

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Work Session | Fairbanks, Alaska | March 17, 2016



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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Work Session – March 17, 2016

Pike's Waterfront Lodge, 1850 Hoselton Road
Fairbanks, Alaska

TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. The board will not be taking oral testimony or written comments at the meeting.

Thursday, March 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

- 1) Call to order/Introductions of Board Members and Staff
- 2) Election of Officers
- 3) Agency Reports
- 4) Board Committee Assignments and Reports
 - o Big Game Commercial Services Board
 - o Dall Sheep Working Group Committee Report
- 5) Approval of the 2016/2017 Meeting Dates and Locations for the Arctic/Western & Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meetings
- 6) Update on the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area Management Plan
- 7) USF&WS proposed rule for Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.
- 8) Update on the Federal Subsistence Board Issues
- 9) Review of the Bear Conservation, Harvest and Management Policy (#2012-198-BOG) and the Wolf Management Policy (#2011-185-BOG)
- 10) Other business including petitions, agenda change requests, findings and policies, letters and other business

ADJOURN

Special Notes

1. Meeting materials are available at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
2. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
3. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than March 11, 2016 to make any necessary arrangements.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

www.adfg.alaska.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will conduct a one-day meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at Pike's Waterfront Lodge located 1850 Hoselton Road, Fairbanks, Alaska, beginning at 9:00 am. No regulatory action will be taken at the meeting. Agenda topics include:

- Approval of the 2016/2017 board meeting dates and locations;
- Update on the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area Management Plan;
- Review of the Bear Conservation, Harvest and Management Policy ([#2012-198-BOG](#)) and the Wolf Management Policy ([#2011-185-BOG](#)), both of which expire in July 2016;
- USF&WS proposed rule for Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska; and
- Other administrative items and miscellaneous business as needed.

The meeting is open to the public but no oral public testimony will be taken. Comments can be submitted online at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov, by fax to (907) 465-6094, emailed to dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (PDF format only), or mailed to: ADF&G Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526. The deadline for submitting written comments has been extended to 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2016 to ensure inclusion in the board workbooks. During the meeting, written comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery if 20 copies are provided. Written comments that are submitted are public record and are subject to public inspection.

The audio of the meeting is intended to be streamed live on the website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov. The agenda and any other meeting documents will be available prior to the meeting on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Board of Game, meeting information webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in any of these public meetings, please contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than Friday, March 11, 2016 to make any necessary arrangements.

For more information about the meeting, contact Kristy Tibbles at 465-4110.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
March 2, 2016



Alaska Board of Game
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110
www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

BOARD OF GAME MEMBERS

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Ted Spraker, Chair 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, AK 99669	6/30/2017
Nathan Turner, Vice Chair P.O. Box 646 Nenana, AK 99760	6/30/2016
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman P.O. Box 2374 Bethel, AK 99559	6/30/2017
Teresa Sager Albaugh HC 72 Box 835 Tok, AK 99780	6/30/2018
Pete Probasco P.O. Box 861 Palmer, AK 99645	6/30/2016
David Brown P.O. Box 491 Wrangell, AK 99929	6/30/2017
Kip Fanning P.O. Box 333 Yakutat, AK 99689	6/30/2018

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached through:
 ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 Boards Support Section
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 (907) 465-4110 PHONE
 (907) 465-6094 FAX
www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
 Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game
 e-mail: kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mailing address: P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Physical location: 1255 West 8th Street
Phone: (907) 465-4110; Fax: (907) 465-6094

HEADQUARTERS

Board of Fisheries

Glenn Haight, Exec. Director II, 465-6095
Frances Leach, Pub. Specialist II, 465-4046

Board of Game

Kristy Tibbles, Exec. Director I, 465-6098
Jessalynn Rintala, Pub. Specialist II, 465-6097

Shannon Moeser, Administrative Officer I, 465-6096

Krista Messing, Administrative Assistant II, 465-4110

REGIONAL OFFICES

Southeast Region (North of Frederick Sound)

Frances Leach
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: 465-4046
Fax: 465-6094

Southeast Region (South of Frederick Sound)

Jessalynn Rintala
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: 465-6097
Fax: 465-6094

Southcentral Region

Sherry Wright
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone: 267-2354
Fax: 267-2489

Southwest Region

Taryn O'Connor-Brito
P.O. Box 1030
Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: 842-5142
Fax: 842-5514

Western Region

Vacant
*Please Contact the Boards Support
Headquarters office at 465-4110.*
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: 543-2433
Fax: 543-2021

Arctic Region

Carmen Daggett
P.O. Box 689
Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone: 442-1717
Fax: 442-2420

Interior Region

Nissa Pilcher
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599
Phone: 459-7263
Fax: 459-7258



Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

2015/2016 Cycle Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations Statewide Regulations - Cycle A and Cycle B Schedules

Statewide regulations include the general categories of: licenses, harvest tickets, tags and harvest reports, methods and means, possession, transportation and use of game, intensive management and predator control, definitions, emergency taking of game, descriptions of game management units, and areas of jurisdiction for antlerless moose reauthorization.

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
March 17, 2016 (1 day)	Work Session	Fairbanks Pike's Waterfront Lodge	March 4, 2016
March 18-28, 2016 (11 days)	Statewide Regulations (Cycle A and Cycle B)	Fairbanks Pike's Waterfront Lodge	March 4, 2016

Total Meeting Days: 12

Agenda Change Request Deadline: January 18, 2016

Proposal Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2015

2016/2017 Meeting Cycle: The Board of Game recently changed its meeting schedule to a three-year cycle. The new schedule is posted online at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov. For the 2016/2017 meeting cycle, the board will address regulations for the Interior, Arctic, and Western Regions (also referred to as Regions III and V and include Game Management Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26). The deadline to submit proposals for the 2016/2017 meeting cycle will be 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 29, 2016.

