

Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Date: 01/23/18

Location of Meeting: Glennallen School

- I. The meeting was called to order: 5:21 PM by Chuck McMahan
- II. Roll Call: Members Present: Lee Adler, David Bruss, Christopher Gene, Nick Jackson, Chuck McMahan, Jim Oden, Dave Sarafin, Bradley Sinyon, Alysia White

Members Absent Excused: Don Horrell

Members Absent Unexcused: Frank Hobson, Chad Gerlach, Brad Henspeter

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 7

List of User Groups Present: Ahtna

Approval of Agenda:

- III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- IV. Fish and Game Staff Present: Frank Robbins, Fish and Game

- V. Guests Present: Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna

- VI. Public Testimony

- VII. Old Business:

- VIII. New Business:

Aaron Bloomquist resigned and Mike Roscovius will not run again

Elections: Alysia White, Chuck McMahan, Don Horrell, Brad Sinyon, Lee Adler, Chad Gerlach

Officers: Alysia White Chair, Chuck McMahan Vice Chair

Proposals 91-98 Discussion: Over 40 proposals in spring 2017 meeting. Most proposals were to get rid of the hunt all together. Community hunt has a quota of up to 100 any moose bull tag. So after the meeting it was decided to use the Tier 11 type criteria (5 questions) when you signed up for the community hunt. With only 100 locking moose tags out hopefully it will take longer to fill the tags, not a race because every three households got tags so everyone was rushing to get a any bull before they get shut down. We are hopefully more unit 13 residents will get more of the any bull locking tags using this method.

Are we spinning our wheels here because we haven't even tried the system?

Like to see things play out this year. The things we are voting on here aren't going to go into effect this year.

Alaska Board of Game 2017/2018 proposals

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
72	Establish archery-only registration hunts for moose in units 9,11,13,14a,14b,16,17		
Oppose		9	No need for special hunt, plenty of opportunity during regular season. This proposal is at the end of moose season when moose are rutting. They want to have it so they have their own time period.
73	Establish archery-only registration hunts for Dall sheep in units 9,11,13,14a,14b,16,17		
oppose		9	No need for special hunt. Sheep season is long as it is. They want to have it so they have their own time period. Want an advantage with early season, they can still hunt with bow during normal season.
74	Remove the resident bag limit restriction of one Dall sheep every four years in the Central/Southwest Region		
oppose		9	It might only affect 8 sheep in the whole state if you go by Chris Harper reasoning, so it probably wouldn't make much difference either way. Some would like to see one every 4 years across the board for residents and nonresidents. Sheep numbers are down compared to the number of hunters. Some think residents should have an advantage over non residents.
75	Allow nonresidents to obtain one general season Dall sheep permit in a regulatory year in Central/Southwest region		
			See 74
76	Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for the central/southwest region		
support	9		Leave the way it is now
92	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunts for moose and caribou		
No action			Community hunt brought more hunters to our area. We like the original intent of the community hunt for the local people, but now it is open to everyone. Due to the state constitution. Too many people. Hundreds of people in Eureka and Chistochina trail that did not hunt here before. Had special meeting in spring 2017 had special meeting to address the issue. We support the idea of a community hunt but not as it is being ran now. Like the idea of eliminating the community hunt but don't like the number of 100 moose. Will this satisfy state subsistence? Drawing permits don't meet subsistence laws.
93	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunts for caribou in unit 13		
No action			So many chances to hunt caribou in this area without the community hunt. With the current caribou hunt structure subsistence needs will probably be met.
96	Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in the Copper Basin area, and establish a registration moose hunt for unit 13		
No action			Attempting to offer something as a replacement to the community hunt for moose. Anyone in the state could sign up for it. Will be like a race like it is on the Taylor highway. Winter 2014 winter registration hunt had 400 people sign up, so even more would sign up in August. It would be a high demand quick hunt.
99	Remove the requirement that Unit 13 Tier1 caribou hunters, community subsistence harvest (CSH) moose and caribou hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in unit 13.		
oppose		9	We will end up having more hunters by uncoupling the caribou and moose requirement for Tier 1 caribou. If you uncouple then more people will put in for the Tier 1 hunt. We already believe the hunt is too crowded as it is now.

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100	Remove the requirement for Unit 13 Tier 1 caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13		
withdraw			Withdraw, all 9 members want to withdraw our proposal
101	Establish a youth hunt season for caribou in unit 13		
oppose		9	Don't need a special season for youth. Youth generally hunt with adult anyways.
102	Open a nonresident caribou hunting season in unit 13 and allocate 3 up to ten percent of drawing permits to nonresidents when population objectives are met		
oppose		9	<p>If herd is 40000, then state would probably do this.</p> <p>Unit 13 is already too congested with resident hunters. Only so many parking areas off highways and trails and area for people access the area. Do we want to add nonresidents to the mix.</p> <p>Since this area is a subsistence hunt area do we want to see it open to nonresidents? At times when you need to take more caribou because of high population and we aren't meeting quota then why not utilize the opportunity to issue more tags, even to nonresidents. Will this then bring in more guides to the area? Caribou do not require guides anyway. Do we want to wait to do this until the state goes to a guide use area on state lands?</p> <p>How do you sell for a permit in Nov. or Dec. the year prior when the population estimates for the year haven't been set yet. We are issuing permits way before we know how many tags we have to issue to begin with. Nonresidents may apply for tag and then state may not be able to issue</p>
103	Change the community subsistence harvest hunt season dates for moose to align to with the general hunt		
No action			Then there is no subsistence priority as far as time goes. The community hunt takes only about 20 percent of the moose taken in unit 13. No action
104	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in unit 13		
approve	9		<p>Gives the State the opportunity to do a hunt if numbers allow. Only issuing 10 permits right now. Could issue up to 1 percent. It is a good tool for biologists.</p> <p>Does this take away the tool of predator control, no. Both are tools the state can use to keep health populations of moose. A split season hunt fall and spring, about 7 out of 10 actually take an animal. Spring the cow may be pregnant, but this will help with animal population. If you only shoot bulls you really skew the cow bull ratio.</p>
105	Eliminate the antlerless moose hunt in unit 13		
			No action see 104
106	Eliminate the drawing permit hunt dm324 for moose in unit 13		
Oppose		9	Only 5 permits issued.
107	Open a late resident hunting season for moose in units 11 and 13		
Oppose 1 abstain		8	<p>Some years no snow in Nov. rivers not frozen up. So most opportunity would be along the road. How would you administer the hunt? A bunch of people would be showing up to try and get permit, big line at fish and game. Winter hunt 2014 400 people showed up. A lot of private property along the highway.</p> <p>Hunters on broken out trap lines because of ease of using those trails.</p>
108	Change the antler restrictions for moose in unit 13		
Oppose	1	8	

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109	Change the “any ram” bag limit to “full-curl” for the Dall sheep permit hunts in unit 13d and 14a		
Oppose	2	7	The drawing hunt with any ram has less tags but has decreased hunter competition. Not hurting the population. Average is 5 sheep taken. 2016 mean age is 8 and a half. Ave. age in last 5 years is 8. Only issuing 12 tags. Gives opportunity. Not that many taken. Sheep are not a subsistence animal, 90 percent of people are hunting for horns. Trophy hunt. Good meat to eat, some people prefer it. Most full curl anyway.
110	Change the drawing permit hunt for goat in Unit 13d to a registration hunt		
withdraw			Withdraw it. All 9 members want to withdraw our proposal
111	Open a fall season for hunting brown bear and black bear over bait in unit 13		
Oppose	0	8	No closed season for bears now except over bait. Don't like fall bait season during moose season. Don't feel safe walking around. Meat taste bad bears eating fish.
112	Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in unit 11		
Support	8		What will it hurt. We will kill more bears but don't take that many there anyways. Along the river one side is June 30 and other is June 15, making it the same will be easier
113	Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in unit 13		
No action			No action see 115
114	Extend the trapping season for wolverine in unit 13		
No action			No action see 115
115	Extend the trapping season for wolverine in units 11 and 13		
As amended support	8		As amended to last day in February (to take leap year into consideration). It used to go until end of March before. This proposal is for end of February so generally still good fur. No biological reason to not do it for all of 11 and 13. It can be monitored and if a problem is detected that numbers are going down then we can do a proposal to go back to January if you have to. Wolverine are pregnant in November as they are in February.
116	Allow trappers the incidental take of two furbearer in units 11 and 13		
support	8		Incidental take does happen. This proposal would help trappers by allowing them to have two incidental takes. There is no bag limit on the number of furbearers you can trap during the trapping season. So we don't believe allowing 2 incidental takes would hurt populations. We believe that many times the take is happening and just not getting reported. Wolverine that get taken in Wolf traps will die, if one is still alive you have to kill it to get it out of the set. Otter get caught in beaver sets. The seasons do not align with each other.
117	Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in unit 11		
Oppose	2	6	The ones causing the problem are generally over bag limit anyways, they don't follow the rules anyways
118	Reduce the bag limit and shorten the season for grouse in unit 11		
Oppose	1	7	May help ruffed grouse population
119	Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in unit 13b		
support	8	0	Most of Alaska goes beyond the Jan date.
120	Align the hunting seasons and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in units 13e and 13b		
No action			No action see 119

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121	Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in unit 13b		
No action			No action see 119
122	Modify the Sourdough Controlled Use area		
support	7		House keeping. Allow hunters to camp in the sourdough campground which is within the sourdough controlled use area. Also allow hunters to launch boats and travel the gulkana river to access the western boundary of the sourdough controlled use area.
123	Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area descriptions.		
Support	7		Using Trails as a boundary are easier for hunters to understand than using a drainage.
124	Eliminate the Unit 13-specific proxy requirements.		
Oppose		7	Is this different than other areas of the state? If you eliminate the specific proxy requirement you will end up having people taking advantage by taking a lot of other tags and filling them and folks not getting the animal. Before the reg was put in place to begin with a lot more people came out to hunt. This is tied to proposal 93.

Other items: Ruth McHenry asked that we support House Bill 272: Tangle Lakes as a Refuge. She said we supported it in the past.

Christopher Gene had to leave at 8:38 pm

Lee Adler left 10:09pm

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

Minutes Recorded By: Alysia White
 Minutes Approved By: Chuck McMahan
 Date: 1/31/18