

**Alaska Board of Game Committee Meeting on
Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations
(Units 11, 12 and 13)**

Final Committee Meeting – April 18, 2014
Anchorage Alaska

Background

The Alaska Board of Game Committee to address Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations met for the third and final time on April 18, 2014, with the objective of identifying potential solutions to submit to the Board of Game as proposals by May 1 for consideration during the 2015 meeting cycle. Committee members and meeting attendance are listed in Attachment 1. Chair Nate Turner’s opening remarks, that set a context for the meeting, are provided in Attachment 2. The meeting agenda and packet of materials used by the Committee can be found at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=04-18-2014&meeting=anchorage

The Board of Game established the Copper Basin Tier I Community Subsistence Hunts (CSH) for caribou and moose in 2009 (5 AAC 92.074(d) *Community Subsistence Harvest Areas*). The CSH permit program allows communities or groups of 25 or more individuals to apply annually to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for a CSH permit for caribou, moose, or both in an established CSH area. These groups may select, from their group members, individual harvesters who may possess particular expertise in hunting to harvest caribou and/or moose on behalf of the community or group. In establishing the Copper Basin CSH, the Board of Game relied on findings developed in 2006 and 2011 that characterize the pattern of customary and traditional use that they intended hunt subscribers to follow.¹

At its first meeting on December 2, 2013, the Committee identified three main issues related to the Copper Basin CSH program and brainstormed a number of potential solutions.² The three issues are:

- I. Impacts of increased participation in the community subsistence hunt, affecting access to resource by other participants
- II. Harvest of “any bull” moose in high use subareas reduces harvest opportunity in other areas
- III. Reduced subsistence harvest opportunity for caribou

At its March 7, 2014 meeting, the Committee heard ADF&G Division of Subsistence and Division of Wildlife Conservation presentations providing additional information requested by the Committee in December 2013, including information about the mechanism, feasibility, and

¹ Board of Game Findings 2006-170-BOG and 2011-184-BOG can be found at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.findings>

² The December 2, 2013 and March 7, 2014 meeting summaries can be found under each meeting date at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo>

possible effects of each.³ After discussion, the Committee asked that ADF&G format each of the potential solutions brainstormed by the Committee as a proposal to the Board of Game for further consideration at its final meeting in April 2014. Committee members were also given the opportunity to submit additional proposals for the group’s consideration.

At its April 18, 2014 meeting, the Committee considered 19 proposals (see Index of Proposals below) and voted on whether to forward them to the Board for its consideration. Eight proposals were developed at the request of the Committee and 11 proposals were submitted by Committee members (of these, nine were submitted prior to the meeting and two at the meeting).

This meeting summary lists each proposal, indicates key points of discussion in support of and in opposition to the proposals, and presents the result of the Committee’s vote on each. This full report will be provided to the Board of Game, to provide the board maximum information about all of the proposed solutions considered and a summary of the Committee’s views on each.

Index of Proposals Considered by the Committee

Proposals were generally discussed in the order presented in this index. In instances where the Committee amended the proposal titles during the April 18 meeting, the revised title is presented below. Not all of these actions would require a regulatory change, but the department recommended that they be presented as a proposal to the Board of Game for their information and to invite their direction even if a regulatory change would not be needed.

Prop No.	Proposal Title	Submitted By	Page # in meeting summary
Issue III - Reduced Subsistence Harvest Opportunity for Caribou			
III-A	Manage the Unit 13 CSH for caribou to continue the community hunt through the season established in regulation ((Aug. 10 – Sept. 20, and Oct. 21 – March 31), as long as the CSH allocation of 300 caribou and the overall harvest quota are not exceeded.	Requested by Committee	5
Issue II – Harvest of “Any Bull” Moose in High Use Subareas Reduces Harvest Opportunity in Other Subareas			
II-A	Establish a firm “any bull” quote per subarea in Unit 13.	Requested by Committee	6
II-B	Provide for more rapid harvest reporting and more responsive in-season management during the “any bull” harvest in Unit 13.	Requested by Committee	7

³ Information presented by ADF&G staff on March 7, 2014, can be viewed under “ADF&G Reports” at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-07-2014&meeting=anchorage> Materials presented include, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation’s document: “Assignments from the Alaska Board of Game Meeting December 2, 2013, on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations”, and ADF&G Division of Subsistence’s documents: “Draft Copper Basin CSH Annual Report Explanation”, “Draft Copper Basin CSH Annual Report Questionnaire”, and “Draft Copper Basin CSH Annual Report Questionnaire Overview”.

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Prop No.	Proposal Title	Submitted By	Page # in meeting summary
II-C	Recommend the department use its existing management discretion, in all subunits throughout the CSH area, to open and close the CSH on certain days (including weekend days) if necessary for conservation and/or to not exceed the “any bull” quota.	Requested by Committee	8
II-D	Modify the community subsistence hunt season dates and restrict all hunters from using motorized vehicles, Units 13, 11 and portions of 12, during the periods Aug. 18-22 and Aug. 25-28)	Committee member Jim Colver	10
II-E	Restrict community subsistence harvest hunters in Units 13, 11 and portions of 12 from hunting within 24 hours of using off-road vehicles (from Aug. 18-31)	Committee member Jim Colver	11
Issue I – Impacts of Increased CSH Participation			
I-A	Bring the CSH season and general hunt seasons into closer alignment, provided that there is still some extended season for the CSH.	Requested by Committee	12
I-B	Require participants in the CSH program to commit to participation for a period of two years or more.	Requested by Committee	14
I-C	CSH group shall only hunt in Units 11, 12 and 13 for a period of two years and shall not be eligible to hunt for moose or caribou in other parts of the state during the two-year period.	Committee member Jim Colver	16
I-D	Change the CSH group size definition to “25 or more households”.	Requested by Committee	17
I-E	Add a definition of “community” and “individuals, families or other social groups” to 5 AAC 92.072.	Submitted by Ahtna; amended by the Committee	18
I-F	Include “individuals, households, and families” (recognized as a subsistence use pattern in Board of Game Finding) in the moose subsistence hunt when the harvestable surplus exceeds ANS, and change the hunt start date to Sept. 1 (from Aug. 10).	Committee member Rod Arno	19
I-G	Ensure communities or groups approved to participate in the moose and caribou CSH meet the intent of the Board of Game findings for the CSH program.	Requested by Committee	21
I-H	Community Hunt – Follow same basic guidelines as old Tier II system (points to each community based on past use of resource).	Paxson AC	25
I-I	Require hunters to be engaged in a pattern of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou for the Tier I hunt.	Ahtna	27
I-J	Require direct Board of Game approval of groups applying to join the Copper Basin Community Hunt.	Ahtna	30

