

Matanuska Susitna Valley AC
January 3rd, 2018
Palmer MTA Building

Call to Order: by Herb Mansavage at 7:07 pm

- Roll Call:
Members Present: Andy Couch, Austin Manelick, Birch Yuknis, Bob Marshall, Dan Montgomery, Danny Lewis, Hans Nordstrom, Mel Grove, Neil DeWitt, Tim Stephans and Herb Mansavage

Members Absent: Chad Lipse, Terry Nininger, David Young, Mike Buirge, Steve Bartelli

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: Eight, 11 Present
- List of User Groups Present: ADF&G, Frontiersman, Representative David Eastman
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- Approval of Agenda: Agenda amended to talk about Water turbidity by Andy Couch and approved
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved without objection for the 12/13/17 meeting
- Fish and Game Staff Present:
Tim Peltier Wildlife Biologist III
Colson Wildlife Biologist II
Wildlife Biologist II

Kassidy
Chris Brockman
- Guests Present: Jerod McClure representing Representative David Eastman
Tim Rockey from the Frontiersman
- Old Business: None
- New Business:
- Andy wanted to let us know there is a meeting tomorrow with DEC about the water turbidity on the Little Su and Kenai River. Also possible some information on Hydrocarbons in the Little Su and Lake Lucille. Andy and Chad may go.
- Austin wanted to know why Birch was videoing the meeting. Birch stated it was so he could do the minutes and still participate.
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Alaska Board of Game Central/Southwest Region Meeting

February 16 – 23, 2018 | Dillingham

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
84	Raise the population objective for moose in Unit 16B		
oppose	0	11	<p>Neil Proposes to consider, Hans 2nds.</p> <p>Niel does not feel that there are as many moose as suggested in the proposal. Current objective is 6500-7500 moose. Current 7418 moose based on 2010, 2011 and 2014 data. 1989 estimates were 8500 +/- 1000. ADF&G states good calf survival of 30%. A harsh winter could knock the population down. Montgomery won't support, he feels this could be revisited in 3 years. He feels we are due for another harsh winter. Birch concurs with Montgomery. Herb agrees moose numbers are up in 16B. ADF&G is Neutral. Andy asked about if we are in or out of Predator Control. ADF&G stated they suspended the wolf control part in 2014. Bear control in 2016. Seasons are till liberal in 16B for bears.</p>
85	Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 16B Remainder (DM540, YM541 and RM574)		
support as amend	7	4	<p>Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds</p> <p>Andy supports due to hard areas to access. Andy feels that this hunt would allow for all hunters to participate without worry of a 50"/brow tine issue. Bull Cow Ratio has always been within limits. Large areas of the unit that are hard to access. Birch brought up that there is already DM540 draw for an any bull in 16B. If a registration hunt, the hunt may end early and Birch prefers to hunt later in the season. Dan can't support extending the season 5 days, afraid of overharvest at the end of the season. ADF&G is neutral. Dan feels that the earlier season option might work. Mel won't support. Mel brought up that this proposer has a proposal to increase the population objective and then in this proposal wants to extend the season. Dan does not feel that the later season and an any bull component would work. One but not both. Dan feels the BOG should proceed cautiously if either or both are adopted. Herb brought up the access issue again. That even the Tier II winter hunt people have a hard time getting out due to snow conditions. Also that extending the season could lead to over harvest.</p> <p>Andy amends proposal to: Allow an any bull season from the 20th of August September 10th. 2nd by Herb. Birch brings up again the DM540 tag of which there are 300. Out of the unit this last year 398 total bulls were taken from 16B in all hunts. ADF&G said about 20% chance to draw DM540. Andy got the tag three years ago and hasn't</p>

