

Copper River/ Prince William Sound Advisory Committee

PO BOX 1663

CORDOVA, ALASKA

99574

(907)424.3101

Committee Action: Passed 10-1

Proposal 125

Proposal: Reauthorize antlerless moose season GMU 6C

Issue: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually.

What will happen if nothing is done: ADF&G will lose a management tool, local subsistence could be disrupted.

Will the quality of the resource harvested or products produced be improved: Yes

Who is likely to benefit: Species, subsistence users, sport hunters.

Who is likely to suffer:

Other solutions considered: Population objectives for GMU 6C is 400.

The carrying capacity which was last completed in the early 1990's using all the available information suggests the habitat on the west delta was good enough that the herd could range from 400-1200 animals. The lower herd carrying capacity was chosen because of concern that during a severe winter, 400 would be easier to manage. There is an ongoing study to update the carrying capacity, with results being released in the fall of 2014. ADFG latest estimates conducted in 2012 put the herd at about 600, with 21% being calves. The 2013 bull cow ratio at 40-50 bulls-100 cows. In 2012, the USFS did a sample estimate on the west delta and found that due to large bull harvests in 2008,2009, that the bull to cow ratio in dropped to about 10-100, far below the preferred range of 20/25-100. The 2013 bull to cow ration has shown the west delta is very productive, with a speedy rebound in the bull to cow ratio that would make most managers jealous. Currently all of the antlerless harvest takes place under federal regulation in 6c, but the AC recommends the board reauthorize the antlerless season in 6c under state regulation, this is a tool managers can continue to use if

from Dec 5th meeting