FINAL Meeting Summary

Prop No.	Proposal Title	Submitted By	Page # in meeting summary
I-K	Require that CSH hunters bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glenallen ADF&G office as soon as they come out of the field to demonstrate salvage requirements were met, and require antler destruction for any CSH harvested moose. (Note, this would also provide an opportunity for the hunters to share their harvest.)	Committee member Karen Linnell	31
I-L	Require that antlers taken through the CSH hunt be turned in to ADF&G, to allow the department to get additional information about the harvest, and to sell the antlers at auction with revenues used to help cover the added costs of CSH hunt management.	Committee member Don Holum	32
Other Proposals			
IV-A	Discontinue the CSH program when the harvestable surplus exceeds the minimum ANS, and replace it with a weighted drawing hunt for Alaska residents only.	Committee member Rod Arno	33

ISSUE III – Reduced Subsistence Harvest Opportunity for Caribou

PROPOSAL III-A Manage the Unit 13 CSH for caribou to continue the community hunt through the season established in regulation (Aug. 10 – Sept. 20, and Oct. 21 – March 31), as long as the CSH allocation of 300 caribou and the overall harvest quota are not exceeded.

This would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this change under existing regulations for Unit 13, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board of Game for their information and to invite direction.

NOTE: Proposal III-A was amended during Committee discussion to add, “and the overall harvest quota are” not exceeded, to avoid any conservation concern.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

In Unit 13, regulations provide that “up to 300 caribou may be taken” in the CSH hunt (Aug. 10 – Sept. 20, and Oct. 21 – March 31). However, in the past, the department has closed the CSH caribou hunt in Unit 13, or not reopened the hunt for the fall/winter season, when the *overall* reported state harvest combined with the anticipated federal harvest for the Nelchina herd has approached the *overall* harvest quota, even though 300 caribou were not harvested in the CSH hunt. Managing the 300 caribou CSH allocation as a quota that should be met in Unit 13 (provided there is no conservation concern) would increase opportunity for caribou harvest through the CSH program, including likely extending the hunt into the fall/winter season.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee vote: Passed
 Yea – 10 Nay – 0 (two members absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Committee unanimously members supported this change in management of the CSH caribou hunt.
- Added language to ensure that the hunt would be managed to ensure the overall harvest quota is not exceeded, to avoid any potential conservation concern.

ISSUE II – Harvest of “Any Bull” in High Use Subareas Reduces Harvest Opportunity in Other Subareas

PROPOSAL II-A Establish a firm “any bull” quota per subarea in Unit 13

This would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this change under existing regulations for Unit 13, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board of Game for their information and to invite direction.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

In Unit 13, the high harvest of “any bulls” in high use subareas (e.g. Unit 13A) during the first day or few days of the CSH opening on August 10 has caused the department to close the “any bull” hunt in all of Unit 13 by emergency order very early in the season, significantly reducing the opportunity for hunters to take “any bull” in other subareas. Establishing a quota for each subarea (either by the Board or the department) would reduce the potential for overharvest in heavily used areas, keep the harvest within the allocation specified in regulation (5AAC 85.045(11)(B)), and maintain the opportunity to harvest “any bull” in all subareas. This would spread opportunity and reduce social conflicts.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee vote: Passed
 Yea – 8 Nay – 2 (two members absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Recommend that the department look at past harvest patterns and allocate the subarea quotas proportionally.
- Establishing an “any bull” quota per subarea would spread opportunity throughout the area, avoiding having the quota taken rapidly and predominantly in accessible subunits, such as Unit 13A.
- Recognize that harvest may exceed the 100 “any bulls” in some years and the department would then reduce the total below 100 in subsequent years to achieve a longer-term balance. (The department noted that this should be addressed in the board’s findings on this topic.)

In Opposition

- This type of micromanagement would make it more difficult for the department to manage the “any bull” harvest in Unit 13.

Proposal II-B Provide more rapid harvest reporting and more responsive in-season management during the “any bull” harvest in Unit 13.

Note that this would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this under 5 AAC 92.052, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board of Game for their information and to invite direction.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

In Unit 13, the high harvest of “any bulls” in high use subareas (e.g. Unit 13A) during the first day or few days of the CSH opening on August 10 has caused the department to close the “any bull” hunt for all of Unit 13 by emergency order very early in the season, significantly reducing the opportunity for hunters to take “any bull” in other subareas. Requiring harvest reporting sooner (e.g., within 12- or 24-hours of killing a moose) by phone or internet would give the department more current information about the “any bull” harvest so it can be managed to meet biological objectives while providing opportunity throughout Unit 13 to the extent possible.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 10 Nay – 0 (two members absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Beneficial to have information as soon as possible about “any bull” harvest to assist the department in meeting biological objectives while providing harvest opportunity throughout Unit 13.
- Ask department to consider and implement feasible requirements for more rapid harvest reporting and in-season management notifications.

Considerations

- Recognize that there are limitations on cell phone coverage in some areas of Unit 13.
- Recognize that hunters whose practice is to remain in the field for longer periods may have difficulty responding within a 12- or 24-hour post-harvest report timeframe.
- Will likely require some additional department staff time on heavy use weekends, although this has been required in the past as well.
- Committee discussed potential use of checkpoints in the field, but the department did not recommend this, indicating that staffing costs would be too high.

PROPOSAL II-C Recommend the department use its existing management discretion, in all subunits throughout the CSH area, to open and close the CSH for certain days (including weekend days) if necessary for conservation and/or to not exceed the “any bull” quota.

This would not require a regulatory change by the board since ADF&G has discretionary authority to implement this under 5 AAC 92.052, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board of Game for their information and any direction.

(NOTE: Proposal II-C above was substantially amended from an earlier version that would have limited the “any bull” hunt to Monday-Friday.)

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

In Unit 13, the high harvest of “any bulls” in high use subareas (e.g. Unit 13A) during the first day or few days of the CSH opening on August 10 has caused the department to close the “any bull” hunt for all of Unit 13 by emergency order very early in the season, significantly reducing the opportunity for hunters to take “any bull” in other subareas. Because the “any bull” harvest quotas are relatively small compared to the number of CSH hunters, harvest quotas can be reached quickly in heavily hunted areas. Communication and reporting delays can result in harvests that greatly exceeded the quota before an Emergency Order can be issued. Judicious use of in-season closures would give the department the chance to catch up with harvest monitoring and reassess progress toward the “any bull” and overall harvest quotas in-season, ensuring appropriate management to the targets while maximizing participation throughout the units.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 7 Nay – 4 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- While the department already has the discretion to use this management tool, an affirmative vote on this recommendation by the Board of Game would give the department greater assurance that it is an acceptable management tool to the board.

In Opposition

- The department already has the discretionary authority to open and close the “any bull” season as necessary to manage for the quota and the overall harvest target. This proposal is unnecessary micromanagement.

- Do not want the department to use this as a tool to limit participation in the hunt or to provide different treatment to different populations of hunters (such as closing the hunts on weekend days).
- Concern that information about closures may be difficult to communicate to hunters in the backcountry and difficult to enforce

PROPOSAL II-D - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Modify the community subsistence moose hunt season dates and restrict all hunters from using motorized vehicles Units 13, 11, and portions of 12, during the periods Aug. 18-22 and Aug. 25-28.

The community subsistence harvest is open for moose from August 18th thru September 20th.

Unit 13 and 11 (& portions of 12) are closed to anyone using a motorized vehicle for moose hunting including the transportation of moose hunters, their gear and/or harvested meat hunts from August 18th thru August 22nd, and from August 25th thru 28th.

However this does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on a state, borough or locally maintained highway or Lake Louise Road, and does not apply to use of a driveway to access a residence or business.

(NOTE: During consideration by the Committee, Proposal II-D above was amended from an earlier version to eliminate the words “(except an aircraft or a boat”).)

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

This proposal is patterned after the moose hunt in Unit 15C on the Kenai Peninsula. It has been a successful model there. The intent is to reduce the pressure on the early season hunt and give local residents a level playing field to harvest an animal. This proposal includes a provision to allow the transport of harvested game, personnel & gear in the middle of this prescribed season by motor vehicles.

PROPOSED BY: Committee member Jim Colver

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 1 Nay – 7 Abstain – 3 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

Jim Colver noted that he brought forward this proposal to start conversation about reducing hunting pressure during the early moose season and that he did not have an opinion on it.

In Support

- Recommend that the Board consider limitations on motorized vehicle use during the CSH early season to help reduce hunting pressure on the early season “any bull” hunt and to reduce impacts to the land (e.g., proliferation of motorized trails).

In Opposition

- The use of motorized vehicles to access and transport game is customary and meets the intent of the Board’s Findings for the CSH. This would be an unnecessary restriction on customary use.
- Concern that this would be very difficult to enforce.

PROPOSAL II-E - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Restrict community subsistence harvest hunters in Units 13, 11 and portions of Unit 12 from hunting within 24 hours of using off-road vehicles.

From August 18th to August 31st, participants in the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose and caribou may not hunt for one day following the use of an off-road motorized vehicle. For the purpose of this regulation, a motorized use day ends at midnight of the day than an off-road motorized vehicle was used. If animal is harvested after the prohibition on a motorized use has passed, an off-road motorized vehicle can be used to transport the meat of a harvested animal. (Note, this is similar to the restriction in the Cordova bull moose hunt.)

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The intent is to reduce hunting pressure on the early season hunt and level the playing field. It allows hunters to access the backcountry, yet provide for fair chase and reduce the rate of harvest, which will lengthen the season. This is similar to the way hunting using an aircraft for access is regulated.

PROPOSED BY: Committee member Jim Colver

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: **Failed**
 Yea – 0 **Nay – 9** **Abstain – 2 (one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

Jim Colver noted that he brought forward this proposal to start conversation about reducing hunting pressure during the early moose season and that he did not have an opinion on the proposal.

In Opposition

- The use of motorized vehicles to access and transport game is customary and meets the intent of the Board’s Findings for the CSH. This would be an unnecessary restriction on customary use.
- Concern that this would difficult to enforce.
- Noted that the Cordova bull moose hunt (referenced in the description of the proposal) occurs in a much smaller geographic area and is accessed by airboats. While the restriction on motorized use may be a useful tool in the Cordova hunt, its utility is not transferable to the Copper Basin CSH hunt.

ISSUE I – Impacts of Increased Participation in CSH

PROPOSAL I-A Bring the CSH season and general hunt seasons into closer alignment, provided that there is still some extended season for the CSH.

(NOTE: The Committee initially considered a version of Proposal I-A that would have set both seasons and bag limits for the CSH moose harvest to match the general hunt. During consideration by the Committee, Proposal I-A was substantially amended to eliminate the words “and bag limits”, resulting in no change to the “any bull” provision of the current CSH regulations. It was also amended to acknowledge that the Board may want to bring the CSH and general hunt seasons into closer alignment, but recommends that there continue to be some extended CSH season.)

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

CSH participation in the moose hunt increased dramatically from one group (246 households) in 2009 to 45 groups (995 households) in 2013, with a slight decline to 43 groups (910 households) in 2014. This increase in participation in the CSH has caused concerns that the original intent of the CSH program is not being met. Approximately one-third of the CSH participants hunt moose each year (841 CSH hunters in 2013) and compete for the limited “any bull” quota. The increasing number of CSH hunters has resulted in conflicts within the program, as the more hunters participate, the less chance each hunter has to take one of the 100 “any bulls” in the quota. Reducing the early start for the CSH hunt would be expected to reduce the impacts that have been experienced due to increasing participation in the CSH.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 5 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- The intent of this recommendation is to acknowledge that the Board of Game may wish to shorten the extended Copper Basin CSH season to reduce the attraction to the CSH hunt and to address equity concerns expressed by other hunters. However, if the seasons are brought into closer alignment, the majority of the Committee recommends that the board provide some extended season for the CSH, to meet the intent to provide meat for communities’ subsistence needs.

- One Committee member preferred staggered hunt starts, rather than having multiple types of hunts start on the same day.

In Opposition

- Setting the CSH hunt start date to match the general hunt season start would make access to the resource more equitable and would also reduce the attraction of participants to the CSH.
- Prefer CSH season start to match general hunt season (September 1) to avoid potential for meat waste during warmer weather.
- One member expressed concern that the early start and ability to harvest “any bull” seems to have caused reduction in bulls in Unit 13, per his observations during the season. (In response, the department indicated that if the bull:cow ratio was at risk due to the “any bull” hunt, it would bring a proposal to the board to change it.)