			<p>drawn it since. Dan clarifies the draw chances at 35% with all six chances, ADF&G corrects that you can only do three any bull draws. So percent is down to half that. Neil clarifies that Kalgin is no longer in 16B. The DM540 has a success rate of 62% of those who hunted this permit. Austin feels there would be more pressure during that early season. Austin is afraid of overharvest with the any bull. Andy does not feel overharvest early in the season would occur due to brushy conditions. Andy is not a fan of the antler restrictions. Andy knows of LE that does not hunt where there are antler restrictions. Can't take the chance on a 49" bull.</p> <p>Amend passes 7-4</p>
86	Shorten the season for black bear baiting in Unit 16		
oppose	0	11	<p>Neil proposes to consier. Hans 2nds Montgmery mentioned that this AC in the past actually proposed to have a longer baiting season. From previous discussion the calving survival rate 30 calfs per 100 cows and twinning rates (50%) are high. Dan sees no need to reduce harvest. Birch concurs. Fish and Game states their is no biological concern for black bears in unit 16.</p>
87	Prohibit the harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 16		
oppose	0	11	<p>Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Dan does not support. Dan feels there are still plenty of brown bears in unit 16. Dan also feels that the moose are still recovering. Dan has personally hunted in the unit and feels the brown bears are especially causious around bait stations. Birch concurs with dan. ADF&G does not feel there is any biological concern for brown bears in Unit 16.</p>
88	Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 16		
oppose	0	11	<p>Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Neil does not support due to the fact that he contacted 257 different hunters during hunting season out there this last year and all saw bears. Too many bears. Dan does not feel there is a shortage of bears. Herb concurs with Dan.</p>
89	End the predator control program for black and brown bear in Unit 16		
oppose	0	11	<p>Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Neil wants to reference his comments from 88. ADF&G states that the predator control program is suspended in 16. Program is on the books until 2018. Hans likes this tool available for the Department. Dan participated when this program first came out. ADF&G stated that initially that was the case, many people participated but once people figured out how hard baiting is that participation dropped off dramatically. Dan liked that the guides could use the predator areas to add an extra use area for the guides.</p>
90	Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16		
support	11	0	<p>Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Neil likes. Birch concurs. ADF&G states that there is no biological concern for beavers in Unit 16. Austin feels that some beaver dams are preventing salmon from reaching spawning grounds. Herb</p>

			mentioned that there is a strong population of beavers in unit 16. Herb also concurs with Austin.
91	Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for caribou and moose in Unit 13		
support	9	2	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Birch supports and generally agrees with the proposer. Neil feels that all residents are Alaskans. That everything should be equal for all. Herb strongly supports. Hans is in favor. Hans feels taht the proposer is trying to level the playing field, so no one has an advantage over another user group.
92	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunts for moose and caribou		
support	10	0-1	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Hans supports, he feels the CSH program should be ended. Herb concurs. ADF&G is neutral. ADF&G gave a summary of the MArch meeting in Glennallen last year. ADF&G did not know if Spraker's request for a letter of guidance from the AG from the last meeting in Anchorage has happened. Neil brought up how the locals from the CSH liked it the first few years but do not like it so much now that everyone knows about it and that more residents participate. Andy abstained. He likes any bull hunts
93	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13		
support	11	0	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds See Proposal 92 notes (No any bull so Andy does not abstain)
94	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13		
support	11	0	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds See comments for Proposal 92
95	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in Unit 13		
support	11	0	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds See comments for 92
96	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in the Copper Basin area, and establish a registration moose hunt for Unit 13		
oppose	0	11	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Andy prefers proposal 96 over 95 which gives an opportunity for more liberal moose harvest by a registration hunt. ADF&G feels that there would be high participation and need for a quota and the hunt closing very quickly. Dan knows the proposer and cannot support due to the antler restrictions, making things more complicated. Dan feels with current regs you end up with a bunch of two brow tine bulls that don't get to 50". Herb amands wants to Amed to Any Bull for registration hunt. Hans 2nd. Herb likes registration hunts. Andy Feels the amend just takes out some of the requirements on the CSH permit. Also that there would be high participation and the hunt would be shut down pretty fast. Dan wants to see a a way to harvest these inferior bulls. Dan does not know the answer but feels that we are affecting the genetics by the current regs and harvesting a certain segment of the population. Austin does not think this would work in unit 13, more access but in

