

Copper Basin Advisory Committee

Date: 12/14/20

Location of Meeting: telephonic

I. Call to Order: 5:00 PM by Alysia Hancock

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Alysia Hancock, Chuck McMahan, Brad Henspeter, Jim Odden, Dave Sarafin, Don Horrell, Kirk Wilson, James Horrell

Members Absent (Excused): Lee Adler

Members Absent (Unexcused): Mercedes Knighten, Chris Gene, Nick Jackson, Brad Sinyon, Dave Bruss

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Heidi Hatcher, Troopers McGinnis and Davil, Mark Somerville, Todd Rinaldi, Tracy Hansen

IV. Guests Present: Gloria Stickwan

V. Approval of Agenda

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

VII. Reports

a. Chair's report

b. ADF&G

c. Others

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Old Business

X. New Business: Federal Subsistence Fish proposals that affect our area, decide to wait to go over Fish proposals, take action on Central/Southwest and Statewide Game proposals

XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting

XII. Set next meeting date

XIII. Other

Adjourn 10:56 pm

Alaska Board of Game Central & Southwest Region Meeting Proposals January 22-29, 2021 Wasilla, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
1	Shift to later moose hunting seasons in Units 13 and 14		
oppose	0	8	Moose are in rut past Sept. 20 th . Moose are more accessible and easier to be seen. Are there any studies showing climate change is shifting the rut?
2	Establish registration archery seasons for Dall sheep in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
3	Open an archery only season for Dall sheep in Units 13, 14A, 14B, and 16		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
4	Establish a registration hunt by bow and arrow only for Dall sheep within Units 9, 11, 13A, 13B remainder, 13C remainder, 13D remainder, 14A remainder, 14B, and 16		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
5	Establish three archery registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 where there are general season hunts		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
6	Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region		
support	8	0	This is a housekeeping proposal. We like allowing residents to be to take a brown bear if they see one without having to make sure they have a tag with them.
7	Increase bag limit for black bear in Units 13D and 16		

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oppose	0	8	The current limit is 3 black bear. We feel this is enough. Most people don't take more than 1 anyways. There are more baits in unit 13D than anywhere else in the unit and we feel 3 black bears is enough.
8	Shorten coyote trapping season in Units 9, 13, 14B, 16 and 17		
support	8	0	When seasons are aligned it is easier for people to understand. It will prevent by catch of lynx. Take animals when fur still good. In April you need to check more often or you will likely get green belly. It can also become hard to get out on the line to check with break up.
9	Extend the wolf trapping season in Units 13 and 16		
oppose	0	8	Wolves are denning in May. Take animals when fur still good. In April you need to check more often or you will likely get green belly. It can also become hard to get out on the line to check with break up.
10	Allow the harvest of beaver by bow and arrow under a trapping license with salvage requirements in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16		
			See 11
11	Add bow and arrow as legal method of take for beaver in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16		
oppose	0	8	This would be a special provision for archery. There is concern if you don't hit it in the head you are likely to not be able to retrieve the animal. Beaver will dive and good chance of losing it. There was discussion of use of Bow Fishing equipment that has a line attached to make for easier retrieval. We don't allow use of a firearm in unit 13 so why would we allow bow and arrow? Beaver are abundant.
51	Expand the DI454 bison hunt area in Unit 11		
	4	4	<p>Some bison have moved south near McCarthy. It seems to be a localized group now, doesn't appear to be growing in size.</p> <p>If a road hunt were opened for this group then they would definitely not grow and become an established group because this hunt would provide good access to them. They would get killed.</p> <p>The current hunt with the boundaries already provided has good hunter success.</p> <p>In the area they want to expand to you would need a Ahtna permit. What would Ahtna Lands department think about this proposal?</p>

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			<p>This proposal would provide access to a group of bison in an area that has access.</p> <p>Years ago the north end boundary was extended north and the bison did also expanded their range.</p>
52	Repeal the “pre-2018” caribou hunting regulations for Unit 13		
support	8	0	This is a housekeeping proposal to remove 2018 language. We were advised that it should have already been taken out by fish and game.
53	Increase the community subsistence caribou hunt allocation in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	<p>In 2018 number went from 300 to 400. The history of the hunt is that there has not been harvest in the community hunt more than 300.</p> <p>In the past, in order to give more opportunity when caribou numbers have been high the state allowed for up to 2 caribou to be taken per household instead of the 1 it normally is.</p> <p>There are 44 communities across Alaska utilizing this hunt. Only 16 “locals” were successful out of the 256 harvested.</p> <p>There is plenty of opportunity, we understand wanting to provide opportunity to people who live in 13 but it won’t do this by increasing the allocation.</p>
54	Increase the youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	There is plenty of opportunity already. We do not agree to extend the hunt for 4 more days or any other amount. We acknowledge that a winter hunt has the chance of not opening if quotas are met.
55	Open a registration goat hunt for residents in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	There is not a large enough population to be sustainable. Goats travel over natural range. Sometime goats do travel down into 13a. They are already being managed well.

