

5 AAC 96.625. JOINT BOARD PETITION POLICY

(effective September 19, 2019)

(a) Under AS 44.62.220, an interested person may petition an agency, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation. The petition must clearly and concisely state the substance or nature of the regulation, amendment, or repeal requested, the reason for the request, and must reference the agency's authority to take the requested action. Within 30 days after receiving a petition, a board will deny the petition in writing, or schedule the matter for public hearing under AS 44.62.190--44.62.210, which require that any agency publish legal notice describing the proposed change and solicit comment for 30 days before taking action. AS 44.62.230 also provides that if the petition is for an emergency regulation, and the agency finds that an emergency exists, the agency may submit the regulation to the lieutenant governor immediately after making the finding of emergency and putting the regulation into proper form.

(b) Fish and game regulations are adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. Annually, the boards solicit regulation changes through regulatory proposals described in 5 AAC 96.610(a). Several hundred proposed changes are usually submitted to each board annually. The Department of Fish and Game compiles the proposals and mails them to all fish and game advisory committees, and to other interested individuals.

(c) Copies of all proposals are available at local Department of Fish and Game offices and on the boards support section's website. When the proposal books are available, the advisory committees and hold public meetings in the communities and regions they represent, to gather local comment on the proposed changes. Finally, the boards convene public meetings, which have lasted as long as six weeks, taking department staff reports, public comment, and advisory committee reports before voting in public session on the proposed changes.

(d) The public has come to rely on this regularly scheduled participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.

(e) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. The boards find that petitions received under (a) of this section can detrimentally circumvent this process and that an adequate and more reasonable opportunity for public participation is provided by regularly scheduled meetings.

(f) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize that in rare instances circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in (b) - (d) of this section. It is the policy of the boards that a petition will be denied and not scheduled for hearing unless the problem outlined in the petition justifies a finding of emergency under AS 44.62.250(a). In accordance with state policy expressed in AS 44.62.270, emergencies will be held to a minimum and are rarely found to exist. Except for petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future. Petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing will be evaluated under these criteria:

- (1) the petition must address a fish or game population that has not previously been considered by the board for identification as a population customarily and traditionally used for subsistence under AS 16.05.258; or
- (2) the circumstances of the petition otherwise must require expedited consideration by the board, such as where the proposal is the result of a court decision or is the subject of federal administrative action that might impact state game management authority.

(Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95; am 8/17/91, Register 119; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 9/19/2019, Register 231)

Authority: AS 16.05.251, AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258

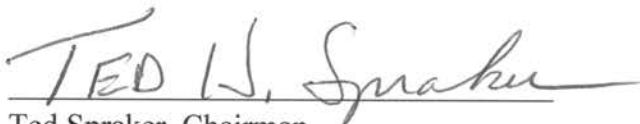
ALASKA JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME

CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD-GENERATED PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that criteria need to be established to guide the Alaska Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, Board of Fisheries, and Board of Game (boards) members when deliberating on whether or not to develop a board-generated proposal. The boards will consider the following criteria when deliberating the proposed development and scheduling of a board-generated proposal:

1. Is it in the public's best interest (e.g., access to resource, consistent intent, public process)?
2. Is there urgency in considering the issue (e.g., potential for fish and wildlife objectives not being met or sustainability in question)?
3. Are current processes insufficient to bring the subject to the board's attention (e.g., reconsideration policy, normal cycle proposal submittal, ACRs, petitions)?
4. Will there be reasonable and adequate opportunity for public comment (e.g., how far do affected users have to travel to participate, amount of time for affected users to respond)?

Findings adopted this 16th day of October 2013.



Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
Vote: 6-0



Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Vote: 7-0

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2023-228-BOG
BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Policy duration: Date of finding through July 2028
This policy supersedes BOG policy #2016-215-BOG))**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, for customary and traditional uses for Alaskans, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and
4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases trapping seasons will

be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September, April, and May. Opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty-year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are declared “depleted” or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced, and these populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish before an adequate level of population control is achieved. In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary

to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

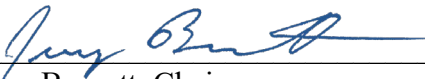
Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

References Cited

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Vote: 7-0
January 19, 2023
Ketchikan, Alaska



Jerry Burnett, Chairman
Board of Game

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2023-227-BOG
BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Expiration Date: July, 2028
This policy supersedes BOG Policy #2016-214-BOG)

Purposes of Policy

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

Goals

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as a harvestable opportunity, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for customary and traditional uses, viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

Background

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, a unique species opportunity for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, , and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board, the Department , and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing and will continue to enforce laws against persons who feed bears illegally.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears has been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The Department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste

management problems. The Department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. The Department has the regulatory authority to address human/bear conflicts and has developed a detailed approach to investigating incidents involving bears and humans. In addition, the Department has developed a detailed wildlife safety curriculum for use internally and by the public, with considerable focus on bears. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to remove problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. The brown bear harvest has remained stable over the last 10 years, despite more liberal regulations governing take. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g., Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department take an active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, and the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (*West vs State of Alaska*, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

Brown and grizzly bears

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62nd parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after by hunters for the unique hunting opportunity generally only found in Alaska and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are usually smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may have expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-

Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km² (450 bears/1,000 mi²). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km² (1,420 bears/1,000 mi²). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km² (100 bears/1,000 mi²). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km² (12 bears/1,000 mi²) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board, and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g., Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

Black bears

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km² (175 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km² (750 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago, black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km² (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi²).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also sought after for their fur/hides, and as predators of moose calves. The Board classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders) and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if mature bears are to be preserved and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

Guiding Principles

The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Ensure subsistence uses of bears are provided in accordance with state law.
3. Ensure public safety near population centers.
4. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
5. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
6. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
7. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.
8. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
9. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.
10. Simplify hunting regulations for bears and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.
11. Recognize the increasing value of mature brown bears, especially in Units 1-6 and 8-10, and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
12. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

Conservation and Management Policy

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In all non-subsistence areas, the priority is to ensure continued subsistence uses of bears in accordance with state law. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for mature adult bears for hunting, and for viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as for sustainable populations for harvest, food animals, and viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily for sustainable populations, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. Near population centers bears will be managed to ensure for public safety. In some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

Monitoring Harvest and Population Size

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and age class is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general, drawing, or registration hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to provide for subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

Managing Predation by Bears

In order to comply with the AS 16.05.255, the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations. The Board may promulgate regulations that allow the Department to temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may

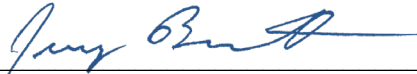
also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases, the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125 or 92.126) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by Department staff
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters.

The Board intends that with the exception of baiting, the above-listed methods and means will be authorized primarily in situations that require active control of bear populations, and only for the minimum amount of time necessary to accomplish management objectives. The Board allows baiting of black bears as a normal method of take in broad areas of the state and will consider allowing brown bear baiting as a normal method of take in select areas.

Vote: 7-0
January 19, 2023
Ketchikan, Alaska



Jerry Burnett, Chairman
Board of Game

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-193-BOG
Unit 26B Muskoxen Findings
January 18, 2012

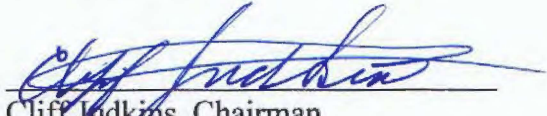
The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of muskoxen in Unit 26(B). These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.126.

