

5 AAC 96.625. JOINT BOARD PETITION POLICY

- (a) Under AS 44.62.220, an interested person may petition an agency, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation. The petition must clearly and concisely state the substance or nature of the regulation, amendment, or repeal requested, the reason for the request, and must reference the agency's authority to take the requested action. Within 30 days after receiving a petition, a board will deny the petition in writing, or schedule the matter for public hearing under AS 44.62.190--44.62.210, which require that any agency publish legal notice describing the proposed change and solicit comment for 30 days before taking action. AS 44.62.230 also provides that if the petition is for an emergency regulation, and the agency finds that an emergency exists, the agency may submit the regulation to the lieutenant governor immediately after making the finding of emergency and putting the regulation into proper form.
- (b) Fish and game regulations are adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. At least twice annually, the boards solicit regulation changes. Several hundred proposed changes are usually submitted to each board annually. The Department of Fish and Game compiles the proposals and mails them to all fish and game advisory committees, regional fish and game councils, and to over 500 other interested individuals.
- (c) Copies of all proposals are available at local Department of Fish and Game offices. When the proposal books are available, the advisory committees and regional councils then hold public meetings in the communities and regions they represent, to gather local comment on the proposed changes. Finally, the boards convene public meetings, which have lasted as long as six weeks, taking department staff reports, public comment, and advisory committee and regional councils reports before voting in public session on the proposed changes.
- (d) The public has come to rely on this regularly scheduled participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.
- (e) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. The boards find that petitions can detrimentally circumvent this process and that an adequate and more reasonable opportunity for public participation is provided by regularly scheduled meetings.
- (f) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize that in rare instances circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in (b) - (d) of this section. Except for petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or fishing, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis under the criteria in 5 AAC 96.615(a), it is the policy of the boards that a petition will be denied and not schedule for hearing unless the problem outlined in the petition justifies a finding of emergency. In accordance with state policy expressed in AS 44.62.270, emergencies will be held to a minimum and are rarely found to exist. In this section, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future. (Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95; am 8/17/91, Register 119; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126)

Authority: AS 16.05.251, AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST POLICY

Because of the volume of proposed regulatory changes, time constraints, and budget considerations, the boards must limit their agendas. The boards attempt to give as much advance notice as possible on what schedule subjects will be open for proposals. The following regulations specify how the Board of Game considers agenda change requests (5 AAC 92.005):

5 AAC 92.005. Policy for changing board agenda. (a) The Board of Game (board) may change the board's schedule for considering proposed regulatory changes in response to an agenda change request, submitted on a form provided by the board, in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (1) an agenda change request must be to consider a proposed regulatory change outside the board's published schedule and must specify the change proposed and the reason the proposed change should be considered out of sequence. An agenda change request is not intended to address proposals that could have been submitted by the deadline scheduled for submitting proposals.
 - (2) the board will accept an agenda change request only
 - a. for a conservation purpose or reason;
 - b. to correct an error in a regulation; or
 - c. to correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted;
 - (3) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information that is found by the board to be compelling;
 - (4) a request must be received by the executive director of the boards support section at least 60 days before the first regularly scheduled meeting of that year;
 - (5) if one or more agenda change requests have been timely submitted, the board shall meet to review the requests within 30 days following the submittal deadline in subsection (4), and may meet telephonically for this purpose.
- (b) The board may change the board's schedule for consideration of proposed regulatory changes as reasonably necessary for coordination of state regulatory actions with federal agencies, programs, or laws.

Note: The form in 5 AAC 92.005 is available on the Board of Game webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.forms or by contacting the Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section office (907) 465-4110.

Updated July 2015

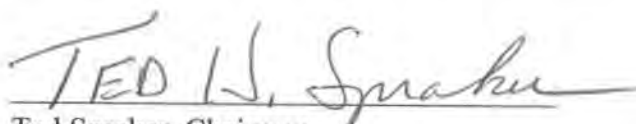
ALASKA JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME

CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD-GENERATED PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that criteria need to be established to guide the Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, Board of Fisheries, and Board of Game (boards) members when deliberating on whether or not to develop a board-generated proposal. The boards will consider the following criteria when deliberating the proposed development and scheduling of a board-generated proposal:

1. Is it in the public's best interest (e.g., access to resource, consistent intent, public process)?
2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?
3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board's attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?
4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?

Findings adopted this 16th day of October 2013.



Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Vote: 6-0



Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Vote: 7-0

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Policies and Resolutions

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.findings

2016

2016-216-BOG	Board Recommendation to ADF&G provided during the Statewide Regulations Meeting.
2016-215-BOG	Board of Game Wolf Management Policy
2016-214-BOG	Board of Game Bear Conservation and Management Policy
2016-213-BOG	Findings related to Proposal 207: Restrictions on the Use of Aircraft Associated with Sheep Hunting.

