

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS  
BOARD OF GAME  
OCTOBER 10 – 11, 2002  
Anchorage, Alaska**

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Justin Crawford

*This summary of actions is for information purposes only and not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret reasons for Board actions.*

**PROPOSAL NO. 52**

**ACTION: Carried as Amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** Open moose season during December in Unit 17A.

**AMENDMENT:** One antlered bull by registration permit, 14 day season by emergency order within a Dec. 1 – Jan. 31 window.

**DISCUSSION:** The department stated that recent surveys conducted by department and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge staff in February 2002 found a minimum of 652 moose in Unit 17A. This estimate meets one of the key objectives of the moose management plan, allowing for the liberalization of harvest opportunity. Board members noted that a bag limit of one antlered bull provides more protection to cows, helping allow for the continued growth of the moose population. The board addressed potential difficulties harvesting an antlered bull during the winter season and concerns over snowmachine access. The board determined that allowing a 14-day winter season to be opened by emergency order would provide a conservative harvest opportunity for resident hunters.

**PROPOSAL NO. 53**

**ACTION: Carried**

**DESCRIPTION:** Permanently close hunting and trapping of wolves in portion of Unit 20C.

**DISCUSSION:** Board members heard considerable public testimony concerning the existence of the current wolf buffer zone, its effectiveness in enhancing viewing opportunities within Denali National Park, and an implied linkage with wolf control in other locations in the state. Agency staff presented data on wolf pack distribution, wolf mortality patterns, and human use patterns in this portion of Unit 20C. Board members recognized the importance of the Toklat wolf pack for non-consumptive uses and noted the comparatively low level of trapping effort in the years preceding 2001 in this 72 square mile area. The board stated that continuation of the closure would allow further opportunity to gather information regarding the effectiveness of this type of closure.

**PROPOSAL NO. 54**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** Permanently close hunting and trapping of wolves in portion of Unit 20C between Savage River and the Parks Highway.

**DISCUSSION:** The board heard considerable public testimony concerning the expansion of the current buffer zone north of Denali National Park. The board noted that very few wolves viewed in the park were known to utilize the proposed area. Based on known distribution of the Toklat wolf pack, the board determined the buffer area described in Proposal 53 gives this pack adequate protection making Proposal 54 unnecessary. Board members concluded that little or no biological justification existed for this proposal.

**PROPOSAL NO. 55****ACTION: Carried as Amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** Permanently close hunting and trapping of wolves in portion of Unit 20A, and expand existing closed area in Unit 20C.

**AMENDMENT:** Establish the eastern boundary to follow the eastern most edge of the Anchorage–Fairbanks Intertie right-of-way, beginning from Healy Creek south to its intersection with the boundary of Unit 20A and Unit 13. Delete the 88.6 square miles proposed area between the Savage River and the Parks Highway.

**DISCUSSION:** Board members heard considerable public testimony concerning the establishment of a wolf buffer zone east of Denali National Park. Agency staff presented data on wolf pack distribution, wolf mortality patterns, and human use patterns east of the park boundary. The board determined that the Margaret wolf pack is subject to consumptive uses upon ranging beyond park boundaries, and that providing a buffer will secure the viewing opportunities of this pack within the park boundaries. The board heard that based on the proposed boundaries trappers could be displaced and forced to encroach existing traplines. Board members discussed the need to determine the smallest area that meaningfully secures the core range of the Margaret wolf pack, while minimizing impacts on other uses of wolves in Unit 20A. The board noted that it was not practical to close all areas used in extra-territorial forays of individual animals from any given pack. The board recognized the importance of having a boundary that is easily identifiable on ground and determined the Anchorage–Fairbanks Intertie powerline to be a distinct boundary.