1. Unit 26(B) muskoxen are not managed intensively for high levels of human harvest, but they are managed to provide hunting opportunities. The population objective is a minimum of 300 muskoxen ≥ 1 year old during April surveys. The harvest objective is 3–9 muskoxen annually, once the population reaches 300 and a harvestable surplus is available.
2. The Unit 26(B) muskox population and harvest objectives are not being met. The muskoxen population size was estimated at 190 in April 2011 which is below the population objective of 300. The hunting season for Unit 26(B) muskoxen has been closed since regulatory year 2006–2007 because there is no harvestable surplus.
3. Predation by brown bears was identified as a primary source of mortality on muskoxen and is an important cause of the failure to achieve the population and harvest objectives. During 2007–2011, brown bear predation was identified as the primary source of mortality. Sixty-two percent of the documented total adult muskoxen mortality ($n=73$) was attributed to brown bear predation, which accounted for an average of 9 adult muskoxen deaths annually. During the same time period, 58 percent of documented calf mortality ($n=45$) was caused by brown bear predation. This resulted in an annual average of 5 calves known to be preyed on by brown bears.
4. During 2007–2011, the habitat appeared capable of supporting a larger muskoxen population. Captured muskoxen were generally in good condition, and birth rates were sufficient to provide for population growth, but growth was not realized because of poor survival.
5. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving the objectives. During 2004–2011, the population remained relatively stable at around 200 muskoxen. Evidence indicates that the number of yearlings being recruited annually approximately equaled the number of adult muskoxen dying annually. If survival rates of either adult muskoxen or calves increase, then the muskoxen population is expected to increase. Reducing predation on adults and calves should change survival rates of one or both. During 1987–1995, the annual rate of increase for the entire population was 7%. This time period should be representative of what the population growth rate Unit 26(B) muskoxen could experience if bear predation is reduced and habitat is not limiting.
6. Reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns. Most of Unit 26(B) is state land; the land ownership pattern is 69 percent state, 29 percent federal, and 2 percent private. Of the 29 percent federal lands, 12 percent is Bureau of Land Management,

Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.

8. Increases in moose recruitment and abundance in the Subunit 15A population are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control in combination with habitat improvement.
9. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: 7-0
January 18, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

BOARD FINDINGS AND POLICY REGARDING
BOWHUNTING

FINDINGS

- I. Alaska's comparatively low population, large land area open to hunting, and long seasons generally afford all individuals who use legal, specialized weapons a reasonable hunting opportunity;
- II. General permit hunting may restrict hunting effort both spacially and temporally, resulting in lower hunting densities, and providing additional high quality opportunities for bowhunters;
- III. Bowhunting provides a comparatively large amount of high quality recreation with regard to biological cost;
- IV. Bowhunting as one legitimate use among others is a management tool and may be applied, as appropriate, to achieve desirable management goals.

POLICY

- I. Bowhunting is recognized as a legitimate method of taking game in Alaska and is to be encouraged;
- II. It is acknowledged that where practicable and within reasonable limits, bowhunting shall be encouraged in areas open to the taking of game but closed to the discharge of firearms;
- III. In certain areas, for certain species, where the take of game must be limited or the area closed for management or safety reasons, bowhunting may be permitted when hunting with firearms is prohibited;
- IV. Though appropriate in many areas, it is acknowledged that aspects of bowhunting are highly visible and that bowhunting may be restricted on that basis.

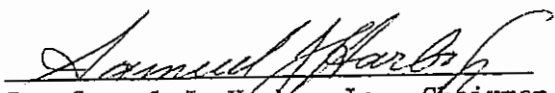
Editor's Note:

- (1) Areas closed to the discharge of firearms may be open to other legal methods of hunting; for example, bowhunting in Denali State Park.

The Board deliberately allowed bowhunters to continue to carry sidearms for added safety while bowhunting in areas closed to hunting by means of firearms. However, if abuses involving sidearms appear, bowhunters will be deprived of the extra security a sidearm provides.

ADOPTED: April 2, 1980
Fairbanks, Alaska

VOTE: 7/0


Dr. Samuel J. Harbo, Jr., Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME RESOLUTION

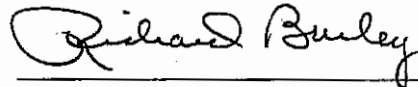
#95-83-BOG

Whereas ANILCA created several national park units in Alaska which are closed to hunting with the exception of qualified subsistence users; and

Whereas actions by the State of Alaska have and could continue to cause a loss of those opportunities on national park lands;

Therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Board of Game requests the Governor and the State Legislature to consider the ramifications of any actions when dealing with the subsistence issue which may jeopardize present subsistence uses on national park lands.

DATE: January 25, 1995



Richard Burley, Chair

VOTE: 6 Favor, 1 Absent

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
Regarding Customary and Traditional Uses of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
2014-204-BOG**

At its January 2014 meeting in Kotzebue, the Alaska Board of Game (board) took up Proposal 23, sponsored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, to determine whether the Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH) in game management units (GMUs) 22, 23, 24, 26A, and 26B were customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence under AS 16.05.258(a) and 5 AAC 99.010(b).