2015

2015-212-BOG	Policy on Elections of Officers
2015-211-BOG	Board Recommendation to ADF&G provided during the Southcentral Region Meeting.
2015-210-BOG	Board Recommendation to ADF&G provided during the Central/Southwest Region Meeting.
2015-209-BOG	Board Recommendation to ADF&G provided during the Central/Southwest Region Meeting.
2015-208-BOG	Resolution Establishing a Standing Delegation of Authority to the Commissioner Regarding Petitions for Emergency Regulations
2015-207-BOG	Board Direction to ADF&G provided during the Southeast Region Meeting

2014

2014-206-BOG	Nonresident Capture, Possession, and Export of Certain Raptors
2014-205-BOG	Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Statewide Regulations Cycle A Meeting.
2014-204-BOG	Customary and Traditional Uses of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
2014-203-BOG	Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Arctic/Western Region Meeting

2013

2013-202-BOG	Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Southcentral Region Meeting.
2013-201-BOG	Board Direction to ADF&G Provided During the Central/Southwest Region Meeting
2013-200-BOG	Board Direction Concerning the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

2012

2012-199-BOG	Resolution Supporting Funding for the Outdoor Heritage Foundation
2012-198-BOG	Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy (Policy 2011-194-BOG Revised)
2012-197-BOG	Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-196-BOG	Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-195-BOG	Unit 24B Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

2012-194-BOG	Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy (<i>Policy 2011-186-BOG Revised</i>)
2012-193-BOG	Subunit 26B Muskoxen - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-192-BOG	Subunit 15C Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-191-BOG	Subunit 15A Moose - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
2012-190-BOG	Falconry, Federal Migratory Bird Rulemaking and Delegation of Authority

2011

#2011-189-BOG	Subunits 9C and 9# (Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2011-188-BOG	Units 9B, 17, 19, and 19B (MCH) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2011-187-BOG	Unit 16 Predation Control Area for Moose Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2011-186-BOG	Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy.
#2011-185-BOG	Board of Game Wolf Management Policy (this policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)
#2011-184-BOG	Game Management Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses (<i>Supplement findings to 2006-170-BOG</i>)

2010

#2010-183-BOG	Harvest of Game for Customary and Traditional Alaska Native Funerary and Mortuary Religious Ceremonies
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2009

#2009-182-BOG	Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2009-181-BOG	Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2009-180-BOG	Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2009-179-BOG	Resolution Supporting Increasing Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees

2008

#2008-178-BOG	Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans
#2008-177-BOG	Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, & 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2008-176-BOG	Units 16A & B Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2008-175-BOG	Unit 9D (South AK Peninsula Caribou Herd) Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2008-174-BOG	Unit 19D East Supplemental Findings

2007

#2007-173-BOG	Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy – (#162 Revised)
#2007-172-BOG	Annual Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose

2006

#2006-171-BOG	Resolution supporting a Moratorium on New Zoo Applications
#2006-170-BOG	Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses
#2006-169-BOG	Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-168-BOG	Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-167-BOG	Unit 16 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-166-BOG	Unit 13 Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-165-BOG	Unit 12 and 20E Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
#2006-164-BOG	Board of Game Bear Management and Conservation Policy
#2006-163-BOG	Resolution Regarding Declining Fish and Wildlife Enforcement in Alaska
#2006-162-BOG	Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy
#2006-161-BOG	Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

2005

#2005-160-BOG	Finding of Emergency: Methods of Harvest for Hunting Small Game in the Skilak Loop Special Management Area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
#2005-159-BOG	Resolution in Support of Allowing Guides to Take Wolves while Under Contract to Clients
#2005-158-BOG	Resolution in Support of Public Education Program on Predator Control
#2005-157-BOG	Reauthorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2005-156-BOG	Supporting Joint Federal and State Deer Harvest Reporting
#2005-155-BOG	Supporting Governor's Lawsuit Against Federal Government; Extent and Reach of Subsistence Regulations in State Navigable Waters

2004

#2004-154-BOG	Supporting Increasing Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License and Tag Fees
#2004-153-BOG	Increase FY06 Budget for Boards of Fisheries and Game and State Advisory Committees
#2004-152-BOG	Predator Control in Portions of Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area
#2004-151-BOG	Bear Baiting Allocation
#2004-150-BOG	Authorizing Predator Control in Central Kuskokwim Area, Unit 19A
#2004-149-BOG	Signage for Trap lines on Public Lands
#2004-148-BOG	Authorizing Predator Control in Western Cook Inlet, Unit 16B
#2004-147-BOG	Bear Conservation and Management Policy
#2004-146-BOG	Americans with Disabilities Act Exemptions

2003

#2003-145-BOG	Authorization of Airborne Shooting in Unit 19D East Predation Control Program
#2003-144-BOG	Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2003-143-BOG	Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13
#2003-142-BOG	Resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning a Statewide Bear Baiting Ballot Initiative

#2003-141-BOG	Request for Commissioner's Finding Regarding Same-Day-Airborne Wolf Hunting in Game Management Unit 13
#2003-140-BOG	Guidelines for a Unit 19D East Predation Control Program
#2003-139-BOG	A resolution of the Alaska Board of Game Concerning Management of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Mortality (<i>Repealed March 19, 2013.</i>)

