose hunting regulations in Unit 21E by:

1. Reduce the nonresident season length by 5 days to make a 15 day season from September 5-20.
2. Establish a drawing permit system for nonresident moose hunting in Unit 21E and conduct the drawing in the early winter.
3. Change the nonresident bag limit to any bull.

Currently there is not a large number of nonresident hunters or a large number of moose harvested by nonresidents in Unit 21E. Of the estimated 340 moose harvested annually in Unit 21E, the average nonresident harvest between 2000 and 2004 was 30 moose. Through action taken by the GASH Advisory Committee to close the state winter season to conserve cow moose, subsistence hunting opportunity has already been reduced. If further restrictions in moose harvest are needed to ensure the moose population does not decline, the board must consider reducing nonresident hunting opportunity first.

The concept of the recommended changes to the nonresident moose hunting regulations in Unit 21E is to begin more closely managing nonresident hunting while not greatly changing nonresident hunting opportunity or number of nonresident hunters at the current moose population level. Taking 5 days off the end of the nonresident season may reduce nonresident harvest to some degree and will also provide opportunity for harvest by Alaska residents with less competition from nonresident hunters.

The recommendation for the drawing permit system is to issue a sufficient number of permits to maintain the current level of nonresident hunting unless the status of the moose population changes. Having a nonresident drawing system in place provides the ability to more closely monitor and control harvest and to reduce or increase the numbers of permits and the level of nonresident hunting in the future if needed. The drawing permit application period should be in winter to allow successful applicants more time to make logistical arrangements and contract with a guide, if they choose to do so. With a permit system in place the level of nonresident harvest can be controlled without use of antler restrictions. This may result in fewer of the large breeding bulls being taken by nonresident hunters.

The ADF&G should be authorized to issue up to 100 nonresident drawing permits. The first year of the hunt 60 permits should be issued. With a 50% success rate, approximately 30 moose would be taken which equals the current level of nonresident harvest. After the initial year, permit numbers should be adjusted according to the success rate of nonresident hunters and the status of the moose population. The number of permits should be reduced if the success rate is greater than 50% or the moose population declines and can be increased if success rates are low or the moose population increases.

Action Taken: The Board of Game adopted the YIWG proposal with an amendment to keep the bag limit for nonresident hunters as one bull with antlers 50-inch or greater or 4 brow tines on one side. The nonresident season was reduced by 5 days to September 5-20 beginning in the fall 2006 season. The nonresident drawing permit system goes into

effect for the fall 2007 season. This hunt is included in the Winter Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement with the deadline for applications being in early December. Successful permit applicants will be notified in January. The Board also added language to allocate up to 20% of the nonresident drawing permits to guided hunters and at least 80% of the permits to non-guided hunters.

Harvest Management Recommendations for Unit 21E Considered by the Working Group but Rejected

- ◆ Re-establish an antlerless moose winter season under state regulations.
- ◆ Close the federal winter season and align the fall federal season length with the state season.
- ◆ Establish a state resident season for antlered bulls during Dec. 1-10.
- ◆ Extend the fall moose hunting season under state and federal regulations to October 1.
- ◆ Reduce the nonresident season by taking 5 days from the beginning of the season.

Recommendations for Moose Harvest Management in Unit 21E if Conditions Change

If the moose population declines or if there are significant increases in numbers of hunters in the area it may be necessary to implement more restrictive harvest regulations. On the other hand, if the moose population is shown to be increasing and is well within the IM objectives it may be possible to increase hunting opportunity. If the IM population objective is achieved and data indicate good productivity and recruitment in the moose population, then higher harvest rates and either sex hunts can be considered.

Strategy 1C: Implement a more restrictive harvest management program if needed to maintain the moose population, stay within the harvest rate of 4% and/or to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses by residents of Unit 21E and other Alaskans.

Implementation guideline: Adjust harvest levels if fall composition counts indicate ratios < 25 bulls:100 cows or < 30 calves:100 cows. Recommendations for revised harvest regulations should be developed in consultation with the GASH AC and others and available for public comment through the board regulatory process.