PROPOSAL I-B Require participants in the CSH program to commit to participation for a period of two years or more.

PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions

(c) (1) (F) in the community harvest hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), participants in the community harvest permit must commit to participation for a period of two years or more.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

CSH participation in the moose hunt increased dramatically from one group (246 households) in 2009 to 45 groups (995 households) in 2013, with a slight decline to 43 groups (910 households) in 2014. This increase in participation in the CSH has caused concerns that the original intent of the CSH program is not being met. Approximately one-third of the CSH participants hunt moose each year (841 CSH hunters in 2013) and compete for the limited “any bull” quota. The increasing number of CSH hunters has resulted in conflicts within the program, as the more hunters participate, the less chance each hunter has to take one of the 100 “any bulls” in the quota.

Requiring participants to commit to the terms of the CSH for two or more years, including the regulatory requirement under 5 AAC 92.072(2)(A) that they “may not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or for fewer animals during the same regulatory year”, may reduce the participation of hunters who may typically hunt along a road system and could readily hunt in other units. This could have the effect of reducing the impacts that have been experienced due to increasing participation in the CSH.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee vote: Passed
 Yea – 6 Nay – 4 (two members absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Support the requirement for a longer-term commitment, since establishing and maintaining a long-term pattern of subsistence use is key element of the Board of Game findings relevant to this CSH.
- Noted that if the Board were interested in requiring a longer-term commitment to the CSH, implementation details would need to be crafted. For example, exceptions may be needed for

specific situations that prevent participation (such as health problems or a change in the head of household) and appeal procedures would be needed.

- Suggested that if a community or group, or an individual within the group, decided to not fulfill the multi-year commitment, that party could not come back into the CSH during that time period, but could participate in the Tier I hunt.

In Opposition

- Concerns that this requirement would be very difficult to implement. For example, if a community or group decided after one year that it no longer wanted to participate in the CSH, how would they be held to the two-year commitment? What if just some individuals in a group were unwilling or unable to fulfill the two-year commitment? What would be the penalty and the mechanism for applying it?
- Concern that if animal populations decline and opportunity for a successful harvest is restricted or reduced in the CSH area, CSH participants could face a season or more without access to moose or caribou.

PROPOSAL I-C - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Limit the areas where community subsistence harvest hunters may hunt outside of Unit 11, 12 and 13.

Any member of a Unit 11, 12, or 13 moose and/or caribou community subsistence hunt group shall only hunt for caribou and moose in the aforesaid unit(s) for a period of two years, and shall not be eligible to hunt these species in other parts of the state during the two year period.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

These game management units include some of the most accessible hunting areas of the state. All of the trail systems have seen an increase in traffic because of regulatory provisions such as requiring Tier I caribou hunters to only hunt moose in unit 13. In addition the popularity of the CSH hunts has also increased. This is designed to reduce increasing demand for the CSH permits.

PROPOSED BY: Committee member Jim Colver

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: NO ACTION was taken on this proposal, given action on proposal I-B (Vote for No Action = Yea – 11, Nay – 0, one member absent)

PROPOSAL I-D Change the CSH group size definition to “25 or more households”

PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions Change the CSH group size definition to “25 or more households,” as follows:

(c)(1) a person representing a group of 25 or more residents or members, **or for the community harvest hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d) a group representing 25 or more households,** may apply to the department for a community harvest permit;

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

CSH participation in the moose hunt increased dramatically from one group (246 households) in 2009 to 45 groups (995 households) in 2013, with a slight decline to 43 groups (910 households) in 2014. This increase in participation in the CSH has caused concerns that the original intent of the CSH program is not being met. Approximately one-third of the CSH participants hunt moose each year (841 CSH hunters in 2013) and compete for the limited “any bull” quota. The increasing number of CSH hunters has resulted in conflicts within the program, as the more hunters participate, the less chance each hunter has to take one of the 100 “any bulls” in the quota.

Changing the definition of what constitutes a “group” to “25 or more households” would be expected to reduce participation in the CSH. Because there are other CSH programs in Alaska, any such regulatory change to address this issue should be limited to the community harvest hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), which describes the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 4 (two members absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Changing the requirement to “25 or more households” would make it more likely that CSH groups represent the subsistence use pattern identified in the board’s findings. This change would increase the size of CSH groups, but may reduce the total number of groups and participants and lessen the impacts that have been associated with increasing participation.

In Opposition

- Do not support efforts to reduce participation by individuals, families and social groups that meet the Board’s findings (2011-184-BOG) for participation in the Copper Basin CSH.

Concerned that the change to 25 or more households would discourage or hinder their participation in the CSH. Also concerned that others in a household are prevented from hunting elsewhere.

PROPOSAL I-E Add definitions of “Community” and “Individuals, Families, or Other Social Groups” to 5 AAC 92.072

Add definitions of the terms “community” and “individuals, families or other social groups” to the CSH regulations, both of which are recognized subsistence use patterns in Board Findings (2006-170-BOG and 2011-184-BOG).

(NOTE: The Committee initially considered a version of Proposal I-E that recommended only adding a definition of “Community,” referenced in the 2006 Board Findings. They reached unanimous agreement to recommend adding definitions as well of “individuals, families, and other social groups” as referenced in the 2011 Board Findings. Noted that the department would provide options for definitions for the board’s consideration, but that it would be the board’s decision which definition(s) would be added to regulation.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Provide definitions in regulation that would ensure participants meet the intent of the Board Findings relevant to the community subsistence hunts for caribou and moose in the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area.

PROPOSED BY: Initial proposal by Ahtna, amended by the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 10 Nay– 0 (two members absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- Unanimous support for providing these definitions for terms used in the Board of Game Findings to define the two patterns of subsistence use.

PROPOSAL I-F Include “individuals, households, or families” (recognized as a subsistence use pattern in the 2011 Board of Game Findings) in the moose subsistence hunt when the harvestable surplus exceeds the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and change the hunt start date to Sept. 1 (from Aug. 10).

