

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS

Intensive Management for Unit 19D

95-86-BOG

1. Given the long hunting history and importance moose to the economic and social well-being of residents of Game Management Unit 19D, the Board finds that human consumptive use is the preferred use of moose in Unit 19D.

2. Based upon information provided by the Department and public testimony regarding habitat condition and potential, population characteristics and trends, sustained yield principles and various ecological relationships, the Board has determined the moose population should be at least 6,300 animals with an annual sustainable human harvest of 340. The current moose population is estimated at 2,100. Last fall's harvest was about 83-90 and next fall's harvest is expected to be about 83-90.

3. The moose population is depleted and its productivity is low. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in the allowable moose harvest.

4. According to information provided the Board, the moose population has been depleted and its productivity reduced primarily by deep snow and wolf predation. Of these two factors, only wolf predation is manageable.

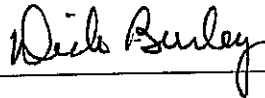
5. The habitat can support a moose population at least three times the size of the current population. The Board believes it is feasible to enhance the moose population through recognized and prudent management techniques.

6. According to information provided the Board, a moose population subject to a wolf:moose ratio of 1:50 can be expected to increase under favorable weather conditions. The wolf:moose ratio in Unit 19D (east) is currently is 1:12. At this

ratio the moose population can be expected to decline regardless of weather effects. The Board finds wolf numbers should be reduced until a ratio of 1:50 is observed.

7. Therefore, in order to increase calf survival, improve productivity and increase the moose population, the Board finds it appropriate to request a draft wolf control implementation plan be developed by the Department and presented to the Board at the October 1995 meeting to allow the Board to consider options to reduce the number of wolves in the area.

DATE: March 31, 1995



Dick Burley, Chair

VOTE: 6 Favor 0 Oppose 1 Absent