If there were to be large increases in the number of nonresident hunters and a larger portion of the harvestable surplus were being taken by nonresident hunters, it may become necessary to reduce nonresident hunting opportunity to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence. Further, if a large proportion of the harvestable surplus were being taken by non-local Alaska residents such that residents of Unit 21E (for which a large portion of the ANS is based upon) do not have a reasonable opportunity for subsistence, it may become necessary to provide mechanisms to emphasize customary and traditional subsistence use patterns, while still providing opportunity for all Alaska residents (for example, a resident registration permit system). In the extreme worst case situation state Tier II permits could be required and hunting on federal lands could be restricted to rural residents who are qualified under federal regulations.

Recommendation 1.9: If the federal customary and traditional subsistence use determination (C&T) for Unit 21E is revised to make a large number of additional communities eligible, the federal winter season should be eliminated.

The YIWG considered the topic of the federal customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for Unit 21E. C&T use determinations establish who is eligible to participate in the federal subsistence moose hunting seasons. Currently Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik, Holy Cross and Russian Mission are the only communities identified as having C&T use of moose in Unit 21E. The Working group did not identify this topic as a major issue to be considered in this plan, instead electing to focus on measures to ensure that total harvest is sustainable and defer recommendations on the C&T determination to the involved federal regional advisory councils (RACs).

A change in the federal customary and traditional use determination for Unit 21E moose to include communities in Unit 18 and possibly Unit 19A may still be pursued by others and could greatly increase the number of hunters eligible for the federal winter hunt. Should this occur, the antlerless harvest in the federal winter hunt would likely result in excessive harvest. If proposals are submitted into the federal regulatory process to change the federal C&T determination for moose in Unit 21E, the issue will have to be addressed by the WIRAC, the Y-K Delta RAC, and ultimately the FSB. A proposal to close the federal winter moose season in Unit 21E should be submitted and considered concurrently by the FSB.

Strategy 1D: Increase opportunities for moose harvest if the moose population is documented to have increased and productivity is high.

If the moose population reached 10,000, the mid point of the IM population objective, the harvestable surplus with a 4% harvest rate would be 400 moose or, if the harvest rate were increased to 5% it would be 500 moose. In the latter situation it would likely be feasible to consider increasing the harvest quota under the federal winter hunt, establishing a winter season opening under state regulations and possibly increasing the number of nonresident permits.

Recommendation 1.10: If the moose population increases, is within the IM population objectives and composition counts and other data indicate high productivity, consider expanding winter hunting opportunities, including providing for increased cow harvest and increasing nonresident hunting opportunity.

Criteria for evaluating the allowable harvest of antlerless moose:

- If the population is determined stable (e.g. current midpoint of 8,000 moose from 2005 estimate), maintain a cow harvest not to exceed 0.5% of the population (40 cows).
- If there is an indication that the population has increased to approximately 9,000 moose (based on either spring density estimates and/or short yearling survival), then consider allowing an increased cow harvest to 0.8% of the population (72 cows).
- If the population achieves the Intensive Management objective of 10,000 moose, a harvest at least 1% (100 cows) could be sustained and if there are indications that the population is growing, consider opening an antlerless season under state regulations.

If changes in harvest management are needed in the future they should follow the sequence below. Going down the list, more restrictive harvest would be implemented while going up the list (with some terminology changes) would define the sequence for increasing hunting opportunity. This sequence can be used as a general guideline for the plan and actual decisions on changes in harvest management would be made through the regulatory processes of the board and FSB.

1. Close the state winter season to reduce cow harvest (This was done in 2003 when the GASH AC voted against reauthorization of the winter antlerless season in Unit 21E).
2. Shorten the nonresident season and/or establish a nonresident drawing permit system to more closely monitor nonresident harvest and prevent a large increase in nonresident hunters (this action is recommended as part of the YIMMP).

The YIWG recommends that an Intensive Management Implementation Plan be prepared and submitted to the board at this level of harvest reduction (Refer to the recommendations below on moose predation management).

3. Reduce or eliminate nonresident drawing permits.
4. Establish a resident registration permit system that emphasizes customary and traditional subsistence use patterns or use other options for reducing resident harvest.
5. Eliminate the federal winter season.
6. Establish a Tier II hunt to allocate among subsistence users in state regulations.
7. Recommend closing moose hunting on federal lands in Unit 21E to all but federally qualified subsistence users.
8. Allocate among federally qualified subsistence users according to federal law.
9. Implement a closure on all moose harvest.