5 AAC 85.045(a)(11) 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

One bull per harvest report by community harvest [AUG 10] **Sept. 1**
Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)

Permit [ONLY], **individual, household, or family:**
however, no more than 100 bulls that do not meet antler
restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area
may be taken in Unit 13.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game, 2011-184-BOG; Game Management Unit 13, Caribou and Moose Uses identify two specific patterns of subsistence uses of moose. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/findings/11-184-bog.pdf>

“One pattern of communities of indigenous Athna Athabaskan inhabitants of the Copper River basin and another subsistence use pattern developed as individuals, families, and other social groups, both within and outside the local area, adapted to changing economic, demographic, and cultural conditions related to harvesting moose in GMU 13”.

As long as the harvestable surplus of moose is above the maximum number necessary to meet subsistence uses the subsistence hunt is regulated under AS16.05.258(b)(1-2). There is no legal authority to differentiate among subsistence users at this harvest level. The board must legally accommodate all subsistence use patterns.

Legally the board may only differentiate between subsistence use patterns when the harvestable surplus falls below the minimum ANS, AS 16.05.258(b)(4). Should the board choose to give a priority to the community based subsistence use pattern in GMU13 for moose they are legally allowed to do so only when the harvest falls below the number necessary to meet the minimum ANS.

Submitted by: Committee member Rod Arno

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 5 Nay – 6 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- This change would include all of the subsistence users referenced in the 2006 and 2011 Board Findings that describe parties eligible to participate in the CSH. Noted, however, that the Committee *unanimously recommended adoption of proposal I-E*, which also addresses this purpose.
- Some Committee members support changing the start date for the CSH to September 1, to match the general hunt.

In Opposition

- Some Committee members oppose changing the start date for the CSH to September 1, noting the merits of having an extended season for this hunt. (See also Proposal I-A)
- The rationale for this proposal indicates that the Board of Game can only differentiate among uses when the ANS is not being met. One Committee member stated that they did not support the proposal because they believe that the board does have authority to recognize specific uses, even when the harvestable surplus is above the ANS.

PROPOSAL I-G Ensure communities or groups approved to participate in the moose and caribou CSH meet the intent of the Board of Game findings for the CSH program.

PROPOSAL XXX – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Implement a reporting and point system for helping communities and groups make efforts to observe the Alaska Board of Game’s (board’s) customary and traditional use pattern found for the community subsistence hunts for caribou and moose in the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area, as follows:

92.072 (c)(1)(D) make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board and included by the department as a permit condition, if any, is observed by subscribers including meat sharing...

(E) In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the department may require written reports from administrators of and participants in Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area community harvest permit hunts which describe efforts by households to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game population(s) to be hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit.

(i) The department will evaluate each report submitted under (E), and will measure compliance of the communities or groups formed under 5 AAC 92.072(c) with the customary and traditional use pattern of the game population(s), as follows:

(1) Element 1, participation in a long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the game population, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: the number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and use of areas other than the community subsistence hunt area for harvest activities; and

(2) Element 2, participation in the pattern of taking or use of the game population that follows a seasonal use pattern of harvest effort in the hunt area, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicator: the months and/or seasons in which noncommercial harvest activities occur in the hunt area; and

(3) Element 3, participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the hunt area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: costs associated with harvests; and methods used to reduce costs and improve efficiency of harvest; and number of species harvested during hunting activities; and

(4) Element 4, participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources that occurs in the hunt area due to close ties to the area, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations

in the taking and use of the game population; and variety of harvesting activities that take place in the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities; and

(5) Element 5, use of means of processing and preserving wild resources from the hunt area that have been traditionally been used by past generations, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: complete listing of the parts of the harvested game that are used; and preservation methods of that game; and types of foods and other products produced from that harvest; and

(6) Element 6, participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the hunt area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the hunt area from generation to generation, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and evidence of instruction and training; and

(7) Element 7, participation in a pattern of taking of wild resources from the hunt area in which the harvest is shared throughout the community, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: amount of harvest of the game population that is shared; and evidence of a communal sharing event; and support of those in need through sharing of the harvest of the game population; and

(8) Element 8, participation in a pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance on a wide variety of wild resources from the hunt area, may provide up to 12.5% of available points as measured by the following indicators: the variety of resource harvest activities engaged in within the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities.

(ii) failure to report under this subsection, or under 5 AAC 92.072(f), will result in denial to a household of a Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area community subsistence harvest permit.

[E](F) beginning July 1, 2014, in the community harvest hunt area...

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The goal of the annual report evaluation process - as outlined in this proposal, the draft questionnaires, and in the draft scoring system (presented at the March 7, 2014 Committee meeting) - is to provide feedback to communities and groups regarding their efforts to observe the customary and traditional use (C&T) pattern described in board finding 2006-170-BOG.

Efforts to observe the pattern are required by 5 AAC 92.072 and by the Board.

As background, during the December 2013 meeting of the board's Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Committee, the department was asked to investigate methods to better assess if households with a Copper Basin community subsistence hunt permit were observing (or were making attempts to observe) the C&T pattern described in 2006-170-BOG. In response, the department developed a draft questionnaire and scoring system that hunt administrators and

participating households would be required to submit after the caribou and moose hunting seasons. The committee discussed the questionnaire and scoring system during its meetings on March 7, 2014, and April 18, 2014, and requested the concept in a draft proposal for consideration to forward to the Board.

The draft proposal outlines how each element in the Board findings could be measured by a set of indicators that are in turn closely linked to those findings.

A group’s score would be based on combined responses from participating households and the group administrator. A group’s score on each element would eventually be specified in regulation as based on a percentage of the total points available, rather than a fixed number. Using a percentage for each element allows for refinement of the set of questions for that element. It also provides a way to compare patterns among households and among groups. Furthermore, using a percentage for each element would allow the Board to decide which element it would like to have the most weight. The Board may choose to weigh responses on one element more than responses on another, for example.

It is recommended that this evaluation process be in place a minimum of three years before the Board considers using the scores in a regulatory context. For example, after three years’ of data are collected, the Board might wish to consider establishing in regulation 1) a minimum score for a conditional approval of efforts to observe this pattern, and 2) a minimum score necessary to demonstrate full observation of the C&T pattern.

Also after three years, the Board could consider adopting in regulation a process for a person or group to appeal a score assigned by the department to a report submitted under (E) that resulted in denial of an application for a community subsistence hunt permit.

PROPOSED BY: Drafted at the request of the Committee

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Passed
Yea – 6 Nay – 5 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- ADF&G Division of Subsistence indicated that they plan to transfer current capacity (staff, resources) toward implementing the proposed system, as they already invest substantial time in reviewing reports currently required of CSH participants. This proposal would provide a more quantified way to review reports and, in some ways, would simplify the review and analysis.
- Supporters indicated this is the “single most important change” the Committee could recommend to address Issue I.