Alaska Board of Game Committee & Other Assignments

Committee Assignments

Sheep Management Committee; assigned May 28, 2015

Intent: Evaluate a variety of issues and option sot address Dall sheep concerns.

Members: Nate Turner, Chair
Stosh Hoffman
Dave Brown
Teresa Sager Albaugh, Alternate

Commissioner Nomination Process; assigned December 2015

Members: Ted Spraker
Nate Turner
Stosh Hoffman

Sheep Hunter Survey Committee; assigned October 2013 Work Session.

Intent: To work with ADF&G on a sheep hunter survey to be developed by ADF&G.

Members: Nate Turner
Bob Mumford
Teresa Sager Albaugh

Copper Basin Subsistence Hunting committee; assigned October 2013 Work Session

Intent: To address the subsistence hunting regulations for the Copper Basin area.

Members: Nate Turner
Teresa Sager Albaugh
Stosh Hoffman

Joint Board of Fisheries & Game Committee; assigned January 2013 Work Session

Intent: Preparation of the 2013 Joint Board Meeting

Members: Ted Spraker
Teresa Sager Albaugh

Federal Subsistence Program, MOU; assigned January 2013 Work Session

Intent: To work on the MOU related to Federal Subsistence Management

Members: Ted Spraker
Pete Probasco
Teresa Sager Albaugh

Board Process & Procedures; assigned Spring 2011

Intent: To work with the Executive Director on board process related issues and questions.

Members: Ted Spraker
Ben Grussendorf
Teresa Sager Albaugh

Other Board Assignments

- Big Game Commercial Services Board: Dave Brown (January 2015); Bob Mumford (October 2013)
- Wood Bison Re-introduction Planning Process: Ted Spraker (Spring 2014)
- Review of McNeil River State Game Refuge and Sanctuary management plan regulations: Ted Spraker and Stosh Hoffman selected to participate. (February 2014)
- Unit 23 Working Group: Ted Spraker, Stosh Hoffman, Nate Turner
- Committee on Unit 13 subsistence issues: Cliff Judkins, Ted Spraker, and Ron Somerville (2004)



DATE: March 12, 2016
TO: Board of Game Members
FM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Board of Game
RE: Discussion of the 2016/2017 Meeting Dates

During the March 17, 2016 Board of Game (board) Work Session, the board will be asked to approve the meeting dates and locations for the 2016/2017 meeting cycle. Several considerations are used in determining the dates and locations. These considerations have been used in years past and are listed below for board members' benefit.

- The meeting dates are based on the duration of past meetings needed to address that region's issues.
- The options begin on Friday start dates to accommodate the public for providing testimony over the weekend which is traditional practice by the board.
- The options take into consideration the timing for the needs of the Department of Fish and Game such as surveying/data collecting, conflicts with hunting seasons, the legal review process for new regulations, and the publishing of the regulations handbook (handy dandy).
- The schedule takes into consideration the meeting dates for the Board of Fisheries.

Board of Fisheries Meeting dates for 2015/2016 Cycle:

November 28 - December 1, 2016: Lower Cook Inlet, Homer

January 10 – 13, 2017: Kodiak Finfish, Kodiak

February 23 – March 8, 2017: Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Anchorage

March 13 – 17, 2017: Statewide Crab (Excluding SE) & Supplemental Issues, Anchorage

- Meetings are scheduled to be at least four weeks apart.

The following dates are proposed for the 2017 meeting schedule. The dates were reviewed by board members and work for the board members' schedules; they were also reviewed by ADF&G.

Work Session

January 5, 2017

Arctic/Western Region Meeting

January 6 – 9, 2017

Western Region Meeting

February 17 - 25, 2017

In addition, the board will be expected to hold one teleconference to address Agenda Change Requests (ACR) received by the ACR deadline of sixty days prior to the first meeting.

Meeting Dates and Locations for Prior Meeting Cycles

Past Meeting Dates	Topic	Location
January 10-13, 2014 (4 days)	Arctic/Western Region	Kotzebue
November 11-14, 2011		Barrow
November 13-16, 2009		Nome
November 9-12, 2007		Bethel
November 11-14, 2005		Kotzebue
February 14 – 23, 2014	Interior Region Meeting	Fairbanks
March 2 – 11, 2012 (10 days)		Fairbanks
February 26-March 7, 2010 (10 days)		Fairbanks
February 29–March 10, 2008 (11 days)		Fairbanks
March 10–20, 2006 (11 days)		Fairbanks

Agenda Change Request Deadline: 60 days prior to each meeting.

The proposal deadline for the 2016/2017 meeting cycle will April 29, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

2017

Holidays & Observances

January

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- Jan 01** New Year's Day
- Jan 16** Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 28** Chinese New Year
- Feb 12** Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14** Valentine's Day
- Feb 20** President's Day
- Mar 01** Ash Wednesday
- Mar 12** Daylight Saving (begin)
- Mar 17** St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20** Vernal equinox
- Apr 01** April Fool's Day
- Apr 16** Easter
- Apr 17** Taxes Due
- Apr 26** Admin Assistants Day
- May 05** Cinco de Mayo
- May 14** Mother's Day
- May 29** Memorial Day
- Jun 04** Pentecost
- Jun 14** Flag Day
- Jun 18** Father's Day
- Jun 21** June Solstice
- Jul 04** Independence Day
- Sep 04** Labor Day
- Sep 11** Patriot Day
- Sep 22** Autumnal equinox
- Oct 09** Columbus Day
- Oct 16** Boss's Day
- Oct 31** Halloween
- Nov 05** Daylight Saving (end)
- Nov 11** Veterans Day
- Nov 23** Thanksgiving
- Dec 21** December Solstice
- Dec 25** Christmas Day
- Dec 26** Kwanzaa Begins
- Dec 31** New Year's Eve



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FOREST SERVICE

MAR 01 2016

FWS/OSM 16008.AH

Mr. Ted Spraker and Mr. Tom Kluberton, Chairmen
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: Reinitiate efforts to update the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game.