The board was first presented a customary and traditional use worksheet for consideration of the TCH in 1990. From the administrative record, it is not clear whether a customary and traditional use determination was made by the board at that time.

In 1992, when the board completed a review of subsistence regulations after passage of the 1992 subsistence statute, the board did not consider the TCH. However, the board did review the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) and established an amount reasonably necessary of 8,000–12,000 caribou. The WAH proposal prepared by the department included some caribou harvest information from Wainwright and Barrow, which now are known to be among the primary users of the TCH. Harvest information from other North Slope communities that are primary users of the TCH were not included (e.g., Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass). The administrative record remains unclear if the 1992 board specifically included the TCH in the amount reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence of the WAH.

To ensure compliance with the requirements of AS 16.05.258, in January 2014 the department presented the board with a customary and traditional use worksheet for the TCH, in the form of a written report and an oral report, at its meeting in Kotzebue. Board deliberations on the findings of customary and traditional uses lead to a positive determination for the TCH, and that there was a harvestable surplus of the caribou population.

Caribou are present on the North Slope year-round. Four caribou herds intermingle at various times of the year: the WAH, the Central Arctic caribou herd (CAH), the TCH, and the Porcupine caribou herd (PCH). Although the TCH has demonstrated high fidelity to calving areas surrounding Teshekpuk Lake, extensive use of coastal habitat for insect relief, and broad use of the coastal plain west of the Colville River drainage in late summer, its use of winter ranges is highly variable and the overlap between the TCH with WAH and CAH animals can be extensive during fall and summer.

Following the board's findings, the department then presented options for ANS to the board. The options were included in both a written report and an oral report. One of the options was to forego establishment of a separate ANS for the TCH because caribou harvest data from some communities considered the primary users of the Teshekpuk caribou herd (Barrow, Wainwright) were included in the information reviewed by the board in 1992 when the ANS for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) was determined to be 8,000–12,000 caribou. The 2014 department reports stated: "While the administrative record of that meeting is limited at best, it may be that

the [1992] board set the WAH ANS with TCH animals in mind, in effect, creating a combined ANS for the two herds.”

After deliberation, the board determined that the ANS for the TCH was already included in the 8,000–12,000 caribou it had determined for the WAH, given the 1992 board’s consideration of some North Slope community harvests in establishing the WAH ANS.

At its February 2014 meeting in Fairbanks, during deliberations on Proposal 50, the board re-affirmed the positive finding for Teshekpuk caribou, and re-affirmed that the ANS for Teshekpuk caribou was considered to be part of the ANS for the Western Arctic herd. The board also communicated its intent that the positive finding for Teshekpuk caribou carried into ADF&G Region III units.

Nothing in this finding prevents the board from changing either herd’s amount reasonably necessary for subsistence.

Vote: 7-0
February 21, 2014
Fairbanks, Alaska


Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Policy #81-29-GB

Finding and Policy for
Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd

1. The management goal of the Game Board's resolution #1, September 21, 1976, was to rebuild the Western Arctic Caribou Herd to 100,000 breeding age animals. This goal will in all probability be attained during summer 1981.
2. This herd is a principal source of food for residents living within the range of the herd. Other Alaska residents and some nonresidents utilize a small portion of the herd, of which the harvest has been severely restricted since fall 1976.
3. The recent rapid rate of recovery of the herd at approximately 14 percent annually is in part a result of unusually low natural mortality due to the recent mild winters, possible reduced rates of wolf predation, and the herd conservation concerns of the residents also the herd's range in conjunction with harvest restriction.
4. At the present population level of approximately 140,000 animals there are portions of the herd's range which remain underutilized by the herd--notably the Koyukuk valley.
5. Assessment of the habitat's capabilities and condition can be determined by evaluations at varying population levels and consistent or nonconsistent migration patterns arising from development of access corridors or other human activities.

THEREFORE, future management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd should be to:

1. Provide a greater proportion of the annual increment to those users most dependent on the herd for sustenance;
2. Allow a gradual increase in herd size for expansion into traditional ranges;
3. Maintain a portion of the annual increment for periods of increased natural mortality; and
4. Maintain periodic assessments of the habitat to determine long-term carrying capacities.

