

Thank you Chairman Spraker and members of the board. My name is Alysia Hancock, I'll be representing the Copper Basin AC first and then myself.

The **Copper Basin AC** has 14 members currently representing Glennallen, Kenny Lake, Chitina, Gakona, Copper Center, Tazlina, and Lake Louise. Combined we represent all 12 of the Interests we can choose: 10 trapping, 12 sportfish, 14 subsistence, 13 hunting, 3 commercial fishing, 9 photography, 3 guiding, 5 processing, 10 personal use, 12 outdoorsperson, 1 association/corporation, and 5 conservationists. There are currently 11 men and 3 women on the AC.

I believe I have been on the AC since 2008. I became Chair in 2018.

Proposal 128 Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area

During the 2017/2018 Board of Game Cycle for GMU 13 Proposal 123 was put in by Fish and Game to Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area description.

The issue was and continues to be that hunters could not define Maclaren River Drainage on the ground (which is the eastern boundary of the CUA) and hunters have their own interpretation of where the Drainage is. This is especially confusing to new hunters in the area. The Maclaren Summit Trailhead actually starts within the Maclaren River Drainage. Thus the trail is within the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area. Fish and Game did put signs up at the trailhead trying to let hunters know the trail fell within the CUA.

Proposal 123 was a clarifying proposal. To add the words "THE MACLAREN SUMMIT TRAIL AND" under section (i) the area consists of ...

The Clearwater Controlled Use area is closed to motorized vehicles for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15- June 30.

In 2017 Copper Basin AC met and unanimously voted to support proposal 123: 7-0.

At the Board of Game meeting in Dillingham in 2018 the board modified the proposal to include the Maclaren Summit Trail in the CUA and to ALLOW motorized access or the transportation of game on the trail. I had already left the meeting by the time this came up and heard about this the next day. I immediately asked that the board reconsider the proposal for further discussion and public input.

So now we have proposal 128

Copper Basin AC met in Oct. 2018

As written in the 2018/2019 "green" proposal book. We had confusion with how the proposal was written. This was in part due to what I remembered happening at the BOG meeting in Dillingham when the Board modified the proposal to allow motorized vehicles on the trail. As one of our members put it "it's all screwed up". But we took what was written in the "green" book when we looked at this proposal. As such we amended proposal 128 as it was written in the "green" book.

Our amendment was: The area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of Denali Highway, west of **100 feet east of the Maclaren Summit Trail, the Maclaren River Drainage, including all of the Maclaren Summit Tail, and** east of and including eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River

downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier and the eastern bank drainages of Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork.

We voted unanimously 8-0 in support of proposal 128 as amended by us.

We feel very strongly that we do not want motorized vehicles being used on the Maclaren Summit Trail for hunting or transporting gear and/or parts of game except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15- June 30.

We are also concerned that if the Maclaren Summit Trail was opened to motorized hunting year round that there could be an impact to the Tangle Lakes Archeological District which is adjacent to the Clearwater CUA.

On December 6, 2018 I received an email that there was a correction coming from Fish and Game on proposal 128. The correction was later posted to the website. The correction added the boards modified proposal from Dillingham 2018 meeting to include the Maclaren Summit Trail in the Controlled Use Area and to ALLOW motorized access or the transportation of game on the trail.

Because we had amended the proposal as written in the "green" proposal book. We decided not to meet again because we felt we had covered our position in our amended proposal that we submitted to the board in writing and I would be attending the meeting to clarify our position.

Once again we DO NOT want the Maclaren Summit Trail to be opened up to motorized hunting.

Proposal 131 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in GMU 13

We support this proposal as written unanimously 8-0. We want to keep the option for an antlerless moose hunt on the books. This gives Fish and Game the opportunity to do an antlerless hunt if numbers allowed. It is a good management tool for Biologists to use if they need to.

Proposal 140 and 141 Reauthorize the resident brown bear tag fee exemption for Central/Southwest Region and Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.

We support both proposals unanimously 8-0. We like that you can take a brown bear in our area without having to have a tag. This allows a hunter to take a bear opportunistically.

Personal Testimony

I oppose proposal 128 as written with the December correction.

I do still support the original proposal 123 from the 17/18 cycle written by the Department of Fish and Game.

The Clearwater Creek CUA was implemented in 1971 and to my knowledge has not been changed since. We started having problems motorized uses on the Maclaren Summit Trail around 2015 with the influx of Tier1 and Community Caribou hunters in the area.

The Clearwater CUA is written with an eastern boundary of “west of Maclaren River Drainage”, people have a hard time interpreting where the Drainage is.

