

No. 92-57-BOG

March 26, 1992

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GAME

### AREA SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS 12, 20, 25C, 11, 13, 14

The Board of Game agreed with the March 25, 1992 recommendations of the Quasi Committee of the Whole with the following exception:

Insert a new number 3 as follows:

3. Southcentral Region, Area Specific Management Plans. Change the state controlled and private in-holding lands to a Zone 5 from the Department recommended Zone 4.

Renumber the remaining two recommendations to number 4 and 5 respectively.

March 25, 1992

## REPORT OF THE QUASI COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### TO CONSIDER AREA SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS 12, 20, 25C, 11, 13, 14

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Board of Game: Dick Burley, Al Franzmann, Don Hanks, Sidney Huntington, Ken Johns, Rosemarie Maher, Skip Wallen; Non-voting members: Northern Arctic Environmental Center, David van den Berg; Alaska Wildlife Alliance; Valerie Brown; Anchorage Advisory Committee; Larry Holmes; Upper Tanana/40 Mile Advisory Committee; Frank Entsminger.

The Committee reviewed the zone concept as outlined in the Alaska Strategic Wolf Management Plan. Included in this review was the Department's interpretation of zone definitions used to prepare draft Area Specific Plans (see attached definitions). The Committee concurred that the Department's expanded definitions were consistent with the Board's intent and that the Department followed the guidelines laid out in the Strategic Wolf Management Plan.

Draft Area Specific Management Plans and their underlying assumptions were reviewed in detail. There was some concern expressed by the public that the public had not had adequate opportunity for review of the portions of the plan dealing with management objectives. The Committee also recognized that although there was some difficulty in completely understanding the Draft Area-Specific Plans without implementation plans, that the Area-Specific Plans were necessary before Implementation Plans could be developed.

During the course of discussion the Committee did recommend zone changes to the proposals submitted by the Department.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Interior Region, Second Draft of Area Specific Management Plan. Change the eastern portion of GMU 20E to a Zone 5. Change the northeastern portion of 20D and northeastern portion of 20B shown as a question mark to Zone 7 based on public input and management objectives. Also change the western portion of GMU 20E shown as a question mark to Zone 7. These changes were made to better reflect management objectives and in recognition of the 40 mile caribou herd calving grounds.

2. Interior Region, Second Draft of Area Specific Management Plan. Change the area designated as Zone 6 surrounded by Zone 4s in the northern portion of GMU 25C to Zone 4 to better reflect the management objectives.
3. All other areas of the game management units considered would remain as recommended by the Department in the Draft Area Specific Management Plans.
4. The Department is directed to: (1) continue to solicit public comment on Area-Specific Management Plans, (2) include the public in reviewing wolf and prey population objectives, (3) provide alternative management objectives for varying intensities of management in any Zone 5, 6 or 7 included in a draft implementation plan, and (4) publish the Draft Area Management Plans in the Fall Proposal Book for additional public review.

The Committee recognizes the public concern about wolf population regulation or reduction on lands adjacent to parks and preserves.

The Committee, like the Department and the public, had difficulty in some game management units finding a zone that corresponded with the wolf management objectives or current and projected human use patterns. This was due to the zone descriptions in the Strategic Wolf Management Plan. In some cases because of prey management objectives it was necessary to use a different zone. Higher or lower zones were used to comply with the Strategic Wolf Management Plan even though intensive management of wolves or prey may or may not be planned during the life of the Area Specific Plan. Because of these difficulties, the Committee recommends that the Department draft wording changes to the zone definitions in the Strategic Wolf Management Plan for consideration at the November Board Meeting.

Finally, the Committee commends the Department for its efforts in putting together the Draft Area Specific Plans during the timeframe adopted by the Board at the Fall 1991 meeting.

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