

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
MAY 12-14, 2006
ROADMAP

ACTION NO. SUBJECT

REGION II – SOUTHCENTRAL

Glennallen Area

- CA 165 Update predator control plan for Unit 13. (Emergency Regulations, RC 192, p 9-16)
F 131 Implement predator control plan for Delta caribou herd.

Palmer Area

- CA 166 Update predator control plan for Unit 16B (Emergency Regulations, RC 192, p 16-22)
CA 166A Added a portion of 16A to the wolf predation control plan (RC 195)
CA 115 Shorten moose seasons, establish predator control plan in units 14B and 16A

REGION III – INTERIOR

Tok Area

- CA 163 Update existing predator control implementation plan for Units 12 and 20E (Emergency Regulations RC 192, p 1-8)
CA 163A Expands the current predator control programs (RC 190)
NA 122 Expand wolf predation control into all of Fortymile caribou herd range
CA 126 Amend the Fortymile Nonlethal Wolf predation control implementation Plan to allow lethal wolf predation control
NA 157 Modify grizzly bear predation control program to increase effectiveness
NA 23 Allow same day airborne bear hunting, sale of hides, and harvest of female and young bears.

McGrath Area

- CA 164 Update existing predator control implementation plan for Unit 19D-East (RC 192, p32-39)
C 164A Added brown and black bear in a portion of 19D-East predator control plan (RC 191)
NA 27 Include bears in predation control implementation plan for Unit 19D-East
CA 162 Update predator control plan for Unit 19A (RC 192, p 22-32)
C 162A Modified language for Unit 19A predator control plan (RC 189)

STATEWIDE

- CA 14 Allow same day airborne hunting of black bears over bait
F 11 Classify black bear as a furbearer

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF GAME
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
May 12-14, 2006**

DESIGNATED REPORTERS: Sherry Wright

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

PROPOSAL NO. 11

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Classify black bear as furbearers, allow trapping and sale of fur in Interior Alaska..

DISCUSSION: The board amended this proposal at the Fairbanks meeting and then deferred it to the May meeting. Board members felt there is merit for the proposal but were concerned with other recent actions taken to increase bear harvest, particularly in intensive management areas such as bear baiting, allowing the sale of hides, and same day airborne hunting to rebuild the declining ungulate populations. The board was also very concerned with safety issues of trapping cubs, or sows with cubs which would bring about negative publicity and may jeopardize other predator control programs.

PROPOSAL NO. 14

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow same day airborne hunting of black bears over bait

AMENDMENTS: Applies only to active predator control areas as identified in the predator control management plan areas, with the use of bait or scent lures as authorized by a permit issued by the department and provided the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of take.

DISCUSSION: The board believed this is an effective tool to intensively manage ungulate populations in the area for high levels of human consumption. The board discussed the need for a separate permit to utilize this method of harvest to allow data to be compiled on the actual use, and therefore could assist enforcement monitoring. The department commented that they would be able to compile the data from hide sealing and other permits, including the aircraft information, without a new permit system. The board felt that a permit system would provide education about the sensitivity of the program be delivered to the participants, as well as details of the users and harvest. Bait stations must be registered. Brown bear baiting already occurs in the Upper Tanana area; this will provide another means of access.

PROPOSAL NO. 23

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow same day airborne bear hunting, sale of hides, and harvest of female and young bears

DISCUSSION: The board did not believe the issue of harvesting female bears and young bears is necessary at this time.

PROPOSAL NO. 27**ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Include bears in predation control implementation plan for Unit 19D East**DISCUSSION:** The board took no action based on their action taken on Proposal 164A.**PROPOSAL NO. 115****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Shorten moose season, establish predator control plans in Units 14B and 16.**AMENDMENTS:** Provide a fall bear baiting season in Unit 16, and eliminate predator control plan language for unit 16 & 14B.**DISCUSSION:** The department does not support shortening the moose hunting season because it is not biologically necessary, nor is it required to be shortened in an intensive management area. The board commented that hunters from the Anchorage and Matanuska Valley areas are being forced to move further away due to the decreasing local moose populations. The board and the department discussed recent board actions taken to increase bear harvest in Unit 16 predator control areas such as the use of snow machines. User conflicts (i.e.: fall rainbow season) were discussed and the board noted the ¼ mile setback requirement from the river for bear baiting. The board agreed that this amended proposal is another tool to be used to increase the harvest of predators in an effort to rebuild the moose population in the area.