2002

#2002-138-BOG	Request to US Forest Service re: Management of Guided Brown Bear Hunting in Unit 4
#2002-137-BOG	Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings
#2002-136A-BOG	Unit 1D Brown Bear Drawing Hunt Finding
#2002-136-BOG	Government to Government Relations with Tribes in Alaska

2001

#2001-135-BOG	Resolution concerning Unit 19D-East Adaptive Management Team Work
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2000

#2000-134-BOG	Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team Findings
#2000-133-BOG	Habituation of Wildlife (unsigned – left in draft)
#2000-132-BOG	Reaffirm Resolution re: Management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process
#2000-131-BOG	Finding of Emergency: Unit 19D-East (Wolf Control Implementation Plan)
#2000-130-BOG	Resolution re: Support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999

1999

#99-129-BOG	Snow Machine Use in the Taking of Caribou
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1998

#98-128-BOG	Findings on Elk Management in Region I
#98-127-BOG	Findings on Commercial Guiding Activities in Alaska
#98-126-BOG	Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 25B and Unit 25D
#98-125-BOG	Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 21D
#98-124-BOG	Emergency Findings – Moose in Unit 18
#98-123-BOG	Emergency Findings – Caribou in Unit 9
#98-122-BOG	1998 Intensive Management Findings: Interior Region
#98-121-BOG	Findings: HB 168, Traditional Access
#98-120-BOG	Resolution re: Ballot Initiative Banning Use of Snares
#98-119-BOG	Trapping and Snaring of Wolves in Alaska
#98-118-BOG	Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox in Northwest Unit 23

1997

#97-117-BOG	Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox on the Seward Peninsula
#97-116-BOG	Dall Sheep Management in the Western Brooks Range
#97-115-BOG	Resolution supporting Co-management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources

#97-114-BOG	Resolution re: Dual Management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources
#97-113-BOG	Resolution re: Methods and Means of Harvesting Furbearers and Fur Animals Including Wolves
#97-112-BOG	Resolution re: Management of Alaska's Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process
#97-111-BOG	Finding to Include Unit 22 (except 22C) in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area
#97-110-BOG	Finding of Emergency re: Stranded Musk Oxen
#97-109-BOG	Findings re: Unit 16B-South Moose
#97-108-BOG	Resolution re: Subsistence Division Budget
#97-107-BOG	Findings re: Wanton Waste on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers

1996

#96-106-BOG	Delegation of Authority re: Issuing Permits to Take Game for Public Safety Purposes
#96-105-BOG	Delegation of Authority to Implement Ballot Measure #3
#96-104-BOG	Finding of Emergency re: Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#96-103-BOG	Findings – Antlerless Moose in Unit 20A
#96-102-BOG	Findings – Nelchina Caribou Herd Management
#96-101-BOG	Findings – Intensive Management for GMU 19D East
#96-100-BOG	Establishment of the Nenana Controlled Use Area
#96-99-BOG	Moose Populations in Unit 26A
#96-98-BOG	Taking Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
#96-97-BOG	Forty Mile Caribou Herd Management Plan
#96-96-BOG	Finding of Emergency – Moose in Remainder of Unit 16B

1995

#95-95-BOG	Resolution – Wildlife Diversity Initiative
#95-94-BOG	Resolution – Change Name of McNeil River State Game Refuge to Paint River State Game Refuge
#95-93-BOG	Requiring License Purchase in advance
#95-92-BOG	<i>Open Number</i>
#95-91-BOG	Delegation of Authority – Comply with Alaska Supreme Court Opinion in Kenaitze vs. State
#95-90-BOG	Board Travel Policy
#95-89-BOG	Findings – Noatak Controlled Use Area
#95-88-BOG	Delegation of Authority to Increase Bag Limits in Unit 18 for Mulchatna and Western Arctic Caribou Herds
#95-87-BOG	Subsistence Needs for Moose in Unit 16B
#95-86-BOG	Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 19D
#95-85-BOG	Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 20D
#95-84-BOG	Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 13
#95-83-BOG	Resolution: Subsistence Use on National Park Lands
#95-82-BOG	“No Net Loss” Policy for Hunting and Trapping Opportunities
#95-81-BOG	Resolution: Remove Federal Management of F&W on Public Lands and Waters

#95-80-BOG Resolution to Legislature to Define Subsistence

1994

#94-80A-BOG Wolf Predation Control Program in Unit 20A
#94-79-BOG Delegation to Commissioner to Adopt Regulations Resulting from
Kenaitze Decision which Invalidates Nonsubsistence Areas
#94-78-BOG Addendum to Findings on Unit 16B Moose
#94-77-BOG Resolution on SB325 (Repeal Antlerless Moose Statute)

