

Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee
January 26, 2017
Cantwell School Library

- I. The meeting was called to order: 7:00 pm by Don Holum, Chair
- II. Members Present: Don Holum, Caleb Holum, Gordon Carlson, Lance Williams, Harold Mowery, Ray Atkins, Bruce Gore
Members Absent Excused: J Marie Gore, Jeff Burney
Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6
- III. Approval of Agenda: Elections and Copper Basin Moose & Caribou Proposal
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Already done
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Sherry Wright, Boards
Dept Staff Present: Maggie Stang, AWT
- VI. Guests Present: Public Present: Justin Mason, Dan Wright
- VII. Public Testimony - none
- VIII. Old Business: none
- IX. New Business: The committee discussed and approved making four regular seats and no alternates this election.

Elections were held with the following results: Regular members Bruce Gore, Gordon Carlson, Lance Williams and Justin Mason.

Justin Mason was elected to fill the remainder of the secretary term.

Welcome to Justin and thanks for being willing to serve.

Committee discussed representative for the Copper Basin caribou and moose meeting. Lance moved to send Don Holum. Caleb 2nd. Approved by unanimous consent.

General comments on CSH: Puts a burden on administration to enforce, to manage. Prefer to keep it simple. If the BOG pulls the CSH, there needs to be something to take its place for those who are already enrolled in that program.

Alaska Board of Game Copper Basin Special Meeting

March 18 – 21, 2017 in Glennallen, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Vote Outcome	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
8	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose.		
Support	6	2	<p>Support - Through the general season there is plenty of opportunity for the subsistence hunter. One of the problems is that it is out of hand. As a citizen of Alaska, some go up to Noatak to hunt. We have the liberty to hunt. We have enough moose to go around and shouldn't be in a subsistence hunt situation. Prefer a simple general season. Federal subsistence is available for the 8 original communities. Many of the people that signed up for community hunt won't show up – they would prefer someone else harvest. The number of “communities” has increased annually. Land belongs to everyone.</p> <p>Oppose - What will replace the CSH hunt – there is concern for those who have planned on that hunt. Biggest complaint is the early hunt. Community hunt is not being used as a community hunt – it is being abused (buddies forming up to say they are a community). That isn't depriving anyone of any other hunt – you still decide which hunt you want to participate in. They needed to define ‘community’. Concern is throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Similar to Obamacare – what are you going to replace it with. This was put together with the Tier II system for the elders to get any bull. If we had roads all over Alaska, it would disperse the pressure on the road connected areas. Another option would be to require to sign up for 5 – 10 years – would love to see it for fish, birds, everything. We hunt where we live.</p>
20	Replace the community subsistence harvest moose hunt with a Tier II moose season.		
			Tier II was corrupted and don't believe putting that back in place will change anything.
30	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou.		
Support as amended	7	1	<p>Referenced comments on Proposal 8.</p> <p>Support – Caribou hunting has gotten further out of hand than the moose. Unit 13 is locked – you either hunt Tier 1, CSH, or drawing. The Tier I meets all the subsistence opportunity required. The designated hunter has been viewed in a negative way. The intent of a designated hunter is good – but those coming may not be the best hunter. It's carnage.</p> <p>Oppose – You are taking away the designated hunter. Those that we hunt for are over 60 years old. With proxy hunt, you can only go hunting for other person besides yourself. If there was some designated hunter or proxy option (specify 65 years and older or handicapped). This meets the cultural and traditional aspect of the CSH.</p> <p>AMENDED: to include the option under Tier 1 to proxy for someone 65 or older or blind or disabled and not have that limited to only 1 proxy. 8-0 approved</p>
34	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou, increase the number of caribou household Tier I permits, and shorten the season.		
No action			<p>Oppose - There should only be one caribou per household, if subsistence has a maximum of one caribou per household. The herd take a long time to recover. Support young people hunting their own animal, but witnessed two sisters each take a caribou, apparently under a draw. This is not equitable. Shortening the season is essentially eliminating it for those that draw the hunt.</p> <p>Support - This hunt is only authorized as long as there is a population objective that is high. The drawing is taking a chance and it allows you to hunt in other parts of Alaska. If you are successful, you can't put in for it the following year. You have options as long as the population is there.</p>
37	Lengthen the caribou season, increase winter caribou bag limit, and establish a youth hunting season.		
No action			Early harvest allows for nice fat caribou – later they are in the rut and the meat is not edible. The month they allow for the rut has a reason. This proposal also contains

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			several items and should be submitted as separate issues. It makes it difficult to determine a vote. Don't feel this has any benefits to lengthening the season.
41			Shorten the season dates for the Unit 13 caribou draw hunt, and remove the requirement that Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13
No action			This speaks to the overcrowding issue. This would squeeze the drawing into 2 week windows and shorten the season date. Much of the overcrowding has come from requiring people to choose Unit 13. December is the application deadline for signing up. We are under a 2 year obligation under CSH. If that is pulled, there is no other opportunity to take caribou for those who signed up for that hunt.

Next meeting will be around 2nd week of April in order to hear a report of BOG Copper Basin meeting in Glennallen and discuss proposals to submit for the upcoming Call for BOG proposals.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:55 pm.

Minutes Recorded By: Justin Mason
Minutes Approved By: AC Minutes Approval Committee
Date: 2/2/2017