Dear Chairmen Spraker and Kluberton:

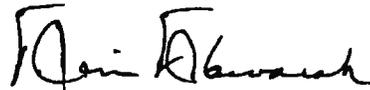
I want to thank Chairman Kluberton for reaching out to the Federal Subsistence Board during the January 2016 Federal and State of Alaska Subsistence Subcommittee meeting to investigate the status and potential for cooperative efforts to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the regulatory boards. The previous MOU expired in November 2014.

During its January 12, 2016 work session, the Federal Subsistence Board expressed an interest in reviewing the status of the MOU and reviving this effort with the State of Alaska.

Please keep the Federal Subsistence Board apprised of any future planning for this endeavor via the Office of Subsistence Management. We look forward to reengage with the State of Alaska on this important issue.

Any questions regarding this letter can be addressed directly to Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3888, gene_peltola@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Tim Towarak, Chair

cc:

Sam Cotten, ADF&G
Kristi Tibbles, ADF&G Juneau
Lisa Olson, ADF&G, Anchorage
Hazel Nelson, ADF&G, Anchorage
Scott Kelly, ADF&G, Juneau
Tom Brookover, ADF&G, Anchorage
Bruce Dale, ADF&G, Palmer

Glenn Haight, ADF&G, Juneau
Drew Crawford, ADF&G, Anchorage
Jill Klein, ADF&G, Anchorage
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., OSM, Anchorage
Stewart Cogswell, OSM, Anchorage
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

for

Coordinated Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal
Public Lands in Alaska

between the

Federal Subsistence Board
(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of
Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Secretarial appointed Chair)

and

State of Alaska
(Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Alaska Board of Fisheries and
Alaska Board of Game (State Boards))

I. PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska establishes guidelines to coordinate in managing subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, under its laws and regulations, is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of the fish and wildlife resources of the State of Alaska on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses, such as providing a priority for subsistence harvest and use of fish and wildlife (where such uses are customary and traditional), and implements its program through the State Boards and the ADF&G, providing for public participation through Advisory Committees authorized in the State's laws and regulations (Alaska Statutes Title 16; Alaska Administrative Code Title 5) and through Alaska Administrative Procedure Act;

WHEREAS, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior (Secretaries), by authority of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and other laws of Congress, regulations, and policies, are responsible for ensuring that the taking on Federal public lands of fish and wildlife for nonwasteful subsistence uses, as defined in ANILCA §803, shall be accorded priority over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes as provided for in ANILCA §804; and that the Secretaries are responsible for protecting and providing the opportunity for rural residents of Alaska to engage in a subsistence way of life on Federal public lands in Alaska, consistent with the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife; and these lands are defined in ANILCA §102 and Federal regulation (36 CFR Part 242 and 50 CFR Part 100); and that the Secretaries implement this priority through the Federal Subsistence Board, providing for public participation through Regional Advisory Councils authorized by ANILCA §805 and Federal regulations (above); and,

WHEREAS, ANILCA, Title VIII, authorizes the Secretaries to enter into cooperative agreements in order to accomplish the purposes and policies of Title VIII, and the State of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board believe it is in the best interests of the fish and wildlife resources and the public to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding;

THEREFORE, the signatories endorse coordination of State and Federal regulatory processes and the collection and exchange of data and information relative to fish and wildlife populations and their use necessary for subsistence management on Federal public lands. This MOU forms the basis for such cooperation and coordination among the parties with regard to subsistence management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands.

II. PURPOSES

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a foundation and direction for coordinated interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands, consistent with specific State and Federal authorities as stated above, that will protect and promote the sustained health of fish and wildlife populations, ensure conservation and stability in fish and wildlife management, and include meaningful public involvement. The signatories hereby enter this MOU to establish guidelines for subsequent agreements and protocols to implement coordinated management of fish and wildlife resources used for subsistence purposes on Federal public lands in Alaska.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1) Ensure conservation of fish and wildlife resources while providing for continued uses of fish and wildlife, including a priority for subsistence uses, through interagency subsistence management and regulatory programs that promote coordination, cooperation, and exchange of information between State and Federal agencies, regulatory bodies, Regional Advisory Councils and/or State Advisory Committees, state and local organizations, tribes and/or other Alaska Native organizations, and other entities;
- 2) Use the best available scientific and cultural information and local traditional knowledge for decisions regarding fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands;
- 3) Avoid duplication in research, monitoring, and management;
- 4) Involve subsistence and other users in the fisheries and wildlife management planning processes;
- 5) Promote stability in fish and wildlife management and minimize unnecessary disruption to subsistence and other uses of fish and wildlife resources; and
- 6) Promote clear and enforceable hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations.