- Noted that it is similar in intent to proposal submitted by Paxson Advisory Committee (see Proposal I-H), but the majority of the Committee prefers the criteria and system in Proposal I-G.
- The proposed system would make the determination of who may be adhering to the pattern in the CSH less subjective.

In Opposition

- Concerned that the process would be burdensome on hunt administrators, group members, and the department.
- Believes that this type of regulatory process is more appropriate and warranted in a Tier II situation. Since the Copper Basin caribou and moose hunts are in a “Tier I-plus” status, do not support this requirement.

PROPOSAL I-H Follow same basic guidelines as old Tier II system (points to each community based on past use of resource)

The Community Hunt protocol should follow along the same basic guidelines as the old Tier II system. Points should be given to each community as a whole depending on its past use of the resource. There should be a point total baseline. Above the baseline, the community may participate in the hunt. Below the baseline, the community would not qualify for participation. Points should be awarded to each community based on an average number of points for each individual member of the community. Communities should be composed of a minimum of 20 members (this to allow for hunters in the smaller area communities to participate without needing members from outside of their immediate area).

The criteria/questions suggested below is a starting point and should be open to discussion. The proposal is that communities that average 22 points or better should be eligible to participate in the CSH hunt.

Criteria / Questions are as follows:

1. How many years have you used the resource (game population) that you are applying for?

- 1-5 years = 1 point
- 5-10 years = 2 points
- 10-15 years = 3 points
- 15-20 years = 4 points
- > 20 years = 5 points

2. How many days during each year do you spend hunting/fishing/gathering within the (general) hunt area?

- 1-10 days = 1 point
- 10-20 days = 2 points
- 20-30 days = 3 points
- 30-40 days = 4 points
- > 40 days = 5 points

3. How far do you have to travel to reach the hunt area?

- > 300 miles = 1 point
- 200-300 miles = 2 points
- 150-200 miles = 3 points
- 75-150 miles = 4 points
- < 75 miles = 5 points

4. In which community do purchase most of your fuel? (Note: May have missed a few communities on these lists and propose using the old Tier II community point list).

Paxson, Glennallen, Cantwell, Gakona, Gulkana, Chistochina, Copper Center, Mendeltna, Chickaloon, Lake Louise., Kenny Lake Dot Lake, Tanacross, Mentasta
= 5 points

Delta Junction, Palmer, Valdez, Denali Park, Healy, Talkeetna, Tok , Chicken
= 4 points

Fairbanks/North Pole, Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Nenana, Ester,
= 3 points

Kenai/Soldotna, Homer, Seward, Eagle, Wiseman, Circle City, Central
= 2 points

All other communities off of the highway system
= 1 point

5. In which community do you purchase most of your food.?

Glennallen, Copper Center, Tok, Delta Junction, Cantwell
= 5 points

Valdez, Seward, Homer, Talkeetna, Healy, Nenana
= 4 points

Kenai/Soldotna, Wasilla/Palmer, Fairbanks/N. Pole, Anchorage
= 3 points

Communities off of the highway system
= 2 points

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

“On March 26 our [Paxson] Advisory Committee met and discussed the Community Hunt. Like most others, our members felt that the Community Hunt, as structured, does not serve the purpose for which it was created. Our Committee feels that the present subsistence seasons, both Federal and State, do meet the needs of our area communities and that a separate Community hunt is unnecessary.

“That said, we are aware that once a program is implemented, it is very difficult to remove it, as there are many special interest groups who feel that a specific program may benefit them in particular. Our stance as an Advisory Committee is that competition among user groups for a limited amount of game or fish is detrimental to the basic premise of having a healthy, balanced eco-system that serves all user groups; both consumptive and non-consumptive.”

PROPOSED BY: John Schandelmeier, Chair, Paxson Fish and Game Advisory

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 1 Nay – 10 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support

- No specific points were articulated by the Committee in support of this proposal.

In Opposition

- Some Committee members preferred the criteria and system in Proposal I-G.
- Other Committee members do not support either proposal I-G or I-H, stating that this type of evaluation should not be required in a Tier I-plus situation.

PROPOSAL I-I **Require hunters to be engaged in a pattern of subsistence uses of Nelchina Caribou for the Tier I hunt**

The Board needs to take the next step in defining the pattern of subsistence use for the Tier I household caribou hunt in GMU 13. It needs to institute an administrative process similar to that being considered for the Tier I Community Hunt. Like the yearly application for the Community Hunt, the household Tier I application should specify the pattern of subsistence use a household is expected to conform to in order to participate in the Tier I hunt. A signature should be required to verify the intent of those in the household to engage in this pattern. Additionally, the Tier I permits already include a reporting requirement for harvest. A short set of questions should be added verifying that the household engaged in the pattern of use defined in the application with a signature attesting to the truth of the answers given.

The Tier I household permit hunt conditions, or required pattern of C&T subsistence use, should be developed by the Division of Subsistence and approved by the Board. The post-season permit report, in addition to harvest information, could include some of the same elements that the Division has developed to verify participation in the pattern of use for the Community Hunt, although the number of questions and their depth would likely be less given the differences between the household and community patterns of subsistence uses.

Important elements that should be included as hunt conditions and reporting requirements include use of a wide diversity of resources from the area; a pattern of use that spans several seasons; close ties and familiarity with the area including the existence or development of a long-term pattern of use; some degree of sharing outside the household; and the incorporation of handing down knowledge through the generations.

A scoring system should be developed that results in the disqualification of an applicant after some for failing to comply with the hunt conditions or for failing to report. For example, if an applicant household hunted and failed to meet the minimum score for the year, or failed to report, the persons in that household would be foreclosed from applying for the next year. If an applicant household failed to meet the minimum score for after applying and receiving a permit twice, thus demonstrating a pattern of non-compliance, the household members would be foreclosed from applying for a Tier I permit for 3 years. A household that applies for a permit and fails to hunt for 2 consecutive years would be foreclosed from applying for a permit the next year barring some medical or other justification. Those disqualified from applying for the household Tier I permit would also be barred from applying for the community hunt. Applicants made a conscious choice of the pattern of use to apply for, the household or Community Tier I hunt. Those that failed to comply with the condition for the pattern of use selected should not be permitted to game the system by jumping between Tier I hunts.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The Board currently requires that those issued Tier I caribou permits in GMU 13 are restricted to hunting moose in GMU 13. The reason the Board adopted this hunt condition was twofold: 1) to reflect the C&T pattern of subsistence uses that includes the taking a wide diversity of resources for the area used for subsistence hunting; and 2) to limit the number of persons applying for the

Tier I hunt to those genuinely willing to engage in this pattern of use. This hunt condition has not achieved its purpose.

