

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

Index of Proposals

NOTE – The following proposals were submitted by Committee members or at the request of the Committee. They are drafted as if the Committee has reached a decision to recommend each. This is not the case. Each of the draft proposals would be forwarded as written, changed, or deleted after Committee discussion on April 18, to reflect the direction given at that meeting. Also, not all of these recommended actions would require a regulatory change, but they are formatted as a proposed recommendation to the Board of Game.

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ISSUE III – Reduced Subsistence Harvest Opportunity for Caribou

PROPOSAL III-A Manage CSH for caribou to continue community hunt into the winter season, as long as the CSH cap of 300 caribou is not exceeded.

Keep the CSH hunt for caribou in Unit 13 open through the season established in regulation ((Aug. 10 – Sept. 20, and Oct. 21 – March 31), as long as the CSH allocation of 300 caribou is not exceeded.

Note that this would not require a regulatory change, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board for their information and to invite direction.

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 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 would increase opportunity for caribou harvest through the CSH program, including likely extending the hunt into the fall/winter season.

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

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

On March 7, the committee had no objection to moving this recommendation forward to the Board of Game. Note that this would not require a regulatory change, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board 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 reduced 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.

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

On March 7, the committee had no objection to moving this recommendation forward to the Board of Game. Note that this would not require a regulatory change, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board for their information and any 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 to 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.

PROPOSAL II-C Allow “any bull” harvest opportunity in Unit 13 (or in high-use subareas) on Monday-Friday only

Note that this would not require a regulatory change, but the department recommends that it be presented to the Board for their information and any 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. 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 during weekends can result in harvests that greatly exceeded the quota before an Emergency Order can be issued. Restricting the “any bull” opportunity to weekdays would be expected to spread out participation in this hunt over a larger number of days, would improve in-season management of the “any bull” quota to distribute opportunity more equitably across subareas, and may also reduce overall participation in what have been high use subareas.

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.

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 (except an aircraft or boat) for moose hunting including the transportation of moose hunters, their gear and/or harvested meat hunts from August 18th to August 22nd, and from August 25th to 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.

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

Note: 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: Jim Colver, Mat Su Borough F&W Commission

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 11 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. 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: Jim Colver, Mat Su Borough F&W Commission

ISSUE I – Impacts of Increased Participation in CSH

PROPOSAL I-A Set seasons and bag limits for CSH moose harvest to match general hunt

PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

Change the seasons and bag limits for moose for the Community Subsistence Hunt to match those for the general hunts, as follows:

	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(9)		
Unit 11		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull <u>with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side</u> per harvest report by community harvest permit only; [HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 100 BULLS THAT DO NOT MEET ANTLER RESTRICTIONS FOR OTHER RESIDENT HUNTS IN THE SAME AREA MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HARVEST AREA DURING THE AUG. 10 – SEPT. 20 SEASON]; or	<u>Aug. 20 – Sept. 17</u> [AUG. 10 – SEPT. 20] Dec. 1 – Dec. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only	Aug. 20 – Sept. 17	

...

(10)

Unit 12, that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from the headwaters of Bear Valley at the intercection of the unit boundaries of Units 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok river from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier

1 bull **with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side** per harvest report by community harvest permit only; [HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 100 BULLS THAT DO NOT MEET ANTLER RESTRICTIONS FOR OTHER RESIDENT HUNTS IN THE SAME AREA MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HARVEST AREA DURING THE AUG. 24 – AUG. 28 and SEPT. 8 – SEPT. 17 SEASON]; or

Aug. 24 – Aug. 28
Sept. 8 – Sept. 17
Dec. 1 – Dec. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Aug. 24 – Aug. 28
Sept. 8 – Sept. 17

...

(11)

Unit 13

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull **with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side** per harvest report by community

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20
[AUG. 10 – SEPT. 20]
Dec. 1 – Dec. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

harvest permit only; [HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 100 BULLS THAT DO NOT MEET ANTLER RESTRICTIONS FOR OTHER RESIDENT HUNTS IN THE SAME AREA MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HARVEST AREA DURING THE AUG. 10 – SEPT. 20 SEASON]; or

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)
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1 bull by registration permit only; or	Dec. 1 – Dec. 31 (General hunt only)
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...