IV. THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD AND STATE OF ALASKA MUTUALLY AGREE:

- 1) To cooperate and coordinate their respective research, monitoring, regulatory, and management actions to help ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife populations for subsistence use on federal public lands.
- 2) To recognize that State and Federal historical and current harvest and population data and information and cultural information are important components of successful implementation of Federal responsibilities under ANILCA Title VIII.
- 3) To provide a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources and to allow for other uses of fish and wildlife resources when harvestable surpluses are sufficient, consistent with ANILCA and Alaska Statute 16.05.258.
- 4) To recognize that cooperative funding agreements implementing the provisions of this MOU may be negotiated when necessary and as authorized by ANILCA §809 and other appropriate statutory authorities. Federal funding agreements for cooperative research and monitoring studies of subsistence resources with organizations representing local subsistence users and others will be an important component of information gathering and management programs.
- 5) To recognize that State and Federal scientific standards for conservation of fish and wildlife populations are generally compatible. When differences interpreting data are identified, the involved agencies should appoint representatives to seek resolution of the differences.
- 6) To cooperatively pursue the development of information to clarify state and federal regulations for the public.
- 7) To recognize that the signatories may establish protocols or other procedures that address data collection and information management, data analysis and review, in-season fisheries and wildlife management, and other key activities and issues jointly agreed upon that affect subsistence uses on Federal public lands. (See Appendix)
- 8) To provide an opportunity, through interagency Federal-State technical committees, for appropriate scientific staff, along with Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives, subsistence users, and other members of the public to discuss and review data analyses associated with proposal analyses and resource and harvest assessment and monitoring.
- 9) To designate liaisons for policy communications and, as appropriate, to identify local agency representatives for efficient day-to-day communication, field operations, and data retrieval between State and Federal programs.
- 10) To provide adequate opportunity for the appropriate Federal and State agencies to review analyses and justifications associated with special actions and emergency orders affecting subsistence uses on Federal public lands, prior to implementing such actions. Where possible and as required, State and Federal agencies will provide advance notice to

Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives and other interested members of the public before issuing special actions or emergency orders. Where conservation of the resource or continuation of subsistence uses is of immediate concern, the review shall not delay timely management action.

11) To cooperatively review existing and proposed State fish and wildlife management plans and Federal subsistence management plans that affect subsistence uses on Federal public lands, providing an opportunity for Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives and other public to participate. Consider State fish and wildlife management plans as the initial basis for any management actions so long as they provide for subsistence priorities under State and Federal law. Procedures for management plan reviews and revisions will be developed by the respective Federal and State Boards in a protocol.

12) To use the State's harvest reporting and assessment systems supplemented by information from other sources to monitor subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. In some cases, Federal subsistence seasons, harvest limits, or data needs may necessitate separate Federal subsistence permits and harvest reports.

13) To ensure that local residents and other users will have meaningful involvement in subsistence wildlife and fisheries regulatory processes that affect subsistence uses on Federal public lands.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this document, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.

2) This MOU is complementary to and is not intended to replace, except as specifically regards Federal responsibility for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands, the Master Memoranda of Understanding between the individual Federal agencies and ADF&G. Supplemental protocols to this document may be developed to promote further interaction and coordination among the parties.

3) Nothing herein is intended to conflict with Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

4) Policy and position statements relating specifically to this MOU may be made only by mutual consent of the parties.

5) Nothing in this MOU is intended to enlarge or diminish each party's existing responsibilities and authorities, if any, for management of fish and wildlife.

6) Upon signing, the parties shall each designate an individual and an alternate to serve as the principal contact or liaison for implementation of this MOU.

7) This MOU becomes effective upon signing by all signatories and will remain in force until such time as the Secretary of the Interior determines that the State of Alaska has implemented a subsistence management program in compliance with Title VIII of

ANILCA, or, signatories terminate their participation in this MOU by providing 60 days written notice. Termination of participation by one signatory has no impact on this MOU's effectiveness between the remaining signatories.

8) The signatories will meet annually, or more frequently if necessary, to review coordinated programs established under this MOU and to consider modifications to this MOU that would further improve interagency working relationships. Documentation of the review and consideration of any modifications within the scope of this understanding shall be made by mutual consent of the signatories, in writing, signed and dated by all parties. If no review is conducted, this MOU will expire 5 years after the most recent review was conducted.

9) Nothing in this document shall be construed as obligating the signatories to expend funds or involving the United States or the State of Alaska in any contract or other obligations for the future payment of money, except as may be negotiated in future cooperative funding agreements.

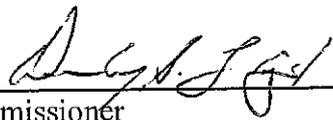
10) This MOU establishes guidelines and mutual management goals by which the signatories shall coordinate, but does not create legally enforceable obligations or rights.

11) This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures.

12) This MOU does not restrict the signatories from participating in similar agreements with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

SIGNATORIES

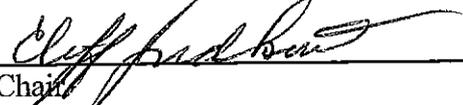
In WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.