MOOSE PREDATION MANAGEMENT

Causes of moose mortality include harvest by humans, predation and other natural causes such as disease and environmental factors. Flooding frequently occurs along the Yukon and Innoko Rivers during spring breakup and, at times, may increase spring calf mortality. This section addresses the predominant cause of moose mortality which is thought to be predation by wolves, black bears and brown bears.

Recommendations for managing predation on moose are broken down into two categories. First there is a strategy and recommendations designed to reduce the level of predation on moose through hunting and trapping efforts and public education. The second strategy is to apply more active management of predation according to the state Intensive Management laws. This strategy includes consideration of measures such as establishing an aerial wolf predation control program.

Through the first several meetings of the YIWG the main emphasis of the group was to identify options for reducing predation on moose through the efforts of local residents and other hunters. At the November 2005 YIWG meeting moose population modeling information provided by the department showed a need to use a conservative harvest rate to prevent a decline in the moose population. This, in turn, resulted in a recalculation of the allowable harvest and suggested that current harvest is already at the maximum sustainable harvest. As mentioned in the above section on moose population and harvest management, the YIWG agreed on a recommendation for a nonresident drawing permit program to help prevent an increase in the current level of harvest. It also became apparent that any significant decline in the moose population would result in the need for further harvest reductions to prevent a major decline in the moose population. At this point, following an extensive discussion of options for managing predation on moose, members of the Working Group agreed that it would be necessary to recommend a wolf predation control program to the board in order for the plan to achieve the mission to be proactive and prevent a decline in the moose population.

Goal 2: Manage the effects of predation on moose to maintain an abundant moose population that can provide for high levels of human consumptive uses consistent with the IM population and harvest objectives.

Objective 2A: Reduce the effects of predation on moose so there are no less than 20% short-yearlings (calves from the previous year) in the moose population in late winter surveys.

This objective is consistent with moose population management objective 1F. Generally speaking, late winter short-yearling survival can serve as an indication of the level of predation on moose calves throughout the year.

Strategy 2A: Manage the level of predation on moose by harvesting enough wolves, black bears and grizzly bears under state and federal hunting and trapping regulations to reduce the level of predation on moose so that the moose population remains stable or increases.

The actions below are recommended to help reduce the effects of predation on moose. None of these actions alone are anticipated to have a major effect on predator populations. Together they may help to reduce overall predation and benefit the moose population.

Recommendation 2.1: Waive the \$25 resident tag fee for grizzly bears in Unit 21E and recommend annual reauthorization of the waiver.

Residents who are reluctant or unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest brown bears. Collectively, the harvest may contribute to a reduction in grizzly bear predation on moose calves.

Action Taken: The board adopted the proposal to waive the \$25.00 resident grizzly bear tag fee in Unit 21E.

Recommendation 2.2: Authorize use of snowmachines for taking wolves in Unit 21E.

Allowing use of snowmachines to take wolves will increase the ability of local residents to harvest wolves and help reduce wolf predation. Providing an additional method for taking wolves may contribute to an increase in the moose population.

Action Taken: The board adopted a proposal which authorized the use of a snowmachine to position hunters to take wolves in Units 21 (including both subunits A and E) and Unit 24.

In January 2006 the board adopted standard language for use of snowmachines to take wolves in all areas of the state where the practice is allowed. The new regulations state “a snowmachine may be used to position hunters to select individual wolves for harvest, and wolves may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.” Also, there is a new provision in the regulations that using a snowmachine to take wolves will not be allowed on National Park Service or National Wildlife Refuge lands unless approved by the federal agencies. Therefore, snowmachines will not be allowed to take wolves in the portions of Unit 21A and 21E within the Innoko or Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuges.

Recommendation 2.3: Increase the bag limit for wolves under hunting regulations to 10 wolves per day in Unit 21E.

This recommendation will provide for additional take of wolves under hunting regulations and may help contribute to an increase in the moose population.