ADOPTED: Anchorage, Alaska
April 5, 1981

VOTE: 6-0 (Bennett absent)

Dr. Samuel J. Harbo, Jr.
Chairman, Alaska Board of Game

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
Regarding Customary and Traditional Use of Muskoxen
in Northwestern Unit 23
98-118 BOG

At its October 1997 meeting in Nome, the Board of Game took up a proposal sponsored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to determine whether there is a customary and traditional use of muskoxen in northwestern Unit 23. The muskoxen now in Unit 23 were introduced in 1970 and have been protected from hunting by state law, since then. Muskoxen in Unit 23 represented an unusual situation for the C&T determination process because muskoxen have been absent from that area for many years. Unlike muskoxen on the Seward Peninsula no federal hunt has been established on this population of muskoxen on federal lands so there has been no reported recent use of muskoxen by residents of Unit 23.

Board deliberations on the findings of a customary and traditional use lead to the following conclusions:

Criterion 1: A long-term consistent pattern of non-commercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over a reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.

While the Board of Game did not find that a consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance on this re-established population had occurred over a period of not less than one generation (approximately 30 years), the Board did find that the reason was due to an interruption by circumstances beyond the users' control.

Muskox bones and horns have been found near Cape Thompson and Kivalina associated with other cultural materials at known archeological sites. Inupiaq oral histories include references to muskoxen and one muskox was reported to have been taken by a Point Hope resident in 1946. In addition to the direct evidence of customary and traditional use of muskoxen in Unit 23 there is a good record for use of muskoxen on the North Slope by the Inupiaq culture. The Inupiat people of northwestern Unit 23 share that culture, which includes the use of muskoxen for food and blankets.

Criterion 2: A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.

Due to the long interruption of the availability of the population the board could not determine directly when muskoxen were taken in Unit 23. A pattern of taking muskoxen during the late-winter and spring has become established for muskox hunting on the newly established federal hunt on the Seward Peninsula and on the North Slope. Even though the

federal hunt was established with specific seasons, extensions have been granted to accommodate the developing pattern of taking.

Criterion 3: A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

Due to the long interruption of the availability of the population the board could not determine directly the method and means of harvest in Unit 23. In neighboring areas, the primary transportation is by snowmachine and foot without the use of aircraft or other expensive commercial services. Muskoxen harvests are efficient and economical to local hunters. The grouping behavior of the animals when approached allows hunters to easily get within range and select animals to harvest.

Criterion 4: The area in which the noncommercial, long-term and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock or game population has been established.

The current range of muskoxen is within the area that has traditionally been used for subsistence hunting of large land mammals by residents of Point Hope and Kivalina. Therefore, if hunting were allowed it would likely occur in this area.

Criterion 5: A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.

While many families now use freezers for storage, most fish is smoked or dried as is some moose and caribou. Since muskoxen have not been harvested in this area in many years the Board of Game could not address the handling and preparation of muskoxen directly. However, available information suggests that the handling and preparation, preservation and storage would occur in the same manner as that of other big game subsistence species. On the Seward Peninsula and on the North Slope, the meat is salvaged and used and hides are used for warmth as blankets or clothing. There has been no trophy use of horns or hides.

Criterion 6: A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.

Hunting knowledge in the communities within Unit 23 are known to be passed along from parent to child. Learning commonly occurs when children accompany their parents during hunting, fishing, and gathering activities. When hunting large animals young boys are taught hunting skills by older brothers, fathers, or uncles.

Criterion 7: A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

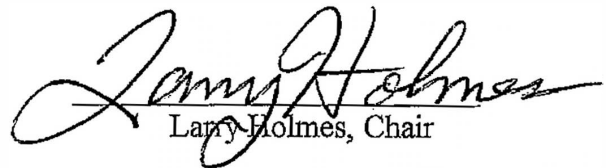
Sharing of big game and other wild resources is common in communities of Northwest Alaska as demonstrated by subsistence surveys indicating that virtually every household received such gifts.

Criterion 8: A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.