The number of Tier I caribou hunters remains very high, far above the 600-1000 ANS set by the Board for the Nelchina caribou herd. Data from the past several years since the Board adopted the ANS and the above described hunt condition demonstrates that there continues to be a high number of Tier I applications and a large participation and harvest in the Tier I hunt. This data seriously undermines the basis, and thus legality for the ANS determination. Given the data over the last several years, a strong case exists for arguing that the ANS remains the total available Nelchina harvest, or close to it, thus putting the hunt back into the Tier II regime.

At the same time that the hunt condition restricting moose hunting in GMU 13 has failed to significantly reduce the number of Tier II participants, it has caused hardships to those who genuinely depend on the GMU 13 moose and caribou populations for subsistence uses. It is flooding the area with moose and caribou hunters. Many of those with many years of moose and caribou hunting in this area are not meeting their subsistence needs because of the large number of hunters all concentrated in the same time and area. The caribou hunt has closed early over the last several years. Many of those who are undoubtedly engaged in a subsistence pattern of use are not being afforded a reasonable opportunity or meeting their subsistence needs for moose or caribou.

Defining subsistence uses and instituting an application and scoring system as proposed would benefit all Alaskans who wish to hunt the Nelchina caribou herd. Over a relatively short period of time those who participate in the subsistence hunt will be genuinely engaged in subsistence uses. This will reduce the number of applicants and participants because many who now apply for the Tier I hunt are not engaged in a pattern of use that is subsistence. The 600-1000 ANS would likely be supported by the data generated by the proposed permit reporting and scoring system. This means that many more general hunt permits could be issued that do not have such conditions. If more general hunt opportunity were available, many hunters would choose to participate in a general hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 5 Nay – 4 Abstain – 1 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

The Committee tabled this proposal until the end of the meeting, as it relates to the individual Tier I caribou hunt, rather than the CSH. As a result, there was limited time for discussion. The following points were made in brief discussion:

- Should not impose an eligibility test / criteria on individual hunters when the caribou hunt is above a Tier I level.

- There may be merit to rescinding the requirement that participants in the Tier I caribou hunt must only hunt moose in Unit 13. However, the Committee felt there was not sufficient time for them to consider the ramifications of this change, or of other effects of the proposal.

PROPOSAL I-J **Require direct Board of Game approval of groups applying to join the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Hunt**

A Group Application should be developed by the Subsistence Division for any group that seeks to join the Copper Basin community subsistence hunt. The Division should review the applications with comments as to completeness and content. The Board could review and approve or reject these applications yearly at its work session with each group coordinator given a limited opportunity for public comment.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Abuse of the intent and hunt conditions for the community subsistence hunt by groups of people who are not genuinely engaged in the pattern of community subsistence use identified by the Board for the Copper Basin Community Subsistence hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: **Passed**
 Yea – 7 **Nay – 4** **(one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support:

- Would ensure that all groups demonstrate to the Board that they meet the CSH requirements.
- It is appropriate for Board to assume this role, as it ultimately is an allocation decision (affects who qualifies for participation in the CSH).
- One Committee member stated support for this idea, but was also satisfied with the solution of providing a definition of “community” (see Proposal I-E).

In Opposition:

- Concern that this would place an undue burden on the Board and whether they would have time to review all applicants.
- Concern this places Board in an “administrative” rather than policy and allocation role. Board should delegate this type of responsibility to the Division of Subsistence (such as in Proposal I-G) and then require an annual report on any problems, etc.
- Concern that Board would not have the time to critically review applications and it would be a “rubber stamp” exercise, taking time without much merit.

PROPOSAL I-K Require that CSH hunters bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glennallen ADF&G office as soon as they come out of the field to demonstrate salvage requirements were met, and require antler destruction for any CSH harvested moose. (Note, this would also provide an opportunity for the hunters to share their harvest.)

Note: This proposal was introduced by a Committee member during the April 18, 2014, meeting. It addresses Issue I.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

This proposal may address Issue I by reducing the interest in participation in the CSH and the impacts of the increase in participation in this hunt, and would tie the harvest more directly to subsistence use by requiring antler destruction.

PROPOSED BY: Committee member Karen Linnell

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: **Passed**
 Yea – 6 **Nay – 5** **(one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

In Support:

- May help reduce impacts from high participation in the CSH hunt, by reducing interest in participating in this hunt.

In Opposition:

- The Glennallen and Cantwell ADF&G offices would not be convenient locations for all CSH participants to report.
- Concern about burden on ADF&G staff to receive all hunters and confirm salvage/antler destruction, and to store meat for sharing or arrange for its distribution.

PROPOSAL I-L Require that antlers taken through the CSH hunt be turned in to ADF&G, to allow the department to get additional information about the harvest and to sell the antlers at auction with revenues used to help cover the added costs of CSH hunt management.

Note: This proposal was introduced by a Committee member during the April 18, 2014, meeting. It addresses Issue I.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

This proposal may address Issue I by reducing the interest in participation in the CSH and the impacts of the increase in participation in this hunt. It would also provide revenue to the department to help cover the cost of administering the hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Committee member Don Holum

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee vote: NO ACTION was taken on this proposal
(Vote for No Action = Yea – 11, Nay – 0, one member absent)**

Key Points in Discussion

- It would not be legal to dedicate the funds received by ADF&G through auction to administration of the CSH. Given this, the Committee favored no action on this proposal.

IV - Other Proposals

PROPOSAL IV-A Discontinue the CSH program when the harvestable surplus exceeds the minimum Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and replace it with a weighted drawing permit for Alaska residents only

Unit 13.