Action Taken: The board adopted the proposal to increase the hunting bag limit for wolves in Unit 21E to 10 wolves per day.

The board also amended another proposal submitted by the public and increased the hunting bag limit for wolves in Unit 21A to 10 wolves (per season) and extended the wolf trapping season to October 1 – April 30. The early trapping season opening is to provide opportunity for persons from Takotna that may travel to Unit 21A by road to trap earlier than it would normally be possible traveling by snowmachine.

Recommendation 2.4: Use public information and education to inform local residents and other hunters about the effects of bear and wolf predation on moose and to encourage increased harvest of species that prey on moose. The ADF&G should also produce public informational materials to help educate urban Alaska residents, non-hunters and residents of other states about the effects of predation on moose populations and the importance of moose for the livelihood of subsistence hunters.

Recommendation 2.5: State and federal agencies should work with village councils to conduct wolf snaring and trapping clinics in communities in Unit 21E on a periodic basis, according to local interest and the resources available.

Strategy 2B: Utilize intensive management techniques to achieve the IM population and harvest objectives through active management of predators and/or habitat.

Recommendation 2.6: Prepare an Intensive Management plan for consideration by the board at their March 2006 meeting. The plan should include a wolf predation control implementation plan.

Other methods that should be considered for inclusion in an IM plan include:

1. Allowing the sale of black and grizzly bear hides.
2. Legalize use of grizzly bear fur and claws for handicrafts in Unit 21E through federal regulations.
3. Same day airborne hunting for black bears.
4. Classify black bears as furbearers to be able to sell hides.
5. Lessen guide requirement to give opportunity to residents of local communities just for grizzly or black bear, similar to the provision of local residents to guide musk ox hunts on Nunivak Island.

Action Taken: The department was not prepared to present an IM plan at the March 2006 board meeting, primarily due to lack of sufficient resources to implement additional predation control programs. Predation control programs require increased biological monitoring of both predator and prey populations that require extensive staff and airplane flight time that exceed what is presently available. Staff requirements to administer an aerial wolf predation control program are also significant.

The Board of Game letter endorsing the YIMMP (Appendix A) requests that the department prepare an Intensive Management plan for Unit 21E that can be considered by the board at the next available opportunity. The department will work with the GASH AC and others to prepare an Intensive Management Plan for Unit 21E for consideration at the next interior Alaska board meeting scheduled for March 2008. At that time the department will have to re-evaluate resources available and priorities for IM programs and advise the GASH AC and board whether the department is able to develop and effectively implement a wolf predation control program in Unit 21E.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Goal 3: Ensure that optimal moose habitat is maintained so that it does not become a factor limiting the moose population size and also ensure that the moose population does not become so large that habitat is overused and adversely impacted.

A moose browse survey in Unit 21E will help to establish the utilization rates of species browsed by moose and provide a baseline to ensure that the moose population remains within the carrying capacity of the habitat.

Action Taken: In spring 2006 ADF&G conducted a moose browse survey in Unit 21E. Results of this survey have been incorporated into the Background Information provided in this plan.

Strategy 3: Indirectly monitor habitat condition by monitoring moose twinning rates. If concerns about the quality of moose habitat develop, conduct browse surveys and other research to more fully evaluate habitat conditions and identify actions to improve habitat.

Recommendation 3.1: Work with village corporations and other landowners to review, adopt and implement fire management guidelines that provide for a natural fire regime to the greatest degree possible in consideration of the need to protect homes and property.

Recommendation 3.2: Support planning and implementation of prescribed burns where needed to maintain or improve moose habitat.

In recent years planning and implementation of prescribed burns to improve moose habitat has become very problematical due to land manager concerns, budget constraints, and air quality concerns. Nonetheless, if these concerns can be worked out prescribed burning can be one of the most effective tools to maintain or improve moose habitat. In the current situation managing wild fires to enhance moose habitat is likely to be the most effective technique.

COOPERATIVE MOOSE MANAGEMENT

Goal 4: Develop cooperative programs between state, federal, Native and other wildlife and land management programs to improve moose management and increase involvement of local residents and others in management programs.

Strategy 4: Using the forums of the GASH AC and WIRAC, continue to look for opportunities to develop cooperative management programs with local residents, tribal councils, other wildlife users and state and federal agencies.