Communities in Unit 23 take, use, and rely upon a wide diversity of game resources. Documented harvests ranged from 398 pounds per capita in Kotzebue in 1989 to 762 pounds per capita per year in Kivalina 1992 (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1997). The typical community harvests about 50 different species of plants, fish, and wildlife each year. It is also well documented that economic opportunities for cash are few and mean household income is low, therefore wild foods are essential to many people of Unit 23.

After weighing the individual criteria, the board found that there is a customary and traditional use of muskoxen in Unit 23. The board believed that muskoxen were used, to the extent they were available, prior to extirpation from the area, and that this use would have resumed, but for legal constraints, as soon as animal were again available. The extirpation was not within the control of current users.

DATE: January 18, 1998
Bethel, Alaska


Larry Holmes, Chair

VOTE: 7-0

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2025-238-BOG**

**Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game
provided during the Special Board Meeting Regarding Intensive Management for the
Mulchatna Caribou Herd**

July 15, 2025

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. To continue to monitor the sustainability of the predator populations to identify if conditions require the Commissioner to review, modify, or suspend program activities.
2. To recognize calving grounds have and will shift over time, the Department will continue to monitor the herd to identify changes in calving periods and locations of calving grounds.
3. To conduct Department removal of brown and black bears on the calving grounds, and during the time frame immediately preceding and during the calving period and as conditions warrant.
4. That adding black and brown bears to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Plan in 5 AAC 92.111(c) is not intended to alter existing wolf removal authorizations.

Vote: 7-0
July 15, 2025
Anchorage, Alaska



Jake Fletcher
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
Regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
2025-235-BOG
March 27, 2025**

The Board of Game finds that an emergency exists regarding the declining Mulchatna Caribou herd, necessitating immediate action to preserve the health and general welfare of Alaskans who depend on the herd. This herd is important for providing high levels of human harvest and has long been important for subsistence users as well as for other Alaskans and nonresident hunters. Currently the herd has declined to a level where no hunting can occur. The Board aims to ensure that a large number of calves to be born in the spring of 2024 will survive, to ensure reproduction into the future. The Department documented extensive bear predation on newborn calves, including by direct observation, and consistently found calves in bear stomachs for the bears taken at the calving grounds in 2023 and 2024. The density of bears in the western calving area leads to an estimate that a similar number of bears would be removed this year if predator control is continued. The Board's intent in 2022 was to implement a predator control program to take bears and wolves for three years. This is considered a minimum period to provide sufficient data to confirm the success seen by the Department. The Mulchatna Caribou herd is responding positively to intensive management. There is no evidence that the intensive management program has impacted or will impact sustainability of bears or wolves in the area. The program covered a small area and was for a limited time during the peak calving season, and failing to take bears and wolves in the area during the calving season for the third cumulative year will threaten the recovery of the herd. There is an immediate threat to the caribou and the Board finds that a delay in acting would result in a situation where a significant number of caribou would not be available in the future. When the intensive management program was first implemented in 2023, the Board and the Department did not have population or density estimates for bears in the area within the prior few years, but the information available indicated the bear population was large and growing while the caribou population was declining. One estimate was an expectation that approximately 30 bears would be taken in 2023; the actual take of almost 100 bears showed there is a high population of bears. The Department has identified brown bears as the primary cause of death of calves within their first two weeks of life. The Board considered a great deal of oral testimony and written comments presented over many days, where such comments were both in support of and opposed to continuing predator control of bears. The communities directly impacted by the caribou decline, including local Advisory Committees, are in support. The Alaska Federation of Natives adopted a resolution, unanimously, supporting the intensive management program.

Vote: 6-0-1 (*John Wood absent*)
March 27, 2025
Anchorage, Alaska



Jake Fletcher, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

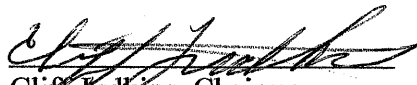
complete closure of the nonresident season (closed in 2009), and season and bag-limit restrictions for resident hunters. The reduced recruitment and low bull numbers have resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.