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENTS HUNTERS:

1 moose by weighted drawing permit only; Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 (General hunt only)
 up to 100 permits for bulls and up to 25 permits for antlerless moose may be issued; or

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50 inch antlers Sept 1 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)
 or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or

One bull by registration permit only. Dec. 1 - Dec. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENTS HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more Sept. 1 – Sept. 20 (General hunt only)
 brow tines on one side by drawing permit only;
 up to 250 permits maybe issue.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

When the harvestable surplus is greater than the maximum ANS, the Alaska Board of Game has the least legal obligation to provide a priority for subsistence uses. With harvestable surplus above the ANS (maximum), AS 16.05.258(b)(1)(A), the department may issue subsistence registration permits and apply discretionary conditions to the hunt consistent with the C&T use pattern, and issue general drawing permits to harvest game.

AS 16.05.255(d) allows a preference for resident moose hunters without the hunt being determined to be for subsistence use only. In the past the Alaska courts have determined that drawing hunts did not provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use, so just call it a weighted drawing hunt for residents only.

A weighted drawing permit system means that those drawn in previous years for the same drawing permit hunt are not drawn again until all other applicants who keep applying for

the specific drawing hunt have been drawn. New drawing applicants rise up in preference by accumulating years of consistent applying.

When determining if a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses is being met under harvestable surplus conditions found consistent with AS16.05.258(b)(1) the board may integrate opportunities offered under both state and federal regulation, 5 AAC 99.025(b), to meet subsistence uses. Federal registration permit (FM1301) - 1 antlered bull moose may be harvested on 4.1 million acres of federal lands in GMU 13, Aug. 1 – Sept. 20.

The board is not legally obligated to create a community-based subsistence harvest program in the Copper River basin for moose as long as the harvestable surplus is above the maximum ANS, it's just that the board chose to do so.

I would recommend that the BOG committee on the Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations oppose continuing the CSH program for moose and adopt these regulations, as long as the harvestable surplus is above the maximum ANS for moose in GMU13.

PROPOSED BY: Committee member Rod Arno

RESULTS OF APRIL 18, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee vote: Failed
Yea – 4 Nay – 7 (one member absent)

Key Points in Discussion

In Support:

- This proposal provides a more equitable opportunity for all Alaskans to have the opportunity to participate in the moose hunt in this area.
- A weighted drawing hunt can also provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users.
- Need to consider that subsistence needs are also addressed by subsistence hunt opportunities provided on federal lands.

In Opposition:

- Support the intent of the community subsistence hunt and do not want it eliminated.
- This proposal would not provide the “any bull” hunt that is important to meet subsistence needs of communities.
- Drawing hunts do not provide certainty of participation or stability in hunting over the long-term, which are important elements of the communities’ subsistence hunt.

- The Committee has helped identify a number of options to improve the CSH for the Board's consideration. Recommend that the Board apply some of these tools to fine-tune the CSH and let those work for several years, rather than eliminating the CSH and replacing it with a weighted drawing hunt.

Meeting Attendance

Committee Members

Nate Turner, Board of Game (Committee chair)
Stosh Hoffman, Board of Game
Teresa Sager Albaugh, Board of Game
Don Holum, Denali AC
Karen Linnell, Copper Basin AC
Bill Folsom, Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee AC
Frank Neumann, Anchorage AC
Nick Jackson, Ahtna, Inc.
Sky Starkey, Ahtna, Inc.
Jim Colver, MatSu Fish and Wildlife Commission
Rod Arno, Alaska Outdoor Council

Note: Invited member John Schandelmeier, Paxson AC, did not attend the Committee meetings

Board of Game (present in audience)

Ted Spraker, Chair, Board of Game
Pete Probasco, Board of Game
Bob Mumford, Board of Game

ADF&G Staff

Lem Butler, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Jim Fall, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence
Davin Holen, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence
Leigh Hovig, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Dave Koster, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence
Lisa Olson, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence
Frank Robbins, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Becky Schwanke, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Kristy Tibbles, ADF&G Board Support
James Van Lanen, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence
Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Natalie Weber, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Sherry Wright, ADF&G, Division of Board Support

Other Agencies

Mike Mitchell, Alaska Department of Law
Cheryl Brooking, Alaska Department of Law

Public

Eleanor Dementi, Ahtna, Inc.
Gary Stevens, Alaska Outdoor Council
Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna, Inc.
Dennis Weston, Wilderness Youth in Action

Opening remarks by Chair Nate Turner, April 18, 2014

As a quick recap of our previous efforts:

Our first Meeting was to define the current issues related to the administration of these hunts and, most importantly, to identify factors that may be impacting the success of these hunt structures. During the first meeting we outlined a number of factors and issues that have developed, and requested the department to provide more information regarding those issues and to comment on several potential solutions that were put forward.

Our second meeting was focused directly on the issues we had previously identified, and during lengthy discussion we further explored and sometimes modified these points and requested that a number of those issues be brought back to the committee in Board of Game proposal form for our review. Individuals were also encouraged to draft other concepts that they felt were overlooked by the committee into proposals that could be reviewed by the committee at this meeting. Each advisory committee (A/C) and group representative was asked to present these proposals to their committees and groups for review and comments. We received two reports directly from A/Cs, and it was good to see that thoughtful consideration was given to each of these proposals. The Denali A/C did exceptional work in this area and provided good notes on their views of each proposal.

This is the 3rd and final meeting of this committee. Our goal this time is to review and discuss the proposals that now are in front of us and to make a final recommendation regarding each of these proposals to the full BOG for their consideration. We will be using a process similar to regular Board of Game meetings, though less formal, in that we will deliberate on proposals, entertain motions to amend proposals, and vote by a show of hands.

As I mentioned in previous meetings, the task of this committee is to help the Board of Game improve a process and several hunt structures that have been created, modified, and supported by a majority of members on several occasions. The Board understands that there are some who oppose any form of Community hunt structures on principle. We have heard this message clearly and yet request that, rather than generally oppose the hunts or suggested changes on principle, you take this unique opportunity to suggest and support changes that will improve these hunt structures with consideration that they may very well continue for many years to come. The Board will take action one way or another – this is an opportunity to inform, encourage, and potentially shape those actions.

I would like to remind you that any proposal that is not recommended by this committee may still be forwarded by individuals or groups on their own behalf before the May 1st deadline, and you are encouraged to do this if you believe that the proposal has strong merits that this committee does not recognize.

Finally, I request again that you all remember that we are each here to represent the views and positions of individual A/C's and the groups who are represented – it is important that we keep our personal views separate from those we represent, especially as we vote on these proposals. I am not discouraging you from stating your own thoughts, but only reminding you that you are here as a representative and your votes should reflect this.