1993

#93-76-BOG Findings on McNeil River Refuge Bears
#93-75-BOG Resolution on Adak Caribou
#93-74-BOG Delegation of Authority for Permits to Take Furbearers with Game Meat
#93-73-BOG Delegation of Authority to Make Emergency Regulations Permanent,
Moose in Unit 19D
#93-72-BOG Wolf Control Findings – Delta Area
#93-71-BOG Resolution on Round Island Walrus Hunt
#93-70-BOG Findings on Unit 16B Moose Seasons and Bag Limits
#93-69-BOG Resolution on Popof Island Bison
#93-68-BOG Resolution on Commercialization of Moose
#93-67-BOG Resolution on Elk Transplants in Southeast
#93-66-BOG Resolution on Clear-cut Management in the Tongass National Forest

1992

#92-65-BOG Findings in Units 12, 20B, D, and E on Wolves
#92-64-BOG Findings in Unit 20A Wolves
#92-63-BOG Findings in Unit 13 Wolves
#92-62-BOG Findings Wolf Area Specific Management Plans for Southcentral and
Interior
#92-61-BOG Resolution on Unit 13 Moose
#92-60-BOG Findings Unit 13 Moose Seasons and Bag Limits
#92-59-BOG Findings Unit 19 A&B Moose – Holitna and Hoholitna Controlled Use
Area
#92-58-BOG Findings on Kilbuck Caribou re Fall Hunt
#92-57-BOG Report of the Board of Game, Area Specific Management Plans for
Wolves
#92-56-BOG Relating to Moose in GMUs 19A and 19B per Superior Court order in
Sleetmute vs. State
#92-55-BOG Relating to Endorsement of State Closure of Deer Hunting in GMU 4 and
Requesting Federal Closure

1991

#91-54-BOG Findings on Strategic Wolf Management Plan
#91-54a-BOG Relating to Kilbuck Caribou Management Plan
#91-53-BOG Relating to Taking of Walrus from Round Island by Residents of Togiak
#91-53a-BOG Board Direction to Committee for Strategic Wolf Plan

#91-52-BOG

Findings on Unit 13 Moose Season and Bag Limits

1990

#90-51-BOG

Delegation of Authority

#90-50-BOG

Relating to the Reporting of Hunter Usage of Air Taxi Operations

#90-49-BOG

Findings on Kwethluk Emergency Caribou Hunt Petition

#90-48-BOG

Relating to the Use of Furbearers by Rural Alaskans, Including Alaska Natives

#90-47-BOG

Relating to the Commercialization of Moose and other Wildlife

#90-46-BOG

Relating to Destruction of Moose by the Alaska Railroad

1989

#89-45-BG

Delegation of Authority to Adopt Waterfowl Regulations

1988

#88-44-BG

Delegation of Authority for March 1988 Meeting

#88-43-BG

Resolution Supporting Funding for Division of Game

1987

#87-42d-BG

Procedures for Delegations of Authority (Replacing #75-2-GB)

#87-42c-BG

Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors

#87-42b-BG

Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors Before Filing Regulations

#87-42a-BG

Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (Replacing #75-3-GB)

1986

#86-41-BG

Finding of Emergency: New State Subsistence Law

#86-40-BG

Delegation of Authority

1985

#85-39-GB

Resolution on Resources v/s Logging

#85-38-GB

Findings: Madison vs. State Requirements

#85-37-GB

Lime Village Management Area Findings

#85-36-GB

Findings: Waterfowl hunting in and near Palmer Hayflats

1984

#84-35-GB

Resolution on Waterfowl Stamp

#84-34-GB

Transplant of Musk Ox to Nunivak Island

1983

#83-33-GB

Resolution on Guide Board

#83-32-GB

Findings on Moose in GMU 16B

1982

#82-31-GB

Supplement to Wolf Population Control

1981

#81-30-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Nelchina Caribou
#81-29-GB Finding and Policy for Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#81-28-GB Letter of Intent: Wolf Reduction in Alaska

1980

#80-27-GB Letter of Intent Regarding Use of Alaska's Game for Religious Ceremony
#80-26-GB Findings and Policy Regarding Bowhunting
#80-25-GB Standing Committee II on Deer
#80-24-GB Regarding Advisory Committee Coordinators

1979

#79-23-GB Authorization to Export Animals from Alaska
#79-22-GB Staff Directive to Subsistence Section
#79-21-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-20-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-19-GB Brown Bear, GMU 4
#79-18-GB Relating to Muskoxen

1978

#78-18-GB Statement of Direction: Use of Airplanes in Controlling Predation by Wolves
#78-17-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources
#78-16-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

1977

#77-15-GB Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Address Petitions
#77-14-GB Repeal of Regulations Relating to Registration of Camps by Guides for Hunting Bears
#77-13-GB Regarding Closed Season for Caribou (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#77-12-GB Regarding the 17(d)(2) Land Settlement

1976

#76-11-GB Trapping Wolves by ADF&G
#76-10-GB Request for Public Safety Involvement in Enforcement of Caribou Regulations
#76-9-GB Management Goal: Western Arctic Caribou
#76-8-GB Export of Live Game Animals Outside of Alaska
#76-7-GB Musk Ox to Anchorage Children's Zoo (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#76-6-GB Taking of Wolves by Helicopter
#76-5-GB Regarding the Taking of Wolves in Units 23 and 26A

1975

#75-4-GB	Endorsement of Trapping as a Legitimate Use of Renewable Resources
#75-3-GB	Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (See #87-42a-GB)
#75-2-GB	Procedures for Delegations of Authority (See #87-42d-GB)
#75-1-GB	Effectuating Delegation of Authority

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2016-215-BOG
BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Policy duration: Date of finding through June 30, 2021.
This policy supersedes BOG policy 185-2011-BOG)

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 trapping 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, April, and May. 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.