7. The intensive management harvest objectives for the MCH in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B will not be achieved in the near future unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment.
8. Increases in caribou recruitment and abundance in the MCH are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
9. The harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf and brown bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted. Population objectives are currently being met, however, low recruitment precludes this population from meeting harvest objectives.
10. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: 7-0

March 9, 2012

Fairbanks, Alaska



Cliff Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-197-BOG
Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd)
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 9, 2012**

The Board of Game finds as follows: based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents, and users of caribou in Subunits 9B, 17B, 17C, 19A, and 19B. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and 92.125.

1. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 30,000 - 80,000 caribou and an intensive management harvest objective of 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually for the MCH.
2. The most recent minimum population size estimate for the MCH indicates that the herd contained between 30,000 and 40,000 caribou in 2008, which is at the lower limit of the intensive management population objective of 30,000 - 80,000 caribou.
3. The harvestable surplus of MCH caribou in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), is currently estimated to be 1,050 caribou annually, which is less than intensive management harvest objective established by the Board of 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually.
4. The cause of the decline of the MCH caribou population in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B is not known with certainty but was likely due to weather-related and/or density-dependent factors that resulted in range limitations and disease that caused low pregnancy, low calf production and low calf survival. The poor recruitment also affected a shift in the population's age structure toward older-aged individuals that was not conducive for population growth. The density-dependent factors affecting population growth have become less important in limiting population growth as the number of MCH has declined to 15% of peak numbers. Nutritional indices (pregnancy rates, calf weights, and the prevalence of disease) have improved, and the population's age should no longer be skewed to older animals.
5. The importance of predation in affecting population growth harvest has increased the current low population size. The poor survival of calves and calf recruitment currently observed can be reasonably attributed to the influence of predation on caribou calves. A caribou calf mortality study conducted in May and June 2011 found that predation by bears and wolves accounted for 89% of the of calves that died between birth and 1 month of age. Fall calf:cow ratios in the MCH have averaged 22 calves:100 cows since 2005.
6. The low MCH caribou calf recruitment in Units 9B, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B has prevented recovery of the bull:cow ratio to objectives (3-year average bull:cow ratio = 19 bulls:100 cows between 2009 and 2011), a decrease in the number of harvestable caribou, a

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2011-188-BOG
Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19B (Mulchatna Caribou Herd)
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
March 30, 2011**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff; Alaska residents and users of caribou in Subunits 9B, 17B, and 17C. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108.

1. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19B has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 30,000 - 80,000 caribou and an intensive management harvest objective of 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually for the MCH.
2. The most recent minimum population size estimate for the MCH indicates that the herd contained between 30,000 and 40,000 caribou in 2008, which is at the lower limit of the intensive management population objective of 30,000 - 80,000 caribou.
3. The harvestable surplus of MCH caribou in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19B, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), is currently estimated to be 1,050 caribou annually, which is less than intensive management harvest objective established by the Board of 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually.
4. The cause of the decline of the MCH caribou population in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19B is not known with certainty but was likely due to weather-related and/or density-dependant factors that resulted in range limitations and disease that caused low pregnancy, low calf production and low calf survival. The poor recruitment also affected a shift in the population's age structure toward older-aged individuals that was not conducive for population growth. The density-dependant factors affecting population growth has become a less important in limiting population growth as the number of MCH caribou declined as evidenced by improved nutritional indices. Nutritional indices (pregnancy rates, calf weights, and the prevalence of disease) have improved as the number of caribou in the MCH declined, and the population's age structure has progressively improved.
5. The importance of predation in affecting population growth and recovery has increased as population size decreased. The poor survival of calves and calf recruitment currently observed can be reasonably attributed to the influence of predation on caribou calves. Fall calf:cow ratios in the MCH have averaged 22 calves:100 cows since 2005.
6. The low MCH caribou calf recruitment in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19B has resulted in a low bull:cow ratio (17 bulls per hundred cows in 2010), a decrease in the number of harvestable caribou, a complete closure of the nonresident season in 2009, and season and bag-limit restrictions for resident hunters. The reduced bull recruitment and bull numbers have resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.

7. The intensive management harvest objectives for the MCH in Units 9B, 17, 18, and 19B will not be achieved in the near future unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment.
8. Increases in caribou recruitment and abundance in the MCH are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
9. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf and brown bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
10. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: 6-0-1
March 30, 2011
Anchorage, Alaska


Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game