

PROPOSAL 116

#2020-XXX-BOG Finding

Adopt a Board of Game finding for the Unit 19A Portage Mountain Muskoxen Herd Strategy as follows:

The new Board of Game finding would state:

Unit 19A Portage Mountain Muskoxen Herd Strategy
4-16-2019
- DRAFT

Purpose: The people of the Portage Mountain Central Kuskokwim River communities desire a sustainable muskoxen population in order to facilitate subsistence harvest on the herd. This document is drafted by the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (CKAC) describing our strategies to achieve our objective. It is a goal of this document to become a finding of the Board of Game 2019-2020 meeting cycle.

- 1) This strategy applies to the Unit 19A portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage Portage Mountain Muskox Herd territory as outlined in the Map 1, including the buffer zone surrounding the Portage Mountains;
- 2) Whereas, the Muskox season in this area will remain closed for four years beginning in the year 2020;
- 3) Whereas, the season will be opened in a limited number of permits only after 4 years of no hunting or there is a minimum muskox population in the Portage Mountains of 150;
- 4) Whereas, we recognize the importance of cow muskox to future muskox populations. We understand that there will be no cow hunts unless habitat degradation occurs from excessive browsing;
- 5) Whereas, it is understood that a large muskox population will serve (but not completely) the subsistence needs of the residents of this area. We fully expect, however, that as limited subsistence hunting begins on this herd, the number of muskox harvested locally will be a priority;
- 6) Whereas, enforcement has a role in this strategy that needs to be developed in a cooperative fashion;
- 7) Whereas, the CKAC desires to collaborate with the local communities in the drafting of the Portage Mountain Muskoxen Management Plan; and,
- 8) Therefore, the reward this strategy promises is substantial, and the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game are committed to achieving the goal of at least 150 muskoxen in the Portage Mountain Muskoxen count area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee desires a sustainable Portage Mountain Muskoxen herd and requests the Board of Game to accept our strategies listed above as strategies towards achieving this goal while the draft development of a Portage Mountain Muskoxen Management Plan is underway and issue an official finding.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-100)