Action to be taken: At the January 2007 GASH AC meeting, ADF&G staff will discuss establishing a cooperative program with tribal councils and the FWS to track winter moose harvest.

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR SOUND MANAGEMENT

Goal 5: Identify the information needed to support sound management of moose in Unit 21E and cooperate with other agencies, organizations and local residents to obtain and utilize the necessary information, including scientific data, indigenous ecological knowledge and the general knowledge of all users.

Strategy 5: At least once every two years get managing agencies and involved users to discuss information needs and identify cooperative resources needed to obtain the top priority information. Discuss data needs and proposed monitoring work with the GASH AC and WIRAC.

Staff from the DWC, INWR and BLM met in October 2005 to discuss cooperative survey efforts for the next several years. The following surveys are projected based on that meeting, depending on available funding and suitable survey conditions:

Every spring: Unit 21E moose twinning rate survey (ADF&G)

Every other fall: Unit 21E moose composition survey (ADF&G)

Every 2-3 falls: Unit 21A fall moose composition survey (ADF&G)

Spring 2008: Unit 21A moose population estimation survey (cooperative effort by ADF&G, INWR and BLM)

Spring 2010: Unit 21E moose population estimation survey (cooperative effort by ADF&G, INWR and BLM)



APPENDIX A: BOARD OF GAME AND FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BOARD of GAME

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

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March 20, 2006

Subject: Board of Game endorsement of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan

The Alaska Board of Game endorses the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan (YIMMP) as a proactive approach to managing moose in Game Management Units 21A and 21E in western Alaska. The board supports the goals of the YIMMP which include maintaining or increasing moose populations and managing the effects of predation on moose to provide for high levels of human consumptive use of moose.

The Board commends the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross Fish and Game Advisory Committee for their action taken in January 2003 close the antlerless moose season in Unit 21E. This action was taken to conserve cow moose and maintain the productivity of the moose population and very likely helped to prevent a more severe decline in the moose population.

The board also recognizes and appreciates the time and commitment of the participants in the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group (YIWG). Members of the YIWG represent diverse interests in moose management in the area and deserve credit for working together to develop a plan to protect the moose resource. The YIMMP provides a framework to ensure that harvest is kept within sustained yield, that subsistence use by residents of Unit 21E and other Alaskans will be given priority, and that opportunities for non-subsistence use will also be provided.

The YIMMP includes a recommendation for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop an Intensive Management Plan for Unit 21E which should include a wolf predation control plan. In that regard, the Board of Game requests the Department proceed with preparing a draft Intensive Management Plan that can be considered by the Board at the next available opportunity. The plan should consider wolf predation control program and any other management actions that may be taken to help achieve the intensive management objectives for Unit 21E. Rebuilding the moose population through active management should be a top priority.

The Board of Game will look forward to further consideration of intensive management in Unit 21E and continuing to work with the GASH Advisory Committee and others as the YIMMP is implemented.

Sincerely,



Mike Fleagle
Chairman, Board of Game

Resolution: 06-02
Federal Subsistence Board
Dated May 18, 2006

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE YUKON-INNOKO MOOSE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas; we, the Federal Subsistence Board, have reviewed the *Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan* dated March 2006, as presented in May 2006; and

Whereas; the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan has been developed by a diverse group of users and managers including: representatives of the GASH and Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Western Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Councils, transporters, Native organizations and State and Federal wildlife and land management agencies; and

Whereas; the purpose of the plan is to maintain healthy and abundant moose populations in Units 21A and 21E by proactively managing moose, predation and habitat, and keeping moose harvest within sustained yield so that subsistence needs for moose are met on an annual basis and there is sufficient moose to provide for personal and family use of Alaska residents and some nonresident hunting opportunity for generations to come; and

Whereas; the plan has been developed carefully, over time, to ensure that a wide range of views and opinions have been expressed and considered; and

Whereas; the Board recognizes the recommendations in the plan as a comprehensive compromise package and acknowledges that Working Group members honored the values of other members in reaching conclusions; and