GMU 13 is 23,361 square miles and contains 4 controlled use areas

Clearwater Creek CUA is 894 square miles

Sourdough CUA is 106 square miles and allows motorized access by hunters on designated trails.

Tonsina CUA is 633 square miles and is mostly sheep habitat.

Delta CUA is 274 square miles and is mostly sheep habitat and glaciers. It is mostly inaccessible to motorized access.

Not including the Delta CUA only about 7 percent of the unit is within a Controlled Use Area. The Clearwater Creek CUA is less than 4 percent of GMU 13.

About 10 percent of caribou hunters in 2017 chose to hunt in the Clearwater CUA. Those folks chose to get away from motorized users.

All the controlled use areas in GMU 13 still allow for motorized access for reasons other than hunting. Motorized use other than hunting is usually very light during caribou hunting seasons.

Adjacent to the Clearwater CUA is the Tangle Lakes Archeological District. The TLAD is 362 square miles and allows motorized vehicles on designated trails only. If you allow hunters to use motorized vehicles on the Maclaren Summit Trail you open up a lot more motorized use on the trail than what is there now. This increased use will impact the TLAD negatively. People will end up going off trail to retrieve their animals or to get to animals. This is already a problem within the TLAD on designated trails. By keeping hunting related motorized traffic off the Maclaren Summit trail you not only provide an area for non-motorized hunters to go but you also protect the archeological resources in the TLAD.

Fairbanks AC comments AC11 talks about using motorized vehicles on the trail and to 100 feet east of the trail. The problem is that the beginning section of the trail is within the TLAD. They say the TLAD boundary could have a marker on it showing the north boundary. The problem with this is that every year the TLAD boundary and non-designated trails are marked and by the first weekend of hunting season the markers are removed. I can see this happening along the Maclaren Summit trail. Also there would be just a very small area that you could go off trail to the west and east past the TLAD boundary, however you will end up going back into the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area farther down the

trail again. If you get off the trail how will hunters know when they are going back into the TLAD and Controlled Use areas once they are off road/trail. I am sorry I don't have maps of this but they are online and you could overlay the TLAD boundary with the Clearwater Creek CUA boundary to see it really would only open a small amount of off trail land to go into. There is a pdf map I just pulled up this morning that shows the Maclaren Summit Trail in Relation to the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area. It shows how the trail goes in and out of the non-motorized areas. Alaska, dnr, tlad, pdf, tlad9. I could email it to you.

The State Department of Natural Resources has been extending the Maclaren Summit Trail and the Glacier Gap Trail. The Glacier Gap trail starts on the Denali Highway within the TLAD and goes into the Clearwater CUA.

It is my understanding that the DNR hopes to eventually tie the two trails together along the area of 7 mile lake. This is something to take into consideration when making these decisions today. I am not sure with budget if the trails will ever tie together, but if you open motorized use for hunting on the Maclaren Summit trail it could affect a larger area of land if the trails are eventually tied together.

I read through all 31 written public comments on proposal 128. It looks like 22 comments asked to keep the area non-motorized. 9 comments said support but if you read what is written they actually say they want the non-motorized area and 7 actually said they objected or did not support the correction to allow motorized on the trail. I think there was confusion with the public on how the proposal was written in the Green proposal book and the time that the correction came out in Dec. The Correction was available online but you had to look for it. So you really have to read each public comment to sort it out. From what I read all 31 comments want to keep the area including the trail non-motorized.

I also read through the 8 AC written comments on proposal 128. 2 ACs voted to support the proposal, 2 ACs supported with amendment, One of those was the Copper Basin AC which I already explained was confused by the proposal as written in the green book and do not support the corrected version. 4 ACs oppose the proposal. So to summarize, 5 out of the 8 ACs that commented don't want motorized use on the trail by hunters. 4 specifically mentioned that they support the original proposal 123.

I looked at Talketna AC RC9 and did not find a reference in written comment about proposal 128 so I did not include them in my numbers, however I am glad it was brought up in oral testimony.

The Clearwater Creek Controlled Uses Area provides an area where hunters can go who want to hunt without motorized vehicles, on foot, horses, bikes etc. It is the only Controlled Use Area in GMU 13 in a Caribou area that provides this opportunity.

I would like to see the original proposal 123 from the 2017/2018 meeting in Dillingham be approved. It was very simple by clarifying that the Maclaren Summit Trail is included in the CUA and you cannot use motorized vehicles for hunting, transporting gear or game except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15- June 30 within this area.

Maclaren Summit Trail in Relation to the Clearwater Creek Control Use Area