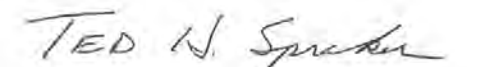
Terminating Wolf Control

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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Vote: 7-0
March 17, 2016
Fairbanks, Alaska


Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2016-214-BOG
BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY
Expiration Date: June 30, 2021

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

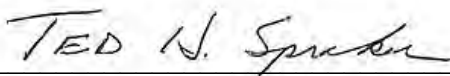
Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. 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 17, 2016
Anchorage, Alaska



Ted Spraker, 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.

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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.

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4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
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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.

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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

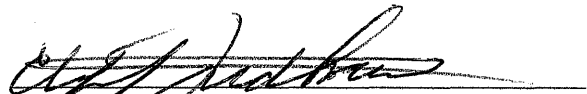
In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255 the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may elect to work with the Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, 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 Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-195-BOG
Unit 24(B) Moose
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 9, 2012**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Unit 24(B). These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.125, and 92.108.

1. This is an experimental program that will have limited impact on the moose and wolf populations in Unit 24(B). It is designed primarily to reallocate moose from wolves to humans in the 1,360 square mile Upper Koyukuk Management Area (UKMA) and is expected to make only a small contribution to the intensive management (IM) moose harvest objective in Unit 24(B).
2. The Unit 24(B) IM moose population and harvest objectives have not been achieved. The IM objectives established by the board are for a population of 4,000–4,500 and an annual harvest of 150–250. In early winter 2010 the observable moose population size in Unit 24(B) was estimated at 1,800–3,400, based on extrapolation of population estimates from survey areas in the unit. Estimated annual harvest in Unit 24(B) was 82–109 moose.
3. Predation by bears and wolves has been identified as an important cause of the failure to achieve moose population and harvest objectives. Moose surveys in Unit 24(B) during spring 2008–2011 indicated high twinning rates (average 57 percent), thus good body condition. Fall composition surveys in Unit 24(B) indicated high productivity, with calf:cow ratios averaging 44 calves per 100 cows, but cohort survival was low with yearling bulls averaging 11 per 100 cows. These survey data and a predicted calving rate of 80 percent indicate more calves are lost during summer (due primarily to bear predation) than winter (due primarily to wolf predation).
4. Only wolf numbers will be reduced in the UKMA as a component of this predation control program because lethal bear removal is not deemed feasible at this time.
5. Nevertheless, a reduction of wolf predation within the UKMA can reasonably be expected to make progress towards achieving the Unit 24(B) IM objectives. Modeling of the current moose abundance in the UKMA using estimated abundance of 45–55 wolves, 75 black bears, 25 grizzly bears, 405 (± 97) moose, and a harvest of 20 moose annually, indicated that moose abundance should slowly increase in response to wolf control that increases calf and yearling moose survival. Wolf control alone likely will result in a positive response in moose abundance after 5 winters of control, including reallocation of some surviving moose to harvest.
6. Reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible utilizing recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information. Based on survey results indicating wolf predation is an important source of mortality, reducing wolves in a small

geographic area will likely result in increased moose survival and additional animals available for hunter harvest.

7. Reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns. The UKMA was selected based on land ownership status (minimizing federal lands), proximity to traditional moose hunting areas for the villages of Allakaket and Alatna (maximizing inclusion of navigable river corridors), and habitat suitability. Within the UKMA, 125 square miles (9.2 percent) is federal land (BLM/USFWS), 576 square miles (42.3 percent) is Alaska Native corporation land, 659 square miles (48.4 percent) is State of Alaska lands.
8. Department employees may conduct aerial, land and shoot, or ground based lethal removal of wolves using state owned, privately owned, or chartered equipment, including helicopters, under AS 16.05.783.