Whereas; the Board understands that the plan includes recommendations for implementation of actions that are within and outside the Board's jurisdiction and that the Board and its agencies have latitude to implement, reject or modify any or all recommendations within its purview; and

Whereas; the development of the plan embodies the collaborative and inclusive approach for resolving resource management issues envisioned in the Interim Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game;

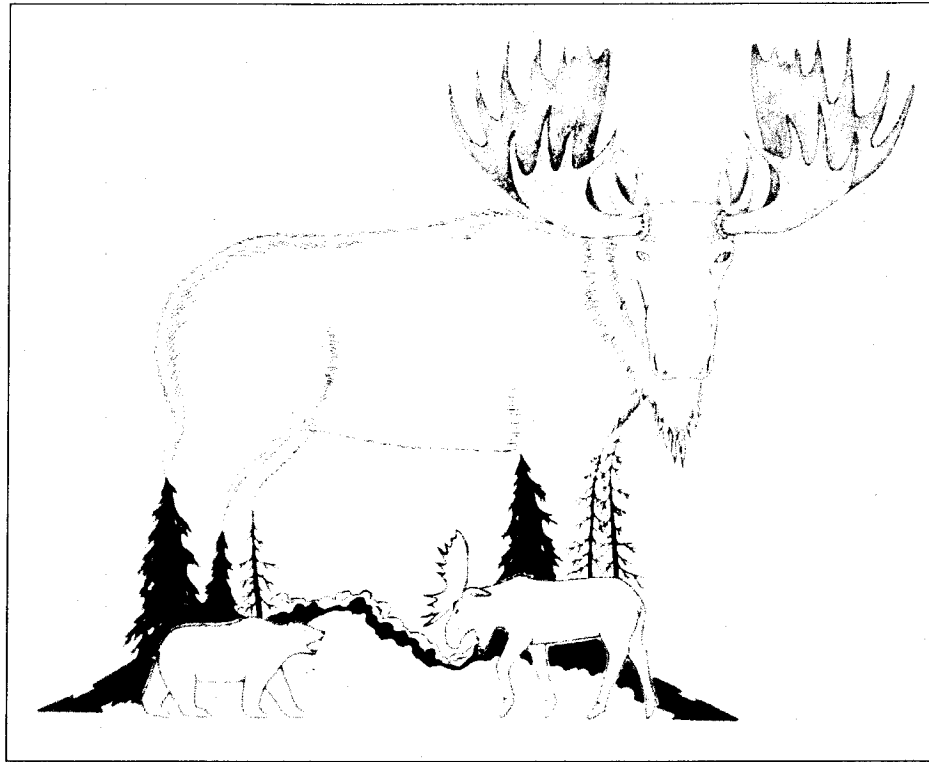
Therefore, be it resolved that the Federal Subsistence Board:

1. Supports the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan as presented in May 2006.
2. Recommends that the members of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group meet periodically and maintain and update the plan as needed.

3. Encourages members of the Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group, the affected Regional Advisory Councils, and the public at large to carefully monitor implementation of the plan and the status of the Unit 21A and Unit 21E moose populations to ensure the mission and goals expressed in the plan are adhered to and, should the need arise, work cooperatively to develop recommendations or proposals for changes to the plan and/or State and Federal regulations.
4. Recommends that when possible, the public and/or agencies consult with the Working Group when submitting regulatory proposals that impact the plan in order to protect the integrity of the plan and the cooperative efforts of the Working Group.
5. Expresses our appreciation for the work of all members who have voluntarily contributed their time, their effort and their creativity to this worthy endeavor.



Mitch Demientieff, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board



RC113

RC113

No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Hollina AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
1	Reopen caribou hunt in Unit 12.	Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC			S					S						
2	Modify moose antler restrictions in Unit 12.	Bart Browning								O						
3	Shorten black bear season in Unit 16B, near Wolverine Creek.	BOG			S									O		
4	Close the nonresident caribou season; require resident permits in Unit 18.	ASSN Village Council Presidents												S		
5	Close the nonresident caribou season in Unit 18.	Lester Wilde, Sr.												S		
6	6 Split the caribou season, Aug. 1-Oct. 15 and Feb. 1-Mar. 15, in Unit 18.	Patrick Jones														
7	Reconsider the amount necessary for subsistence for moose in Unit 18.	Lester Wilde, Sr.			NA				NA						O	
8	Establish trapping season for black bear in Unit 19.	Patrick Jones			S				S					SA		
9	Open brown bear season earlier in Units 19B and C.	Rob Jones, Jr			S				S							
10	Open portion of closed area in Unit 19A to moose hunting with antler restrictions.	Harry Jackson							NA							
11	Close nonresident caribou season in Units 19A and B.	WIRAC							O							