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

NOTE – The committee’s initial intent with this potential solution was to reduce impacts from the rapid growth in participation in the CSH. However, ADF&G’s presentation on March 7 indicated that a change in the season dates would be unlikely to cause a change in CSH participation, as it is the “any bull” provision that is the primary attraction.

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” opportunity. The increasing number of hunters has resulted in conflicts within the CSH program caused by emergency closures that have restricted the benefits of the CSH to the most heavily used hunting areas. Eliminating the early start in Unit 11 and Unit 13, and the opportunity to take “any bull” during the subsistence only season in Unit 11, 13 and a portion of Unit 12 would be expected to reduce participation in the CSH.

PROPOSAL I-B Require a longer-term commitment to CSH program

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?

NOTE – The committee’s initial intent with this potential solution was to reduce impacts from the rapid growth in participation in the CSH. The committee discussed that requiring a longer-term commitment – such as two years or more – may reduce participation.

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” opportunity. The increasing number of hunters has resulted in conflicts within the CSH program caused by emergency closures that have restricted the benefits of the CSH to the most heavily used hunting areas. 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, reducing overall participation in this CSH.

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: Jim Colver, Mat Su Borough F&W Commission

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?

NOTE – The committee’s initial intent with this potential solution was to reduce impacts from the rapid growth in participation in the CSH. ADF&G’s presentation on March 7 preliminarily concluded that just 19% of the 2014 CSH moose groups and 25% of the 2014 CSH caribou groups would meet this new definition. However, the department also noted that groups would likely reform or recruit new households to qualify for participation, so it is difficult to predict whether this would reduce CSH participation.

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” opportunity. The increasing number of hunters has resulted in conflicts within the CSH program caused by emergency closures that have restricted the benefits of the CSH to the most heavily used hunting areas. 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, we recommend limiting any regulatory change proposed to 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.

PROPOSAL I-E Add a definition of “Community” to 5 AAC 92.072

Issue for the Board to Address:

Abuse of the intent and hunt conditions for the community subsistence hunt by groups of people who are not connected in any meaningful way and recruit disperse individuals for their group by means like the internet.

Recommended Solution:

Add a definition of “community” to the regulation, developed by the Subsistence Division, which reflects the minimum characteristics that must be present in order to function as a community for the pattern of subsistence uses identified by the BOG Findings applicable to the hunt. For example, a “community” must be a group of households with an existing relationship to each other that is consistent, established over a reasonable period of time, involves reasonably frequent personal interaction, and who share common experiences and values related to subsistence uses consistent with the BOG Findings.

Submitted by: Ahtna

PROPOSAL I-F Include “individuals, households, and families” (recognized as a subsistence use pattern in BOG 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

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**
Permit [ONLY], **individual, household, and family**; Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)
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

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—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.

In terms of scoring, the idea is that 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: Alaska Board of Game Committee on Copper Basin Area Subsistence Hunting Regulations (Units 11, 12, and 13).

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

On March 26 our 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.

Follows our proposal for Community Hunts, should the program be continued.

We feel that the Community Hunt protocol should follow along the same basic guidelines as the old TierII system. Points should be given to each community as a whole depending on their 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-----no participation. Points are 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.)

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? (We may have missed a few communities on these lists---we are okay with using the old TierII 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

The criteria suggested is a starting points and should be open to discussion.

Our point total suggestion is that communities that average 22 points or better should be eligible to hunt

Submitted by: John Schandelmeier, Chair---Paxson Fish and Game Advisory

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

Issue for the Board to Address:

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 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.

Recommended Solution:

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.

All Hunters Will Benefit:

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.

Submitted by: Ahtna

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

Issue for the Board to Address:

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.

Recommended Solution:

A Group Application should be developed by the Subsistence Division for any group that seeks to join the Copper Basin community 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.

Submitted by: Ahtna

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.

Submitted by: Committee member Rod Arno