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


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

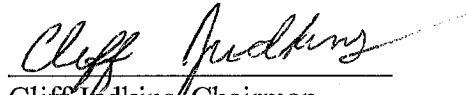
**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2010-183-BOG**

**Harvest of Game for Customary and Traditional
Alaska Native Funerary and Mortuary Religious Ceremonies
February, 2010**

1. Throughout the State of Alaska, Alaska Native cultures continue to rely on many species of fish, game, and other wild resources as important components of customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies.
2. Although customs and traditions vary across the state and from culture to culture, the Board has been able to determine that a few principles appear to be consistent in all such ceremonies.
3. One consistent principle is that each ceremony is associated with a particular village, clan, or other group recognized as a cohesive unit by Alaska Native people. A ceremony is not a "customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremony" unless it is associated with a particular village, clan or other Alaska Native group and performed in accordance with their self-defined customs and traditions.
4. Another consistent principle is that these ceremonies involve consumption of, ideally, a wide variety of wild foods that are customarily and traditionally consumed by members of the village, clan, or other Alaska Native group in their particular locality. While store-bought foods are also often important, hunters for these ceremonies tend to focus their efforts on obtaining species that are viewed as customary and traditional foods with spiritual and cultural meaning, rather than introduced species. The species listed with "positive" findings in 5 AAC 99.125 are a comprehensive list of species that are more or less important for customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies outside of non-subsistence areas where such findings are not made. A similar range of species are traditionally harvested for these ceremonies in non-subsistence areas, however.
5. A third consistent principle is that participants where hunting to provide food for these ceremonies participate because of relationships they have to the deceased and the deceased's family, clan, or community through birth, marriage, adoption, or other social processes recognized by Alaska Native groups.
6. Although traditions vary by community and cultural groups, throughout Alaska, traditional laws govern the initiation and organization of customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies. For example, these traditional laws stipulate who may initiate and organize these ceremonies based upon genealogical or other social relationships with the deceased.
7. The Board of Game recognizes that customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies are constitutionally protected activities that must be

accommodated, absent a contrary and compelling state interest that may not otherwise be served. When presented with requests to accommodate specific ceremonies, the Board will attempt to develop regulations specific to those ceremonies. 5 AAC 92.019 is the Board's effort to accommodate customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies that have not yet been specifically provided for.

Vote: 7-0
February 1, 2010
Anchorage, Alaska

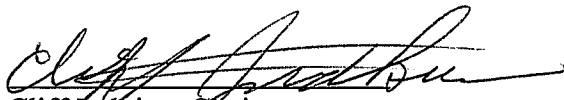

Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Finding for the Alaska Board of Game
2007-173-BOG

Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy
March 12, 2007

At the March 2007, Southcentral/Southwest Region meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Game modified the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, #2006-162-BOG, by adding item #4 to the guidelines that shall be applied when determining the allocation percentage for drawing permits to nonresidents:

1. Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years.
2. Each client shall provide proof of having a signed guide-client agreement when applying for permits.
3. Contracting guides shall be registered in the area prior to the drawing.
4. When a guide signs a guide-client agreement, the guide is providing guiding services and therefore must be registered for the use area at that time.



Cliff Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0
Amended: March 12, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS
ANTLERLESS MOOSE IN 20A
PROPOSAL 42
96-103-806

The moose population on the Tanana Flats (GMU 20A) erupted during the 1950s and reached a high by the early 1960s variously estimated at 12,000 to 23,000 animals. During this time, this area became an important moose hunting area for residents of the Fairbanks area. Beginning about 1965, the moose population crashed to about 2,800 moose by 1975. This was attributed to winter weather, including record snowfall in 1970-71, overuse of the range, and poorly regulated hunting, in combination with inadequate monitoring of population trend.

By 1975, it was apparent that wolf predation was limiting recovery of the moose population. The Board implemented a wolf reduction program in 1976 that effectively reduced wolf numbers and allowed moose to increase. Between 1976 and 1996, moose numbers increased from 2,800 to about 14,000. By the mid-1980s, wolf numbers had recovered to pre-control levels but wolf predation was insufficient to limit moose population growth.

Biological information now indicates that if the Tanana Flats moose population increases further, range damage may occur, recruitment may decline as competition for high-quality food increases, and survival will fall. These biological events may precipitate another crash (in conjunction with deep snow) similar to that which occurred in 1965-1975.

After considering public testimony and biological information presented by the Department, the board finds that:

1. Moose populations that increase to high density (generally more than 1.5 moose per square mile in interior Alaska) are at risk for crashes that reduce herd size greatly. Such crashes are precipitated by range damage that may take decades to repair. There are numerous, well-studied case histories of moose populations in Alaska and throughout North America, that document this reality.
2. Crashes of moose populations result in numerous biological and public policy problems as hunters find fewer opportunities to hunt over long time intervals as conservative harvest regulations are required to rebuild the moose populations.
3. Crashes of moose populations are likely preventable if moose populations are carefully monitored, range condition and trend information is available, and harvest regulations are flexible.
4. In order to curb the growth of a moose population approaching carrying capacity, biologists indicate that cow harvests are mandatory. It is not possible to prevent carrying

capacity problems by harvesting only bulls as bull:cow ratios then become distorted and the cow portion of the populations continues to increase.

5. Specifically, with regard to the Tanana Flats moose population, the Board finds that this population, currently at about 14,000 animals, now shows biological signs of approaching carrying capacity. At carrying capacity recruitment is very low, animals are in poor condition, opportunity for harvest is minimal, and range damage may be excessive. Accordingly it is prudent to now consider harvesting a sufficient number of cow moose to slow further population growth. This may involve harvesting up to 1,000 cows.

