

Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting minutes for December 11, 2014 meeting

Meeting convened 6:35 pm Sheep Creek Lodge

Members Present: Steve Runyan, Gus Gustafson, Bruce Knowles, Steve Schaffer, Ted Schachle, Mike Wood

Members Absent Excused: Billy Fitzgerald, Robert Meals, Israel Mahay

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Gus moves to adopt agenda, Ted 2nd

FEB 09 2015

Approved unanimous

**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

Minutes from November approved unanimous

Information forms for AC members handed out from Department wildlife biologists

Discussion of cow hunts. Reason given for Anchorage AC's decision to not authorize cow hunts is that there was a misprint of information concerning population of the 20 mile cow herd. Information is now current and correct. Biologists testified that Unit 14C is currently at the low end of the objective, and biologists want it to stay there. Steve Runyan mentioned that authorizing the hunts does not mean they will be prosecuted; it gives the board the option to reauthorize, and Fish and Game still has authority to stop the hunts or not conduct them if population numbers don't support a hunt.

Gus moves to reauthorize 14c moose cow hunts. 2nd by Mike Wood. Unanimous pass.

Discussion of moose in units 14 B and A. Moose objective in 14A is 6500, pop is 8500. Cow hunts are a necessary means to check the population and allow more residents opportunity to harvest moose for meat. AM435 is a useful tool for lowering spot populations as well as overall population of the unit, with 80% hunter success rate.

Funding will soon be an issue, so prepare for fewer and less comprehensive surveys this coming year.

14A has several issues regarding its moose population; large are habitat and social issues of harvesting moose near homes.

Motion to reauthorize Cow hunts in 14A and 14B. Unanimous pass.

Discussion of predator control in 16B and 16A. Appears successful; in 16B North no wolves or tracks sighted in surveys. 35:100 calves/cows, 70:100 Bull/cow in 16B

Department may ask board to drop 16 out of intensive management. They feel the measures on bears have not been effective in meeting their goals, and thus are ineffective. Numbers being

harvested are not high enough to have the desired effect. Member observations in the field differed with that report.

Old business concluded.

Bruce Knowles- discussion on subcommittees; fish, game and trapping

Steve Schafer chairs trapping subcommittee

Gus Gustafson chairs hunt subcommittee

Steve Runyan chairs fish subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned