

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Special Meeting on Copper Basin Area
Moose and Caribou Hunting
Glennallen, Alaska
March 18-21, 2017**

MISELLANEOUS BUSINESS AGENDA

1. Board of Game Findings giving recommendation to ADF&G (attached)
2. Draft Resolution supporting Don Young's resolution, HR 5650 (RC 26)
3. Public Request for Steering Committee regarding Unit 13 Hunting Impact Mitigation Improvement Plan (attached)

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game

2017-XXX-BOG

Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game

provided during the Special Meeting on Copper Basin Area Moose and Caribou Hunting

March 21, 2017

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the department take the following actions:

1. When necessary, increase the bag limit to two caribou, except during the Sept. 1 – 20 moose season.
2. Regarding the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest “CSH” moose hunt, and consistent with earlier findings, the board found that the ability to take any bull moose regardless of antler size or configuration is an important component of the community pattern of subsistence hunting. The ability to take any bull regardless of antler characteristics must be limited because of the potential to overharvest certain age classes of bulls. For many hunts, regulations that restrict antler characteristics of legal animals to spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines (SF50/4) protects those age classes, however, they do not provide the any bull opportunity consistent with the community pattern of subsistence harvest.
3. Currently, the board limits any bull opportunity in the CSH moose hunt by providing 1 any bull permit for every three households and closes the hunt when 100 bulls in the middle age classes needing protection are taken.
4. However, the board found that providing 1 any bull permit for every three households does not satisfy the need for reasonable opportunity for three reasons. First, the hunts can be very short and may close with little warning and participants may not get a chance to hunt before the season closes. Second, the competition from hunters can be very intense during the early days of the season. Third, some households do not receive an any bull permit and are not able to take a bull that is presented to them. The board heard testimony that it is traditional in the Ahtna culture to take any bull that presents itself to the hunter, and that it would be unlucky to not take a bull that presents itself.
5. Because the opportunity for hunting for any bulls in the community pattern of harvest must be restricted, the board determined that the any bull permits should be distributed to CHS moose hunt participants using the existing scoring criteria described in 5 AAC 92.070.
6. The hunting opportunity that must be restricted, and does not provide reasonable opportunity, is the any bull hunt. A portion of the population, bulls that meet antler restrictions (SF50/4) does not require restriction, and all moose hunts in this area allow harvest of SF50/4. The combination of a limited number of any bulls distributed through

existing scoring criteria described in 5 AAC 92.070 and the opportunity to take bulls that meet antler restrictions (either through the CSH or other hunts) satisfies the need to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence, and the need to provide opportunity to take any bulls in a hunt consistent with the community pattern of harvest identified in earlier findings.

Date: _____

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Alaska Board of Game

March 21, 2017

Commissioner Sam Cotten
ADF&G
Juneau, AK 99801

Board Memorandum 17-XX

Re: Unit 13 Hunting Impact Mitigation Improvement Plan

Dear Commissioner:

The Board is writing you in response to the overwhelming public concerns voiced at this meeting and in past meetings about the high impacts from thousands of Alaskans hunting the roadside lands within Unit 13.

The Board requests the Department utilize Pitman-Robertson funds to address the impacts with improvements such as parking areas, trail hardening, and ATV stream crossings to protect habitat and the experience for users as well as affected communities.

We propose a steering committee be formed to meet and compile a needs list of improvements and then hold public meeting to develop priorities for a 5 year improvement plan. Our goal is for the committee to report back with their initial recommendations at our November meeting.

The committee will consist of one BOG member and two public members selected by the Board Chair, and two department employees, perhaps the Glennallen area biologist and Chief Project Manager Paul Cyr, selected by the you or your designee. We would like to the committee to get started in April.

it's time to act on the one common theme the Board has heard board cycle after cycle. We look forward to working with you and the department on this effort.

Passed this 21st day of March, on a vote of _____

Sincerely,

Ted Spraker, Chair

Submitted by Jim Colver