			Unit 11 and 12 might work. Amendment Fails 2-9
97	Remove the requirement for applicants to have specific customary and traditional use patterns for participating in the community subsistence harvest hunts in Unit 13		
Support	7	3-1	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Andy states that when you fill out a CSH application you say you are going to follow these certain cultural practices. The proposer is saying that we are all Alaskans and why do we have to follow this groups practices. That a person can say this is my traditional way of hunting and these are the practices I want to follow. Andy supports. Birch concurs with Andy. Dan does not agree with CSH permit system at all and does not want to support anything related to it. Herb abstained due to this proposal keeping the CSH permit process. He sees Dan's point and does not want to propogatge this system
98	Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions		
Oppose	0	11	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Neil mentions that due to comment in proposal book that the BOG may take NA on this proposal. Birch wantst to vote this down based on one group forcing their practices on the rest of us. One group should not be able to force their values onto another group. Herb concurs. Danny states tht this is racial and really has nothing to do with standard bag limits. Birch just wanted to get on the record that not enough proposals are vetted. That he wished a proposal would have to be approved by at least one AC to get put in the book. This proposal would have still made it most likely but more proposals need to be vetted to make the BOG and the AC's job more streamlined. Andy does not like having to have someone go thru an AC to get a proposal in the book. See's value in both ways.
99	Remove the requirement that Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters, community subsistence harvest (CSH) moose and caribou hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in Unit 13		
Oppose	3	8	Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds Herb strongly agrees with not having Tier I caribou hunters be forced to hunt moose in Unit 13. Neil is against it because the only road system close to Unti 13 is 16A and that is where he feels the moose hunters would go and he feels 16A moose are still recovering. Andy asks do you have more moose hunters in Unit 13 because of this? Andy supports this concept. Hans asks the Department of any concerns. If moose hunters are not tied to the Tier I caribou why apply for a drawing permit? Just apply for your free Tier I permt and get a guaranteed caribou tag then go hunt moose where you want. Lots of drawing permits for caribou for this area. ADF&G would lose a significant amount of \$ if nobody applied for the drawing hunt in this area and went with the Tier I. ADF&G has issued the maximun number of permits(5000) for this hunt the last few years. Tim mentioned there is still opportunity for caribou on the 40 mile herd. Herb feels that such a high caribou population means allot more

			<p>opportunity. Mel does not support, if they are separated you will have allot more people hunting caribou in Unit 13. Danny again states we are managing people not the resource. Mel asks the department if they would ever issue registration permits for this area if the herd keeps growing? The departemnt states that there would have to be a registration hunt on the books and there currently is not one. Mel does not apply for this Tier I as he wants to hunt moose elsewhere. Dan brought up how the number of Tier I permits has increased for this area and has lead to more pressure and people in the area. Andy brought up that we could probably have a general season hunt, but people like long seasons and want to hunt at different times. That the Tier I hunt is basically a registration hunt.</p>
100	Remove the requirement for Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13		
Oppose	2	8-1	<p>Neil proposes to consider. Hans 2nds See notes for 99 Andy abstained</p>

Other Business: Dan will be our representative at the Dillingham meeting.

Herb wants an AC deadline for the AC vs the BOG deadline of Feb 2nd. AC chose Jan 31st as the AC deadline.

Next meeting: might be Tuesday(1/9/18) to accomodate Dan. Then another meeting the 17th of January

Want to cover proposals131, 132 and 133 at next meeting in addition to the others

Adjournment: 9:15 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Birch Yuknis

Minutes Approved By: Advisory Committee

Date: January 9, 2018 meeting