No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Holitna AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
12	Eliminate antler restrictions for subsistence hunters in Unit 19B.	Max Olickso							O							
13	Close moose season in portion of Unit 19B in the Holitna-Hoholtna CUA.	Central Kusko AC			S				S							
14	Eliminate antler restrictions for resident hunters in Unit 19B.	Johnny Evan							O							
15	Establish December moose hunt in poertion of Unit 19D.	Rob Jones, Jr														
16	Lengthen wolverine hunting season to May 15 in Unit 19.	Rob Jones, Jr			NA									O		
17	Eliminate lynx tracking strategy in Unit 20, establish permanent trapping season.	Alaska Trappers Assn		O	S		S			SA				S	SA	
18	Shorten lynx season in Unit 20F by opening Dec. 1.	Greg Gau			NA											
19	Shift moose season in Unit 20 to open later.	Rich Anderson			NA		O							O	NA	
20	Establish brown bear baiting season in Unit 20B.	Caleb Herkstroeter		S	S					NA						
21	Shift nonresident caribou season to open after resident season in Unit 20E.	John Jordan			O					O						
22	Increase allowable harvest of Macomb caribou.	ADF&G		S	S					S						

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[illegible]

No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Hollina AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
68	Modify bag limit to any bear, liberalize methods and means in Unit 25D.	Yukon Flats AC														
69	Clarify the boundary for the Tier II moose hunt in Unit 25D west.	ADF&G			S											
70	Establish drawing permit hunt for sheep in unit 25A	EIRAC	O		O						NA					
71	Extend the brown bear season in Unit 26B.	ADF&G			S											
72	Extend the brown bear season in Unit 26B, increase the number of permits.				NA											
73	Open registration permit hunt for moose in Unit 26C.	Jerod Pollen			O											
74	Modify lynx trapping bag limit in November season.	Anchorage AC								S						
75	Establish black bear trapping season in Units 21 and 24.	Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC			S								O			
76	Separate TMA sheep drawing hunt into two seasons.	Colin Brown			NA	O	NA									O
77	Allocate portion of TMA nonresident permits to hunters using second degree kindred.	Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC		S	S		S		S	S			S			
78	Allow taking of black bears in dens, any bear bag limit in Units 21 and 24.	Lance Kronberger			O		O			S				O		
		Middle Yukon AC				S		S			S					

No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Hollitna AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
79	Allow taking of black bears in dens, use of artificial light and any bear bag limit in Units 21 and 24.	Middle Yukon AC					S	S			S					
80	Extend moose season by 5 days to Sept. 25, in 21D and 24, Koyukuk CUA.	Middle Yukon AC					SA									
81	Increase caribou bag limit in Dalton Highway Corridor.	Grady Brown & Bart Colledge	S			O	S									
82	Simplify and align beaver seasons and methods in Region III.	ADF&G	S		SA	S	S		S		SA			S		
83	Allow the use of scent lures for black bear baiting without requiring a permit.	Fairbanks AC		S	SA	O	O				NA					NA
84	Establish preference point system for drawing hunts in Region III	Virgil Umphenour			D	O	S									
85	Open resident sheep seasons earlier than nonresident seasons in Region III.	Tom Lamal	O	O	S	S	S			O						S
86	Establish a wildlife refuge near Tangle Lakes in Unit 13.	Copper Country Alliance		O										O		
87	Repeal the 40 hp restriction on the Holitna-Hoholitna Rivers in Units 19A and B.	Patrick Jones							O							
88	Modify boundaries of the Upper Kuskokwim CUA in Unit 19D.	Patrick Valkenburg							O							