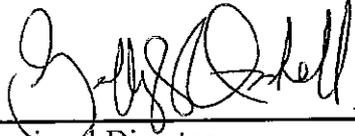
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Date: 3 Nov. 08



Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Date: Nov. 3, 2008



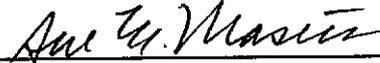
Chair
Alaska Board of Game
Date: 11/03/08



Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Date:



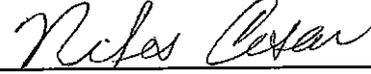
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Date: 12/17/08



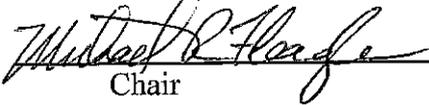
Regional Director
National Park Service
Date: 12.12.08



State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Date: 12-18-08



Regional Area Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Date: 12/15/08



Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
Date: 12/5/08

APPENDIX

SCOPE FOR PROTOCOLS AND/OR PROCEDURES

- 1) Joint technical committees or workgroups may be appointed to develop protocols and/or procedures.
- 2) Individual protocols and/or procedures should:
 - a. Be developed by an interagency committee. The committee shall involve, as appropriate, Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives and other State/Federal regional or technical experts.
 - b. Identify the subject or topic of the protocol and provide justification.
 - c. Identify the parties to the protocol.
 - d. Identify the process to be used for implementing the protocol.
 - e. Provide for appropriate involvement of Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committees, tribes and/or other Alaska Native organizations, governmental organizations, and other affected members of the public when implementing protocols.
 - f. Specify technical committee or workgroup memberships.
 - g. Develop a timeline to complete tasks.
 - h. Identify funding obligations of the parties.
 - i. Define the mechanism to be used for review and evaluation.
- 3) Protocols or procedures require concurrence by the signatories of this MOU prior to implementation.

Memorandum of Understanding between the state and federal agencies on the coordinated management of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands

Update

Alaska Board of Game March 17, 2016

- The subsistence committee of the Alaska Board of Fisheries met in December 2015 and learned about the current status of the expired Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the state and federal agencies on the coordinated management of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources of federal public lands. The committee members expressed interest in investigating the status and potential for cooperative efforts to review the Memorandum of Understanding. The previous MOU expired in November 2014.
- Following this, the Federal Subsistence Board held a work session where they also discussed the expired MOU and expressed their interest in reviewing the status of the MOU and reviving this effort with the state of Alaska.
- Subsequently, the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game received a letter from the Federal Subsistence Board in early March 2016 to this effect and asking the department and boards to please keep the Federal Subsistence Board apprised of any future planning for this endeavor.

Next Steps:

- Now that the Alaska Boards have received this letter, they can take action to work on this. The BOF will work through their subsistence committee and the Board of Game can join into this process.
- The department will select staff to work on this through its federal liaison team.
- The conduit of information will be through this State Federal liaison program (Jill Klein and / or Drew Crawford).
- The team will invite the federal staff to participate in the initial planning process for this effort.
- A draft timeline proposed might look like this:
 - first meeting in late April 2016,
 - bring before RAC's and AC's at their fall 2016 meetings,
 - second meeting fall 2016,
 - third meeting winter 2017,
 - bring before RAC's and AC's at their spring 2017 meetings, and
 - if document is ready, final approval at last meeting of the 2016/2017 BOF and BOG cycles (if not ready, continue another year).

Goals and outcomes:

- A clear understanding of the purpose for this MOU
- A review of why the previous MOU expired
- An understanding of why the previous revision process to renew the MOU did not succeed
- A renewed MOU between the state and federal agencies.

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-185-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Policy duration: Date of finding through June 30, 2016.
This policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and
4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases, seasons will be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September and April, and opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are declared "depleted" or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced and these

populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish before an adequate level of population control is achieved. In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

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- Boertje, R. D., M. A. Keech, D. D. Young, K. A. Kellie, and C. T. Seaton. 2009. Managing for elevated yields of moose in Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 73 (3): 314-327.

National Research Council. 1997. Wolves, bears, and their prey in Alaska. National Academy Press, Wash., D.C.

Vote: 6-0-1

March 25, 2011

Anchorage, Alaska



Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2012-198-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Expiration Date: June 30, 2016

Purposes of Policy

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

Goals

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as trophy, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

Background

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, trophy species for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, problem animals in rural and urban settings, and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board and the Department will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing opportunities.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps, and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears has

been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management problems. The department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. Statewide, an average of about six bear encounters a year result in injuries to people. Most attacks now occur in suburban areas and do not involve hunters. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. An average of about 1,500 brown and grizzly bears is harvested each year. The trend has been increasing, probably because of both increased demand for bear hunting and increasing bear numbers. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g. Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department have begun to take a more active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, but the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

Brown and grizzly bears

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62nd parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after as trophy species and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have

expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km² (450 bears/1,000 mi²). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km² (1,420 bears/1,000 mi²). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km² (100 bears/1,000 mi²). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km² (12 bears/1,000 mi²) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g. Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

Black bears

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km² (175 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km² (750 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km² (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi²).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also important as trophy animals, predators of moose calves, and for their fur. The Board recently classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders), and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if trophy quality of bears is to be preserved, and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

Guiding Principles

The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
3. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
6. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
7. Primarily manage most brown bear populations to maintain trophy quality, especially in Game Managements 1 through 6, and 8 through 10.
8. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
9. Simplify hunting regulations for bears, and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.

10. Recognize the increasing value of brown bears as a trophy species and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
11. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

Conservation and Management Policy

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as a trophy species, food animals, or for viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily as trophy animals, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. However in some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

Monitoring Harvest and Population Size

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and trophy quality is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

Managing Predation by Bears

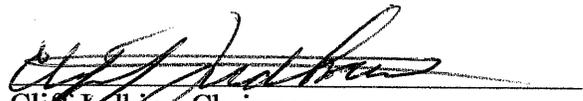
In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255 the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may elect to work with the Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons, or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state, and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: 7-0
March 9, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Alaska Board of Game
2015-XXX-BOG**

**Draft Finding Related to Proposal 207: Restrictions on the
Use of Aircraft Associated with Sheep Hunting**

To address complaints concerning misuse of aircraft, particularly during sheep hunting season, the Board of Game drafted a proposal to limit aircraft use associated with sheep hunting, later identified as proposal 207. This proposal was deliberated on during the January 8, 2015 Work Session Meeting held in Juneau, where the board agreed to schedule the proposal to be addressed at the February 2015, Central/SW Regional meeting in Wasilla. The Board also held an evening “town hall” style meeting in February where approximately 165 people participated in a discussion concerning the use of aircraft during sheep season.