6. The Board finds that opposition to harvesting cow moose by some local Fish and Game Advisory Committees is strong. Testimony by at least two committees at the March 1996 Board meeting specifically opposed harvesting any cows from the Tanana Flats population, and one committee indicated that it would likely oppose cow moose hunts despite any biological information.

7. The Board finds that there is need for increased public support for harvesting cow moose if we are to fully realize the potential for intensive management that may involve predator reduction programs. Predator control and habitat improvement may result in moose populations that reach high density and subsequently crash, thereby negating efforts to provide maximum hunting opportunity. Cow moose hunts are required to prevent this occurrence, but may be blocked by advisory committee opposition.

8. The Board finds that one way to seek increased support for cow moose hunts is for the Department, the Board, and various interests groups to work closely with advisory committees in order to provide them with adequate information on the risks and benefits of different harvesting strategies. Evidence of this includes the Department's extensive work with local advisory committees that resulted in adoption of Proposal 42A allowing for a limited cow harvest in Game Management Unit 20A in 1996 supported by the advisory committees.


Larry Holmes, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Date: 4/18/96
Juneau, Alaska

Vote: 6 - 0 - 1
absent

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS
Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
96-98-BOG

During the publicly convened Board of Game meeting in March 1996, the Board heard public and advisory committee testimony and ADF&G staff reports on the taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Based on testimony and reports, and after due consideration, the Board finds that:

- 1) Protection for the use of moose as part of the Athabascan funeral potlatch ceremony, as authorized in Frank v. State 604 P.2d 1068 (Alaska 1979), should extend to other big game animals used as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies. The Board heard testimony from several residents and advisory committee representatives describing the use of big game species as part of funerary and mortuary practices in Alaska Native religious ceremonies. The Board also heard ADF&G staff reports describing the harvest patterns, use of big game in these ceremonies, and associated practices with respect to the taking of big game for religious purposes.
- 2) There is a compelling state interest in regulating the take of big game for any reason. Provisions for allowing and regulating the take of big game are important and necessary for managing game consistent with the constitutionally mandated sustained yield principle. Testimony by ADF&G staff indicates that there are no known cases where sustained yield has been threatened by taking of big game for Alaska Native religious ceremonies. The ADF&G will notify the public of any big game populations for which the taking of a big game animal would be inconsistent with sustained yield principles and which are closed to taking. Notification by the users to the department of the number of big game animals taken from a population is necessary and important as part of responsible management of the big game populations.
- 3) The adoption of this proposal provides regulations which are reasonable and least intrusive with respect to Alaska Native religious practices. The regulations adopted by the Board provide for a harvest report after the ceremony. The Board heard testimony in support of a harvest report only after the taking of big game or after the ceremony, within a specified amount of time. The regulations provide for an annual cycle of twelve months in which to harvest big game for religious ceremonies, described as a necessary and customary practice in some of the mortuary and funerary ceremonies. The regulations adopted by the Board provide that the big game harvest for funeral or mortuary religious ceremonies does not count as a hunter's individual bag under general or subsistence regulations, because the Board heard testimony that the harvest for a ceremony is an additional harvest above that normally used to feed one's family during a yearly cycle.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
UNIT 19 A & B MOOSE**

The Board of Game heard public testimony, staff reports, advisory committee reports, and discussed the issue of management of moose in Units 19A and 19B on April 1 and April 2, 1992. Based upon all the testimony and reports, both oral and written, the Board makes the following observations and conclusions:

Biological Findings:

1. The Board finds that the moose found in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in 19A and 19B are a moose "population." AS 16.05.940 (18). The boundary between 19A and 19B was drawn to reflect different use patterns of the population. The Unit 19A and 19B portions of this population have been subjected to discreet management.

2. The moose population within the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in GMU 19A and 19B is of moderate density, increasing in size, and highly productive. Calf:cow ratios in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna rivers in the fall during the past 10 years have averaged about 50-60 calves per 100 cows. Calf:cow ratios in the upper Hoholitna drainage in Unit 19B over this time have averaged about 25 to 30 calves:100 cows.

3. Bull-cow ratios within the 19A portion declined from 60-70 bulls:100 cows to approximately 30 bulls:100 cows during the 1976-1990 period as a result of high hunting pressure. The current ratio remains biologically adequate for productivity and the population sex and age structure provides for high sustained harvests.

4. Bull-cow ratios within the 19B portion remain higher than 19A, reflecting lower hunting pressure.

5. An estimate of the annual moose harvest during the period 1985-1990 for the Holitna and Hoholitna drainage for all types of uses is approximately 300 bulls and 30 cows, which is well within sustained yield limits. Of this estimated harvest, an average of 40-50 bulls were harvested each year by non-residents during this period, with the remainder by Alaska residents.