No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Hollina AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
89	Shorten season for motorized restrictions in the Wood River CUA	Fairbanks AC		O			O									
90	Eliminate the Wood River CUA	Robert Caywood		NA			O	O								
91	Create new aircraft restrictions on the Kantishna River in Unit 20C.															
92	Reinstate the Nenana CUA.	Mike Turner		O			NA						O	O	S	
93	Clarify trails with motorized restrictions in the Ladue River Controlled Use Area.	ADF&G		S					S				O			
94	Eliminate aircraft restrictions in 21D and 24, Koyukuk CUA.	Colin Brown		O	O											
95	Establish permit hunt allowing motorized vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor.	Doug Hamilton			O											
96	Allow use of highway vehicles on existing roads and trails in the Dalton Highway Corridor.	Doug Hamilton			O								S			
97	Establish predator control plan in Unit 9.	Randy Alverex		S												
98	Establish predator control plan in Units 17B and 17C.	Hans Nicholson														
99	Allow trapping of bears in portion of Unit 19D (EMMA) by permit.	Patrick Valkenburg		S					S							
100	Allow taking of black bears in dens, any bear, in Unit 19.	Central Kusko AC		D					S							
101	Reauthorize predator control plan in Unit 19A for 6 more years.	Central Kusko AC	O	S					S							

No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Hollina AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
102	Terminate predator control plan in Unit 19A.	AK Wildlife Environment, AK Wildl Alliance, Defenders of		O	O		O			O				L		
103	Allow taking of wolves in dens in Unit 19.	Central Kusko AC			D		O		S						S	
104	Reauthorize predator control plan in Unit 19D for 5 more years	McGrath AC			S				S							
105	Allow trapping of bears in permit Unit 19 (EMMA) by permit.	McGrath AC	O		S				S	S						
106	Terminate predator control plan in Unit 19D.	AK Wildlife Environment, AK Wildl Alliance, Defenders of		O	O		O		O	O				L		
107	Modify bear control methods and means.	Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC		S	S					S						
108	Reactivate predator control plan in Unit 20A to increase moose calf survival.	Fairbanks AC			S		O									
109	Increase IM population objective for moose to 12,000-14,000 in Unit 20A.	Mike Tinker			S		S									
110	Implement predator control plan for Delta caribou herd in Unit 20A.	Fairbanks AC			S		O									
111	Expand bear control area in Unit 20E.	William Shuster			S					SA				S		
112	Implement new predator control plan in Unit 21E.	GASH AC	O		S				S	SA						SA
113	Terminate control plan in Units 20E and 25C.	AK Wildlife Environment, AK Wildl Alliance, Defenders of		O	O		O		O	O				L		

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No.	Description	Proposed by:	Central AC1	Delta AC2	Fairbanks AC3	Koyukuk R AC4	Middle Nenana AC5	Middle Yukon AC6	Stony Hollina AC7	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	Yukon Flats AC9	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	Central Peninsula AC1	Mat Valley AC12	Minto-Nenana AC	GASH AC
125	Reauthorize the antlerless season on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Unit 14C.	ADF&G											S			
126	Reauthorize the antlerless portion of the drawing permit in the upper Ship Creek drainage.	ADF&G											S			
127	Reauthorize antlerless moose season in portion of 15A, the Skilak Loop MA.	ADF&G										S				
128	Reauthorize antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.	ADF&G										S				
129	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgain Island in Unit 16B.	ADF&G										S				
130	Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.	ADF&G		S	SA		SA						S	SA		
131	Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B.	ADF&G		S	SA								S	SA		
132	Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in 22C and 22D.	ADF&G											S			
133	Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 23.	ADF&G											S			
134	Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 26A.	ADF&G											S			
135	antlerless moose seasons in 20D.	ADF&G		S									S			
136	Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region II.	ADF&G	S		S								S			

No.	Description	Proposed by:
	Central AC1	
	Delta AC2	S
	Fairbanks AC3	S
	Koyukuk R AC4	S
	Middle Nenana AC5	
	Middle Yukon AC6	S
	Stony Hollina AC7	S
	Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC8	S
	Yukon Flats AC9	
	Copper River / P.W.S. AC10	
	Central Peninsula AC1	
	Mat Valley AC12	S
	Minto-Nenana AC	
	GASH AC	S