Findings for the Alaska Board of Game 2009-181-BOG

Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings March 9, 2009

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff and residents and users of moose in Unit 19D-East. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108, in the Unit 19-East predation control implementation plan in 5 AAC 92.125 and in Board of Game Findings 2006-164-BOG, 2006-169-BOG, and 2008-174-BOG.

- 1. The moose population size, currently estimated to be 5481 moose, is less than the population objective of 6,000-8,000 moose. The population objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.
- 2. The Unit 19D-East moose harvestable surplus, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), currently estimated at 219 bulls, is less than the harvest objective of 400-600 moose. The harvest objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.
- 3. The Unit 19D-East moose population is, thus, depleted and reduced in productivity, which has already resulted in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.
- 4. Enhancement of abundance or productivity is feasibly achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
- 5. The Board has repeatedly, since 1995, been required to significantly reduce the taking of moose in Unit 19D-East by restricting harvest, seasons and bag limits as compared to the level and timing of hunting opportunity that was allowed when the population was not depleted and reduced in productivity.
- 6. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf, black bear, and brown bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population, to the extent that the population is unlikely to recover, and objectives are unlikely to be achieved, in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
- 7. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achievement of the population and harvest objectives.

Vote: 5-0-2 March 9, 2009 Anchorage, Alaska

Cliff Judkins, Chairman Alaska Board of Game