The board requested the department provide a draft bear management plan for Unit 16 at the 2007 Southcentral Region BOG meeting, and a predator control plan to include wolf and bear for Unit 14 at the Interior Region BOG meeting in 2008

PROPOSAL NO. 122**ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Expand wolf predation control into all of Forty mile caribou herd range**DISCUSSION:** The board took no action based on their action taken on Proposal 163A.**PROPOSAL NO. 126****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Amend the Fortymile non-lethal wolf predation control implementation plan to allow lethal wolf predation control**AMENDMENTS:** Repeal the Fortymile non-lethal wolf predation control implementation plan, 92.125(4).**DISCUSSION:** The Fortymile Non-lethal program was suspended in 2001. The Board repealed the regulatory language as it is no longer valid.**PROPOSAL NO. NO. 131****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Implement predator control plan for Delta caribou herd**DISCUSSION:** The board and the department discussed the efforts to reduce the moose population in Unit 20A, which is also an area of location for the Delta

Caribou herd. The department commented that the predator control efforts in Unit 13 should address the concerns of this proposal.

Proposal No. 142

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Unit 23 nonresident caribou bag limit

AMENDMENT: Set nonresident bag limit to two caribou for the 2006 hunting season, and decrease it to one for the following years.

DISCUSSION: The board took action in March to reduce the nonresident caribou bag limit from five to two in an effort to reduce the user conflict and wanton waste problems in the Kotzebue area. The board reconsidered the proposal to address concerns about the number of hunts already booked for the upcoming hunting season. By changing the bag limit, guides who have hunts booked will be able to fulfill their contracts. The board referenced the public testimony at both the Fall and Spring meetings and noted that the transporters did not participate. The board urged all users who utilize game resources to partake in the regulatory process.

PROPOSAL NO. 157

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify grizzly bear predation control program to increase effectiveness

DISCUSSION: The board took no action based on their action taken on Proposal 163A.

PROPOSAL NO. 162

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Update wolf predation control plan for Unit 19A (Emergency regulations adopted January, 2006)

AMENDMENTS: Minor housekeeping changes were made including updated numbers for predator and prey populations.

DISCUSSION: The department provided a detailed review of the Unit 19A wolf predation control plan and provided updated data for predator and prey populations in this area. The board discussed the importance of the wolf predation control plan in Unit 19A. The residents in this area are highly dependent on moose for sustenance and subsistence needs are not being met. Seasons have become increasingly restricted as the ungulate populations have declined. The board commented that aerial hunting permits are going to local residents who want to see the moose population recover; it is not an opportunity for sport hunting.

PROPOSAL NO. 162A

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Wolf predation control plan for Unit 19A

DISCUSSION: The board reviewed the language and found that the plan remains essentially unchanged from the emergency regulations in proposal #162. The proposal includes browse survey information and updated numbers for the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS). The board agreed with the department analysis of the low moose populations and discussed the statutory mandate to intensively manage for healthy ungulate populations when there are high levels of human harvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 163**ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Update existing predator control implementation plan for Units 12 and 20E (Emergency regulations adopted January, 2006)**AMENDMENTS:** Minor housekeeping changes.**DISCUSSION:** The department provided a detailed review of the Unit 12 and 20E wolf predation control plan including updated data for predator and prey populations which the board agreed that the information provided by the department justified the need for the predator control plan.**PROPOSAL NO. 163A****ACTION: Carried as Amended****DESCRIPTION:** Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Implementation Plan.**AMENDMENT:** Remove language relating to habitat as a limiting factor for the Forty Mile caribou herd population.**DISCUSSION:** The proposal expands the current Unit 12/20E wolf control area to include portions of Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E and 25C, and expands the Unit 20E brown bear control area to include additions in the Fortymile, Sixtymile, and Ladue River drainages in Unit 20E. The expanded control area covers the Fortymile caribou herd range and a portion of the Nelchina caribou herd range. The department provided a detailed review of the updated control plans. The board concurred with the justification of the expansion to help recover the moose population and reiterated their intent to bring the Fortymile caribou herd population back up.**PROPOSAL NO. 164****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Update existing predator control implementation plan for Unit 19D East (Emergency regulations adopted January, 2006)**AMENDMENTS:** Minor housekeeping changes.**DISCUSSION:** The board reviewed department updates on the predator and prey harvest and population data. Local residents are highly dependent on ungulate populations for their sustenance. In spite of several measures taken to increase moose numbers, population and harvest objectives are not being met. The board agreed that the information provided by the department provides the justification for the continuation of the program.**PROPOSAL NO. 164A****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Update existing predator control implementation plan for Unit 19D East and establish a bear predation control implementation plan in 19D East**DISCUSSION:** The department provided a thorough review of the proposed changes to the 19D East control plans. Establishing a black and brown bear control plan will improve moose calf survival and provides the department with an additional management tool. The board inquired about the history and the current status of the bear population in the EMMA. The board supported the addition of the bear control plan and with the recent board action of allowing the sale of hides, the board believes there will be an incentive for local hunters to harvest more bears. The board agreed that the department provided adequate information to justify the need for 19D East predator control plans.

