



CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE WORKSHEET, ALASKA HARES AND SNOWSHOE HARES, UNITS 9, 10, 11, 13, 16B, 17

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Proposal 135

- Proposal to close hunting season for Alaska hares in Units 9C, 9D and 9E
- Current regulations have no closed season and no bag limit for Alaska hares in Unit 9
- The Department submitted this proposal
- Alaska hare populations have decreased dramatically since 1980. Alaska hare is locally known as “jackrabbit”
- No C&T finding for Alaska hares in Unit 9
- Full C&T worksheet for all resident hare species (Alaska and snowshoe) in RC 4 – Tab 6.3



Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use (all hares)

- Documented historical and recent uses of hares for food and raw materials.
- Dena'ina Athabascans, Upper Cook Inlet/Bristol Bay/Iliamna
 - Important food source, obtained mainly by trapping and snares
 - With porcupine, most common small mammal taken for food
- Ahtna, Copper Basin (Gakona)
 - primary small game species target
 - 48% of Gakona households harvested hares in 1982
- Aleut, Alaska Peninsula (Sand Point)
 - 20% of households used hare in 1992



Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use

- Notable source of both food and fur
- Iliamna/Lake Clark
 - Trappers rely on hare as seasonal cash income



Criterion2: Seasonality

- Available year-round
- Harvest focused in winter/spring when other food sources are scarce
- Ethnographic testimony crediting hares for community winter survival
- Taken while searching for large game like caribou
- Copper Basin residents take hares as early as August



Criterion 3: Efficient Means and Methods of Harvest and Economy of Cost

- Hare hunting practiced jointly large land mammal hunting
- Taken opportunistically or in directed hunts
- Women traditionally used snares, men shotguns
- Traps and snares still used
- After-school activity for boys (Iliamna)



Criterion 4: Geographic Areas

- Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 16B and 17 (none of which contain non-subsistence areas)
- Forest and tundra terrain
- Close proximity to community
- Hare availability a criteria for choosing hunting camp placement



Criterion 5: Means of Handling, Preparing, Preserving and Storing

- Food consumption: eaten fresh or frozen for later use
- Fur for personal use/crafts:
- Little data on processing, preserving, storing



Criterion 6: Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge, Skills, Values and Lore

- Social organization of land mammal hunting parties involved children
- Hunting camp in areas with hares
- Snaring techniques taught to children by elders
- Young people practice rifle skills hunting hares



Criterion 7: Distribution and Exchange

- Hares widely shared, within and without hunters' home community
- Upwards of 30% of households give hare away
- Unlike large game, hares given away whole
- Eaten as camp food



Criterion 8: Diversity of Resources in Area; Economic, Cultural, Social and Nutritional Elements

- Part of the diverse, large subsistence harvest in all GMUs where they occur
- Important component during lean winter months when other resources are scarce
- Introduce young people to hunting practice and contributing to local subsistence economy



CONCLUSION

- Hares have a long history of use in Units 9, 10 and 17
- Harvest is variable and data collection infrequent
- Recommend against making an Amount Necessary for Subsistence determination at this time
- Questions?