Recognizing there was opposition from those using aircraft and support from hunters that did not use aircraft, the Board deferred the proposal to the March 2015, Southcentral Region Meeting held in Anchorage to facilitate additional public comment. Proposal 207 was approved at this meeting with six members in support and one opposed, following a lengthy public testimony process.

A special meeting was then held on April 24, 2015 for the purpose of scheduling a future meeting to rescind the action taken by the Board on proposal 207, at the request of two Board members. That request was accepted, and a special meeting was held on May 28, 2015 to discuss the merits of retaining proposal 207. The request to rescind failed; with a vote of two supporting rescinding and five supporting the proposal.

The adopted language now reads: 5 AAC 92.085. **Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions....(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred, and from August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to Dall sheep during the open sheep hunting season, however, aircraft other than helicopters may be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep.**

The purpose of this finding is to clarify the Board’s intent when adopting this restriction and address some of the commonly heard misinterpretations brought to Board members’ attention since the regulation became effective July 1, 2015.

Passage of proposal 207 is intended to:

1. Specifically address public complaint that the Board of Game has heard for many decades regarding the controversial practice of hunting for wildlife from aircraft.
 - Since at least the 1970’s the board of game has heard testimony regarding how hunting from an aircraft has both disrupted the efforts of other hunters

through displacement of animals and also lowered the quality of experience for other hunters who do not use aircraft as a hunting tool.

- The board recognizes that there has been increased complaint especially during the last decade regarding perceived crowding issues and increased competition among Dall sheep hunters in their efforts, despite less hunter participation than in previous decades, and that the practice of aircraft hunting may be contributing to these problems by disturbing both hunters and sheep populations themselves.
 - Technological advances in small aircraft capability and the increasing popularity of short field performance educational videos have combined in recent decades, resulting both in increased aircraft dependent hunting methods and decreased number of areas where foot based hunters are able to go without competition from those who primarily hunt from the air and then land nearby in marginal conditions to pursue the sheep.
2. Prohibit the deliberate use of an aircraft for locating any Dall sheep for hunting purposes between August 10 and September 20. This precludes flying with the intention to generally locate Dall sheep and also making single or repeated passes to evaluate the location, type, or quality of specific animals. This prohibition is intended to apply to both the pilot and anyone that this information is communicated to during the open season, who has the intent to harvest a Dall sheep anywhere in the state.
- The prohibition is not meant to prevent the hunting of animals that were incidentally spotted while under the allowed provisions of this regulation (... **“to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep”**.) so long as the aircraft is not being used for the purpose of locating Dall sheep for hunting purposes. **“From August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to Dall sheep during the open sheep hunting season.**
 - This prohibition was not intended to prohibit the hunting of Dall sheep in the present season, or following seasons, if the sheep were incidentally spotted by a pilot or passenger who are directly in route to or from a proposed camp or hunter drop-off or pick-up location, an existing camp or cache, or Dall sheep harvest location between the August 10 and September 20 hunting season.
 - This prohibition does not preclude someone from legally harvesting any Dall sheep if it were incidentally spotted while directly in route to or from a proposed landing location.
 - This prohibition does not intend to prevent any flight maneuvers that are necessary to make an informed and safe landing in the field.

**Alaska Board of Game
2015-212-BOG**

Policy on Election of Officers

DRAFT

At its January 2015 Work Session, the Board of Game (Board) adopted a policy setting the schedule for officer elections based upon the following:

It is the policy of the Board for officer elections to be held annually at the work session, regardless of whether or not the membership changes. In the event a work session is not scheduled, the Board shall hold the officer elections at the first regular meeting of the year. Officers will serve until the Board is able to elect new officers or unless circumstances require the officer to step down

Adopted: January 8, 2015
Vote: 7-0
Juneau, Alaska

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

DRAFT

March 17, 2016

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Support for House Bill 137 concerning hunting, trapping, and sport fish fees

Dear Senator Giessel:

As Chairman of the Board of Game (Board), I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the concerns often expressed by the Board on issues related to the ability of the Department of Fish and Game to carry the increasing resource management demands being placed on the agency. Particularly, the Board is concerned about the Division of Wildlife Conservation's (division) funding and the need for additional funds should the existing general funds in the division be significantly reduced. By all accounts, those funds will decline which brings us to the only practical solution which is the need for license increases.

I am concerned that the division stands to lose federal aid dollars if they are unable to match the Pittman-Robertson funds available to the state. Presently the state's obligation of federal matching dollars is way short of the funds available for matching at a 3:1 federal to state matching ratio. Obviously, additional fish and game fund dollars are necessary to take advantage of the existing Pittman-Robertson funds available.

Unfortunately a portion of federal matching funds may not be used for certain aspects of the intensive management programs already on the books, as well other division programs not eligible for federal matching dollars. Thus, the only rational solution is to support license increases and the surcharge to fill in the financial gap. Since hunting and trapping license fees have not been raised since 1993, the timing seems appropriate and justified to seek increases this year.

