

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game  
2017-220-BOG**

**Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game provided  
during the Special Meeting on Copper Basin Area Moose and Caribou Hunting  
March 21, 2017**

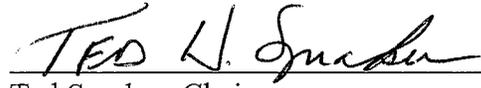
The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the Department take the following actions:

1. When necessary, increase the bag limit to two caribou, except during the September 1 – 20 moose season.
2. Regarding the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest “CSH” moose hunt, and consistent with earlier findings, the board found that the ability to take any bull moose regardless of antler size or configuration is an important component of the community pattern of subsistence hunting. The ability to take any bull regardless of antler characteristics must be limited because of the potential to overharvest certain age classes of bulls. For many hunts, regulations that restrict antler characteristics of legal animals to spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines (SF50/4) protects those age classes, however, they do not provide the any bull opportunity consistent with the community pattern of subsistence harvest.
3. Currently, the board limits any bull opportunity in the CSH moose hunt by providing 1 any bull permit for every three households and closes the hunt when 100 bulls in the middle age classes needing protection are taken.
4. However, the board found that providing 1 any bull permit for every three households does not satisfy the need for reasonable opportunity for three reasons. First, the hunts can be very short and may close with little warning and participants may not get a chance to hunt before the season closes. Second, the competition from hunters can be very intense during the early days of the season. Third, some households do not receive an any bull permit and are not able to take a bull that is presented to them. The board heard testimony that it is traditional in the Ahtna culture to take any bull that presents itself to the hunter, and that it would be culturally inappropriate to not take a bull that presents itself.
5. Because the opportunity for hunting for any bulls in the community pattern of harvest must be restricted, the board determined that the any bull permits should be distributed to CHS moose hunt participants using the existing scoring criteria described in 5 AAC 92.070.
6. The any bull hunt does not currently provide reasonable opportunity and participation must be restricted. The SF50/4 portion of the population does not require participation to be restricted, and all moose hunts in this area allow harvest of SF50/4. The combination of a limited number of any bulls distributed through existing scoring criteria described in

5 AAC 92.070 and the opportunity to take bulls that meet antler restrictions (either through the CSH or other hunts) satisfies the need to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence, and the need to provide opportunity to take any bulls in a hunt consistent with the community pattern of harvest identified in earlier findings.

Vote: 5-1-1  
Adopted March 21, 2017  
Glennallen, Alaska

  
Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game