PROPOSAL NO. 165**ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Update predator control implementation plan for Unit 13 (Emergency regulations adopted January, 2006)**AMENDMENTS:** Corrections to predator and prey population numbers.**DISCUSSION:** The Department presented detailed information on the predator control implementation plan for Unit 13, including the benefits to the public and the increase of ungulate populations. The board and department discussed the costs to private persons under the land and shoot program and noted that participation has decreased, but objectives were met this past year. The board noted past public testimony at both the Winter and Spring 2006 board meetings by many Alaskans who expressed the critical need for continuing the program. The board referenced the intensive management statute which mandates the board to manage for sustained yield and high levels of human harvest through active management measures. The Department of Law reassured the board that the land and shoot program is not in violation of the federal Airborne Hunting Act. There was some discussion about giving trappers the ability to pull gear out of the field once the department issues wolf control closures. The board agreed that the department provided adequate information to continue the predator control implementation program.**PROPOSAL NO. 166****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Update predator control plans for Unit 16B**AMENDMENT:** Minor housekeeping changes including updated data on population and snow depths, and the referencing of federal land within the Unit.**DISCUSSION:** The department provided a thorough review of the predator control plans for Unit 16B. The board discussed the decreasing moose population in the area and noted that objectives for both population and harvest are not being met. This area historically provided an abundance of moose and the population has declined considerably. The area has a 92% mortality rate of moose calves. Multiple steps have been taken to help rebuild the moose population, including restricting hunters, liberalizing bear hunting regulations and implementation of the wolf control program. The board and department discussed the costs to private persons under the land and shoot program and noted that participation has declined, due in part to poor fur quality. The board considered the habitat in the area and determined that habitat is not a primary concern for the sustainability of moose. The board referenced past public testimony a significant amount of local support for predation control in this area. The board concurred that the department provided adequate information to support the program.**PROPOSAL NO. 166A****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Wolf predation control plan for Unit 16B**AMENDMENT:** Modify boundary to include the Deshka River.**DISCUSSION:** The board discussed the need for modifying the boundary. Under the current plan same day airborne pilots cannot follow wolves that cross the Kahiltna and Yentna Rivers that make up the effected border area. These packs

regularly prey on Unit 16B moose that travel to Unit 16A and use the rivers as travel corridors. There will likely be incidental benefit to the moose population in Unit 16A as a result of the inclusion of that portion to the plan and will contribute to recovery of moose population in Unit 16B. There is significant local support for predation control in this area.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Emergency petition to extend the brown bear season in Unit 22A

The board considered a petition requesting the extension of the brown bear hunting season in the Unalakleet River drainage of Unit 22A to end June 15, 2006; the current season ends May 31. The board extended the season date to end June 15 at the Fall BOG meeting in Kotzebue, effective beginning the 2006-2007 regulatory year. The board discussed and concurred that the petition does not meet the emergency criteria as described in the Joint Board Petition Policy in 5 AAC 996.625(f).

Emergency regulation repealing 5 AAC 92.070 (b)(1): Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system

The board considered and adopted an emergency regulation repealing specific language pertaining to the Tier II scoring system which is necessary pending the Alaska Supreme Court's decision in the Manning case.

Intensive Management Finding for Unit 20E Moose

The board approved the expansion of the area for the moose population and harvest objections identified under 5AAC 92.108 for Unit 20E. The identified population and harvest objections remain the same, but are applied to a larger area.

Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

The board discussed and adopted supplemental findings to the intensive management findings set forth under 5AAC 92.108, for Units 12, 13, 16, 19 and 20. (BOG Findings 2006-165 through 169). The supplemental findings reflect the changes made to the updated predator control implementation plans. The board also updated the language in the Bear Conservation and Management Policy (BOG Finding #2004-147) which was adopted as BOG Finding # 2006-164.

Interim Memorandum of Agreement with Federal Subsistence Board

The Board agreed to continue a working relationship with their federal counterparts. Board member Ron Sommerville volunteered to continue efforts to improve the relationship and to draft amendments to the IMOA addressing the boards' concerns to be presented to the federal subsistence liaison team.

Wildlife Enforcement

Department of Public Safety Commissioner, Bill Tandeske addressed the board regarding the merger of the Fish and Wildlife Protection Division into the Alaska

State Troopers Division. While the board appreciated hearing from the Commissioner, they expressed their intent to draft a letter to legislative leadership expressing the critical need for separation of the division from the Troopers. (See BOG Resolution #2006-163-BOG)