I support House Bill 137 concerning hunting, trapping and sport fish fees to increase support for Department management programs. I believe the support among the State's user public for the inclusion of an intensive management surcharge to ensure important management programs for hunting continue is vital to the acceptance of this legislation. It is an innovative method for directing management efforts, and with a sunset provision allows for evaluation in the future to ascertain if the surcharge should continue.

If I can assist, in any way, the legislative process, I stand ready and willing to participate.

Sincerely,

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

cc: Representative Dave Talerico, State House District 6
Commissioner Sam Cotten, Department of Fish and Game
Bruce Dale, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation

DRAFT

March 14, 2016

The Honorable U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

On behalf of Alaska Board of Game, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your efforts to halt the new restrictions proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to intervene and diminish the state's authority to manage our wildlife resources. The announcement of the Proposed Rules by the FWS on January 8, 2016 is yet another example of the incessant energies by the FWS to direct their agenda in wildlife management away from conservation and multiple uses, towards preservation. You were correct in your testimonial; the new regulations will subject the State of Alaska into a role of subservience and bypass the will of Congress, rescinding federal law.

As you are aware, ANILCA was written to protect the ability of the State of Alaska to manage wildlife on all lands, whether they are private, state or federally managed. Section 1314 of the Act further states, "Nothing in this Act is intended to enlarge or diminish the responsibility and authority of the State of Alaska for management of fish or wildlife on the public lands except as may be provided in title VIII of this Act, or to amend the Alaska constitution." Your amendment to prevent the FWS from finalizing its Proposed Rule, approved in the Environmental and Public Works Committee on January 20, 2016 to be included in the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, was a powerful achievement and message on behalf of Alaskans believing the state should manage our own wildlife resources as granted to us in our statehood compact, under the equal footing doctrine.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support to protect the Alaska way of life and applaud your efforts to continue to hold federal agencies accountable when they overreach their authority.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Congressman Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young,

On behalf of Alaska Board of Game, I would like to first express our sincere appreciation for your long dedication to preserving the Alaska way of life through your now 22nd term in the House of Representatives. Many great changes have occurred during your watch, and it has not gone unnoticed by Alaskans. I would also applaud your efforts to halt the new restrictions proposed by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to intervene and diminish the state's authority to manage our wildlife resources. The announcement of the Proposed Rules by the FWS on January 8, 2016 is yet another example of the incessant energies by the FWS to direct their agenda in wildlife management away from conservation and multiple uses, towards preservation.

As you are aware, ANILCA was written to protect the ability of the State of Alaska to manage wildlife on all lands, whether they are private, state or federally managed. Section 1314 of the Act further states, "Nothing in this Act is intended to enlarge or diminish the responsibility and authority of the State of Alaska for management of fish or wildlife on the public lands except as may be provided in title VIII of this Act, or to amend the Alaska constitution." Your amendment approved during House consideration of H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational and Enhancement (SHARE) Act to strike down recent rule makings by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service upon federal lands in Alaska, was a powerful achievement and message on behalf of Alaskans believing the state should manage our own wildlife resources as granted to us in our statehood compact, under the equal footing doctrine.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support, protecting the Alaska way of life and applaud your efforts to continue to hold federal agencies accountable when they overreach their authority.

Sincerely,

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

On Time Public Comment Index

Betsy Palfreyman PC01

Bob Mitchell PC02

City of Gustavus PC03

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge PC04

Greg Streveler PC05

Nina Faust PC06



Submitted By
betsy palfreyman
Submitted On
3/9/2016 10:12:59 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
9076444529

Email
gunsndog@yahoo.com

Address
6811 tamir ave
anchorage, Alaska 99504

Would like to see Dude Creek Critical Habitat area plan approved. it is time to bring public input back into these special use areas. errors were made in the previous administration and this new plan would begin to correct these errors. a collaborative process that finds a balance between conservation and public use is our best hope to keep these areas safe. it starts with Dude Creek. thank you.



From: robert.mitchell31@aol.com
Subject: Dude Creek Management Plan
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:43:25 AM

Dear members of the Board of Game,

I wish to thank the Alaska Board of Game and Governor Walker for readdressing the management process for Alaska's critical habitat areas, fish and game refuges and wildlife sanctuaries - and in particular the Dude Creek Management Plan, which has gone through an extensive public process and includes sound management provisions based on local knowledge and input.

The exemplary process used for development of the Dude Creek Management Plan is of interest to all Alaskans, and should be applied to all special area management plans across the state.

Local Alaskans are best suited to shape the management policies for the special habitat areas that support sport, personal use, subsistence, recreation and commercial uses. I trust that the Board of Game will work closely with the Community of Gustavus in the refinement and implementation of the Dude Creek plan, and with other communities for plans affecting their respective locales.