6. In general, the harvest of moose in the 19A portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is predominately by hunters using boats, primarily residents of Units 18 and 19. The harvest of moose in the 19B portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is primarily by hunters using aircraft access. Wheel-equipped aircraft are used to access upland areas, and float-equipped aircraft are used to access Whitefish Lake and certain landing and takeoff points along the rivers, including the

confluence of the Holitna with the Kuskokwim, the confluence of the Hoholitna with the Holitna, and other locations downriver from the mouth of the South Fork.

Subsistence Use Patterns:

1. The Board of Game found in 1987 that there are subsistence uses of moose in Unit 19, including the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages described above.

2. There are at least three distinct subsistence use patterns for moose in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages: a Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 18, a Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 19, and a Floater/Drifter Use Pattern by Alaska residents supported by floatplanes. In the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, hunters tend to access 19A and 19B by boats powered by outboard engines often in excess of 70 horsepower, which is part of the means and methods of harvest. In the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, including Sleetmute residents, hunters tend to access the areas by boats with horsepower engines less than 70 horsepower. In the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern, hunters typically access the area by airplanes or transporters combined with float craft.

3. In addition, there is some non-Alaska resident guided hunting in 19A and 19B. Guided hunters typically access the area by airplane, and harvest is predominately large bulls. The number of moose taken by guided hunters in 19A is small; harvest information indicates 7 moose taken by guided hunters for all of Subunit 19A in 1991.

4. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern is about 50%. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern is in the 70% range. The success rate for hunters who are part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern is estimated to be about 50%, although there is no detailed information on this group.

5. Hunters from Sleetmute hunt as part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern. The Department estimated an annual subsistence harvest to be somewhat more than 1 moose per multiperson household during the 1980s. A high estimate of the traditional use level by Sleetmute residents for the 1980s was between 1 to 2 moose per multiperson household, or about 48 moose for the community; however, actual harvest levels fluctuate according to a number of factors including weather and competition from other hunters. The reported harvest during the September season was approximately 12 with an additional 7 taken in the November and February seasons during the 1982-83 season, or about .86 moose per multiperson household. There

probably also were moose taken outside the open moose hunting seasons, but there is no estimate of numbers for Sleetmute. Sleetmute residents have indicated increasing difficulties in hunting moose along the river corridor during the September season.

Moose Required for Subsistence Uses:

The Board concludes that there is not a Tier II situation for moose hunting in the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages, as there is a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses for the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, and the Drifter/Floater Use Pattern. The number of harvested moose necessary to provide for subsistence uses of this moose population for all subsistence uses is within a range that may fluctuate from year to year, and is estimated to be about 300 in the period 1985-90. This is also a reasonable estimate for 1992 based on available information.

Subsistence Use Concerns:

There is evidence that the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, particularly for Sleetmute, is being impacted by an increased number of hunters and increased noise and disturbance by hunters in the river corridor of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages of 19A and 19B. Most of the increase is by Unit 18 residents who hunt as part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern. There also may be an increase in hunters who hunt as part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern based on reports of local hunters, although the Department has no firm estimate of trends in numbers for this user group. The board recieved testimony from local residents who perceived that the use of aircraft in Units 19 A and B contributed to disturbance of moose and competition from urban hunters. The board found that the disturbance exists primarily along the river corridor from boat traffic, and that the use of aircraft for access to this population for hunting is not a significant disturbance factor. The major impact on the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern has been that there are fewer bull moose available along the Holitna and Hoholitna river corridor. Hunters of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern report having to spend more days afield and spend more money hunting in the fall to obtain moose. A shortfall of fall moose takes are made up to some extent by harvests in the November and February seasons.

Board Regulatory Action:

The board adopted the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area (5 AAC 92.540 (e) (2)) at the Spring 1992 board meeting. The board finds that this regulation, combined with the moose hunting seasons for Unit 19 A and B, provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the subsistence uses of this moose population. The moose seasons for Units 19 A and B (outside the Lime Village Management area) are as follows:

Unit 19 A (except the Lime Village Management Area):

Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20; Nov. 20 - Nov. 30; Feb. 1 - Feb 10: 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the Nov. 20 - Nov. 30 and Feb. 1 - Feb. 10 seasons.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

Unit 19 B:

Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25: 1 bull.

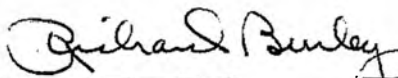
Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept 25: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

The purpose of the controlled use area is to minimize disturbance along the Holitna - Hoholitna River corridor which has tended to displace moose, especially bull moose, making moose less accessible to subsistence users who rely on river access. The horsepower restriction is intended to limit noise disturbance while still allowing reasonable access by the method primarily used by subsistence users of this moose population. The board is also recommending that the department establish a check station at Whitefish Lake to further document the use pattern for Floater/Drifter hunters and better assess the extent of this use.

Based upon the best available information presented to it, the board believes that the regulations now established for moose hunting of this population will provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users of this population to satisfy their subsistence needs.

Dated: April 3, 1992

Location: Anchorage, Alaska



Richard Burley, Chairman
Board of Game