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56	Extend the general season for moose by bow and arrow only for residents and nonresidents within Unit 11, remainder		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. There is enough opportunity now. Moose are still in the rut past Sept. 20.
57	Establish a registration hunt for bull moose open to certified bowhunters only within Unit 11, remainder		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. There is enough opportunity now. Moose are still in the rut past Sept. 20.
58	Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13		
support	8	0	This is a important management tool for biologists to use when they need to use it.
59	Increase the community subsistence any bull moose hunt allocation in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	The bull cow ratio is dropping in most sub units. Biologically we should not be doing this right now. Out of the bulls harvested in this hunt 37 were taken by locals out of the 180 harvested of all bulls. For any bulls 28 were taken by locals out of 94 total harvested.
60	Create a registration archery only hunt for bull moose in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. Late hunts go into the rut. Any bull is out of the question biologically right now, can't support adding another hunt.
61	Establish a drawing permit hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 13E		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. Late hunts go into the rut. Any bull is out of the question biologically right now, can't support adding another hunt.
62	Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 13E		
support	8	0	Unit 13 E is above objective now. 3 years ave. of abundance is up. Harvest is also up. It would be a management tool if needed to be used by biologists. If we don't do something the population will be less productive.

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			Only up to 1 percent if needed, gradually do it, it has to be re authorized every year.
63	Eliminate the restrictions of one harvest report per household and one bag limit per household in the community subsistence caribou hunt for Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	<p>Tier 1 and community hunts are for subsistence. The cap for caribou at 400 won't change, so some households might still not get any caribou if other households take more than one caribou, it will just get to the 400 animal quota sooner.</p> <p>This might increase the number of communities that would want to join this hunt.</p> <p>Same reasons as proposal 53.</p>
64	Eliminate the salvage requirement for hide of moose for Alaska residents aged 60 years and older participating in the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 and make it optional		
oppose	0	8	<p>The community hunt was developed originally by using tradition criteria. We don't want to lessen the requirements that were originally set in place to make this hunt happen.</p> <p>Elders that used to use hides aren't around anymore. Hides are usually cut up so bad you can't use.</p> <p>It was brought up that maybe make this optional for 60+ hunting by themselves, as it is hard to bring out.</p> <p>It was also brought up that age shouldn't be a factor in determining salvage requirements.</p>
65	Eliminate the moose hide salvage requirement for hunters aged 62 years and older participating in the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 and make it optional		
oppose	0	8	<p>The community hunt was developed originally by using tradition criteria. We don't want to lessen the requirements that were originally set in place to make this hunt happen.</p> <p>Elders that used to use hides aren't around anymore. Hides are usually cut up so bad you can't use.</p> <p>It was brought up that maybe make this optional for 60+ hunting by themselves, as it is hard to bring out.</p> <p>It was also brought up that age shouldn't be a factor in determining salvage requirements.</p>

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66	Clarify the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit condition that members of a household may not hunt caribou or moose in any other state hunts in other locations		
support	8	0	<p>2020 Proposal to BOG, Unit 13 Tier I Caribou Hunt, Interpretation of Conditions</p> <p>1. Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC 92.050 (a)(4)(I)</p> <p>2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?</p> <p>There is ambiguity in regulatory wording that leads to a lack of agreement and understanding of the regulation. The current interpretation by the department of fish and game (as found in their Subsistence Permit Hunt Supplement) seems to exceed the rule making authority of the board. A regulatory condition of the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit states, in part: "any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any other location in the state during that regulatory year." This condition should only apply to state hunts, which are under the authority of the board.</p> <p>The department has interpreted this to include limitations on federal subsistence hunts. Their hunt supplement states: "If you apply for this hunt, you and your household cannot participate in federal hunts for caribou or moose outside of Unit 13". As the board's regulatory authority covers state authorized hunts, there is questionable legal validity for the board to place limits on federal subsistence hunt opportunities for which they have no legal control. It would be beyond "the scope of authority conferred" (Chapter 62. Administrative Procedures Act, Sec. 44.62.020, Authority to adopt, administer, or enforce regulations). For the department's interpretation to be valid and enforceable, it seems that the board would need the authority to regulate federal subsistence hunt opportunities; this authority would need to be delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board.</p> <p>The current interpretation by the department leads to confusion, may lead to unwarranted citations, legal liability, and future law suits, and also seems arbitrary in nature. The purpose of the regulation was to reduce overcrowding and excessive pressure on the resources. Currently, a limited number of federal subsistence hunters do not apply for the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou hunt because they may want to hunt moose outside of Unit 13, perhaps to avoid the crowds that still persist. This</p>

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			<p>relatively low number of additional federal subsistence hunters that could participate in the Unit 13 Tier I hunt would likely have no significant impact to the purpose of reducing excessive crowding and pressure. It is not “reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of the statute” (Chapter 62. Administrative Procedures Act, Sec. 44.62.030, Consistency between regulation and statute.).</p> <p>In addition, there is inconsistent application by the department of regulations between game and fish. In a very similar manner of regulatory language, 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan states, in part: “A household may not be issued both a Copper River subsistence salmon fishing permit and a Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon permit.” Historically, the department has not interpreted this to mean that if one gets a state Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit, then that person would be ineligible for a federal subsistence fishing permit in the Copper River. It is implicit that this condition applies only to the fisheries under the authority of the department.</p> <p>What solution do you recommend? The regulatory condition of the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit should read: “No more than one Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit for caribou may be issued per household every regulatory year, the head of the household, as defined in 5 AAC 92.071 (b), and any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any state authorized hunt in any other location in the state during that regulatory year.”</p>
67	Change the salvage requirements for sheep taken in Unit 11		
oppose	0	8	<p>No other area requires bone in for sheep.</p> <p>It is an expedition to do the hunt to begin with, you are limited in gear you can bring with you knowing you need to save room to bring a sheep out (would take even more room if you had to leave bone in)</p>

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			<p>There is a lot of really remote hunting in unit 11, sometimes up to 10 miles round trip hiking taking days to pack an animal out.</p> <p>Front ends on sheep can be skinny on meat and then if you factor a shot up bloody front shoulder, there is often even less edible meat.</p> <p>Even a boned out sheep pack is a very large pack to hike out.</p> <p>Unit 11 hunting pressure is increasing, this may allow for a decrease in hunt pressure with less people wanting to keep sheep bone in for pack out.</p> <p>Pounds = miles</p> <p>It might take a day or two of leaving meat in field until you can get back to bring rest out.</p> <p>We understand that it is difficult to hold people to salvage requirements without bone in requirements, but just because this area has increased hunt pressure shouldn't be the reason to make a bone in requirement.</p>
68	Extend the general season for brown bear by bow and arrow only for residents and nonresidents within Unit 11		
oppose	0	8	We are against special hunts for special equipment. There is no need for this.
69	Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	One brown bear per person is enough. The population has been slowly declining
70	Open a fall baiting season in Unit 13 for brown and black bear		
oppose	0	8	We are very against this. Major user conflict. We don't want baits out while others are hunting. This is a safety issue. There is plenty of opportunity to bait in unit 13 as it is.
71	Lengthen the wolverine hunting season in Unit 13		

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support	8	0	There is no biological reason not to extend the season a couple more weeks to the end of Feb. It just provides more opportunity to get a wolverine if you are out. Unit 12 is open to shoot till end of March. There is not a lot of wolverine taken in Sept and one would rather take in winter when fur is better.
72	Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13		
			See our proposal 73
73	Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13		
support	8	0	We would like to extend the season to match other trapping seasons in unit 13. Federal Subsistence trapping season ends on Feb. 28 and we would like to match that (but go to end of Feb due to leap years. There is a good chance of incidental catch with other sets out that wolverines could get into. Many rivers are not freezing up until later into Jan/Feb now, so access to some areas is much later. You can shoot wolverine in unit 12 until the end of March. There is no biological reason not to extend the season a couple more weeks to end of Feb.
74	Limit motorized access during the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	This is restrictive, and limits access. The proposal is confusing. In the write up for it says: "Contingent for the success of these regulations the elimination of the community hunt in its entirety." What does that actually mean? Are they wanting to get rid of the hunt all together?
75	Close the Tokositna State Recreation Area in Units 13E and 16A to the use of airboats for hunting		
			We are not familiar with this area to have discussion or vote.
76	Extend the ptarmigan season and the lower bag limit in Unit 13B and 13E		
oppose	0	8	We have a good happy median now to manage the population. If you take into March you take birds who will provide for the population next year. The management now is working fine.
77	Open a youth only hunt for ptarmigan in Unit 13, August 10-24		
oppose	0	8	We are against special hunts. Youth definitions are not consistent. There is plenty of opportunity now.

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Alysia Hancock _____

Minutes Approved By: ____Chuck McMahan____

Date: _____1/26/21_____