Sincerely,

Bob Mitchell

241 E 23rd Ave

Anchorage 99503



**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY15-33**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GUSTAVUS CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF
THE DUDE CREEK CRITICAL HABITAT AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the community of Gustavus has long had an interest in protecting the Dude Creek wetlands for their value to wildlife and other traditional uses, and

WHEREAS, the State legislature, in response to a community initiative, established the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area (CHA) in 1988, and

WHEREAS, the objectives, as set out in the legislation and accompanying intent language, were to protect Sandhill cranes and other wildlife habitat in the CHA while allowing traditional uses to the degree not in conflict with crane and other wildlife habitat protection, and,

WHEREAS, after years of CHA management without a formal plan, a planning process headed by the Fish and Game Habitat and Wildlife Conservation divisions was completed in 2011, with input from the City of Gustavus, several State agencies, The Nature Conservancy and other interested parties, including the general public, and

WHEREAS, the draft CHA management plan arising from that effort was quashed in 2012 by the then-current State administration and replaced with a much altered document that diluted or removed most protections agreed to by participants in the original draft, and

WHEREAS, this altered document was met with much criticism and never adopted into regulation, and

WHEREAS, under the present State administration, a draft plan has now been reissued, on 10/30/15, that fully reflects the protections agreed to previously, and

WHEREAS, this draft plan has the following goals (paraphrased here), as follows:

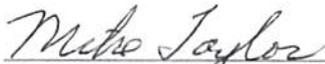
- 1) Protect the habitat for cranes and other wildlife;
- 2) allow and improve public access to the extent compatible with goal #1;
- 3) support research and monitoring of the key wetland resource;

WHEREAS, these goals are well reflected in the proposed management prescriptions presented in the 10/30/15 draft plan, and

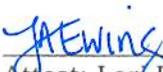
WHEREAS, the Gustavus City Council subscribes to the goals and prescriptions as presented in that draft,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gustavus City Council supports the draft CHA management plan as presented in the current 10/30/15 draft and urges its enactment into regulation.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Gustavus City Council this 14th day of December, 2015, and effective upon adoption.



Mike Taylor, Mayor



Attest: Lori Ewing, City Clerk



To: Alaska Board of Game
FAX: 907/465-6094
Date: March 9, 2016
Pages: 2
From: Barbara Carlson
FAX: 907/248-3159
Phone: 907/248-2503

Subject: Support for clear process regarding Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area

Dear Board of Game:

I write on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) to support a clear and open process in dealing with management plans for all of Alaska's 32 special habitat areas. We appreciate that Governor Walker is restoring balance to the process for managing Alaska's critical habitat areas, fish and game refuges and wildlife sanctuaries. We encourage you to embrace this restoration of balance for the good of these unique and invaluable resources belonging to Alaskans.

We read the original draft plan for Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area before it was red-lined by Randy Bates with outrageous and counterproductive edits. We support the original draft plan, which followed a wise process of involving Alaska Department of Fish & Game and cooperating biologists, the local community of Gustavus, and the Board of Game. This original draft plan had already been approved by the planning team and was supported by the surrounding community, which speaks volumes. It was a sound plan and was designed to support the purposes for which Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area was set aside for the people of Alaska, not just for people today, but also for future generations.

Each of Alaska's 32 refuges, sanctuaries and critical habitat areas were set aside for specific purposes depending on their unique attributes. It is important; therefore, to involve the biologists and managers that the state employs to work with stakeholders, including *especially* the local communities, who will know many things that others may not understand about a given special area. Local stakeholders generally have a greater appreciation for and knowledge about their refuge, sanctuary, or special area, because they are closest to the resource. For the long term survival of these resources we want that local input. To not include it would be folly.

It is important to include local communities in planning involving their resources. They have good insight into what management is needed to help ensure the appropriate and



long term use by Alaskans for areas that support sport, personal use, subsistence, recreation, and commercial uses, as well as conservation and wildlife watching.

Thank you for your service to Alaska and for your utmost attention to this important process for the good of not just this generation, but for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Barbara Svarny Carlson

248-2503

Barbara Carlson
President and Executive Director
Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)
PO Box 220196
Anchorage, AK 99522-0196
bc@farak.org



Submitted By
greg streveler
Submitted On
3/9/2016 10:54:59 AM
Affiliation
Gustavus city council

Phone
9076972287

Email
greg.streveler@gmail.com

Address
box 94
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

To Board of Game members:

I will send under separate cover a copy of a city resolution supporting the draft management plan for the Dude Creek CHA. Here is my \$.02 worth to go with it.

I've been involved with this CHA since the idea was first floated. The sandhill crane migratory stopover it protects is a big deal for Gustavus, that everyone looks forward to each April and September. The draft management plan does a good job of protecting the the cranes and other wildlife, while allowing uses, such as hunting, trapping, hiking and firewood gathering that do not conflict with keeping the wetlands and critters in good shape. Fish & Game is to be congratulated for an inclusive process that gave many stakeholders a voice in the process. Please give the plan your blessing. Thank you, Greg Streveler



From: [Nina Faust](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Nina Faust](#)
Subject: Dude Creek Critical Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 7:41:40 PM

P.O. Box 2994
Homer AK 99603

March 9, 2016

Alaska Board of Game
Juneau AK

Dear Board of Game Members:

Alaska's Critical Habitat Areas are extremely valuable areas for the state; that is why they have been set aside for special management. These areas have gone through a rigorous public process to develop the best possible management plans to protect their resources and allow responsible and compatible use. We do not need to throw out our Critical Habitat Area Management Plans in the name of streamlining permits for development.

I applaud Governor Walker for standing up for the well regarded process the State has used to develop the Management Plans for our critical habitat areas, refuges, and sanctuaries. A great deal of public participation went into the development of each of those plans. This is where local knowledge, a very valuable asset usually based on on-the-ground use of these areas, is used to guide the management process. I know the Dude Creek Management Plan is a classic case of extensive public input being used to develop a sound plan to protect and manage this area. Locals know the habitat and should be a major part of developing a plan.

I firmly believe Alaskans want to keep this type of process in place in developing plans for all special use areas. Many probably have very good plans already. These plans may only need to be tweaked. I urge the Board of Game to follow suit with the Governor and use the existing Dude Creek Management Plan. Keep Alaskans part of the process.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust