

**Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee**  
**12/15/2021**  
**Zoom**

**I. Call to Order:** 7:05pm by Herb Mansavage

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:**

- Herb Mansavage
- Dan Montgomery
- Chad Schierman
- Andy Couch
- Austin Manelick
- Casey Dinkel
- Gene Sandone
- Mike Barnett
- Birch Yuknis
- Mel Grove
- Neil Dewitt
- Dom Nickles
- Glenn Helmuth
- Hunter Hongslo

**Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8**

**III. Fish and Game Staff Present:**

- Tim Peltier
- Chris Brockman
- Todd Rinaldi
- Fari Sylvester

**IV. Guests Present:**

- Tony Jones
- Rod Arno
- Cabot Pitts
- Don Dygert

**V. Approval of Agenda:** Dan motioned, Neil seconded – Accepted

**VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: To Be Approved At Next Meeting**

**VII. Public Comment**

- Rod Arno (Alaska Outdoor Council)
  - On 12/03/2021, Judge Sharon Gleason blew off the state. Feds don't need to give state any control or say. State is appealing in 9<sup>th</sup> court but chances are slim.
  - AOC submitted Proposal 211 to get rid of subsistence community harvest hunts. Feds are taking care of subsistence. AHTNA gives out permits and dividing against Alaska. AOC's opinion is that state not cooperate with the feds. All Alaskans should be equal on state lands. Allocation issue.

| Alaska Board of Game Central & Southwest Region Meeting Proposals<br>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> |  |               |   |
| 197  | Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region               |               |   |
| Support  | 14   | 0             | Support: Greater sustained harvest, public safety, no conservation concern.   |
| 198  | Eliminate bear baiting or prohibit bait stations within 50 miles of cabins.                  |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0  | 14            | Oppose: This proposal is too restrictive and eliminate all baiting opportunity due to abundance of cabins.  |
| 199  | Prohibit trapping within 50 yards of multi-use trails and trailheads in Units 13, 14, and 16 |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0  | 14            | Oppose: This proposal is too restrictive as it includes an extensive list of trails which would close too big of an area. Some of these trails were created specifically for trapping use. AC is not opposed to responsible trapping and off of populated trails. |
| 209  | Modify the Copper River bison harvest opportunity in Units 11 and 13D                        |               |   |
| Support  | 14   | 0             | Dept: Plans to allocate money to collar and habitat study. Population can accept more harvest. Access is limited and AHTNA not allowing access. Support: Increased opportunity and harvest.   |
| 210  | Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunts in Unit 13                           |               |   |
| No Action  | -  | -             | See Comments Under Proposal 211.  |

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| 211  | Repeal the Copper Basin area community subsistence harvest hunt area for moose and caribou  |               |   |
| Support  | 14  | 0             | Dept: Unit 13 moose population is doing good, more pressure on any bull cohort may have impact, bull/cow ratio not optimized.<br>Support: Subsistence opportunities issues have been addressed through management on Federal lands, equal opportunity for all residents on state lands.   |
| 212  | 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 |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0   | 14            | Oppose: Allowing this would be double-dipping.<br>*No Action on Proposal 66 due to comments on this proposal  |
| 213  | Remove the requirement for Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13  |               |   |
| Support  | 10  | 4             | Support: Greater opportunity, caribou and moose should not be tied together.<br>Oppose: Increase Tier I applicants and decrease revenue from draw permits.  |
| 214  | Eliminate all moose drawing permit hunts in Unit 13   |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0   | 14            | Dept: Maximum sustained harvest met, meeting objectives.<br>Oppose: Not impact to population, greater opportunity for all residents.  |
| 215  | Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13A  |               |   |
| Support  | 13  | 0             | Dept: Essential management tool to manage population, adjust bull/cow ratio, and future habitat.<br>Support: Conservative approach, department manages effectively.<br>*1 Abstain   |
| 216  | Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 13C  |               |   |
| Support  | 10  | 4             | Dept: Unit 13C moose population has increased last 20 years, population readjustment in 2011 and population is above new objective which could impact habitat, harvest objective has not been met since 1995. This would provide additional opportunity and intensive management tool for quality habitat. "Up To" wording is effective, discretionary, and eases administration/management. "Up To" maximum (200) is proportional to population but would take conservative approach with a low quantity of tags to start. |

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|  |  |               | Support: Conservative approach, effective management tool, concern with "Up To 200 Permits".<br>Oppose: Too many permits, extreme for population, have seen negative impacts in other areas.  |
| 217  | Eliminate all caribou drawing permit hunts in Unit 13  |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0  | 14            | Oppose: Most popular hunt for caribou in Unit 13, one of the most popular draw permits in the state, lost revenue for the state, less opportunity.  |
| 218  | Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 13   |               |   |
| Oppose   | 5  | 7             | Dept: More harvest is not sustainable, population is declining, Unit 16/17 have two bear limits and no impact, moose/caribou populations not limited by bear.<br>Support: Increased opportunity, likely won't impact harvest or population.<br>Oppose: Conservation concerns.<br>*2 Abstain |
| 219  | Modify the Unit 13 predation control program   |               |   |
| Support  | 14   | 0             | Dept: Unit 13D was not originally included in order to be control area/study, limited hunting and trapping due to difficult access, another management tool, likely to control/improve moose population.<br>Support: Another management tool, improve moose/caribou population.             |
| 220  | Close moose and wolf hunting within Unit 13A   |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0  | 14            | Oppose: No conservation concern.  |
| 221  | Align otter and beaver trapping seasons in Unit 13   |               |   |
| Oppose   | 0  | 14            | Dept: Opposed, significant biological concern, increase otter and bycatch harvest, overlap breed/pupping season, otter season would not be aligned with other areas.<br>Oppose: Biological concern.   |
| 222  | Align the ptarmigan hunting season for all of Unit 13 and reduce the bag limit to five per day |               |   |
| Oppose   | 4  | 9             | Dept: This would add 6 weeks additional to season, bag limit reduced from 10 to 5, harvest is likely to increase, hunting season  |

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|  |                      |               | <p>would overlap breeding season, Unit 13B/E recently changed season but too soon to see response, Opposed to Neutral.</p> <p>Support: More opportunity.</p> <p>Oppose: Conservation concern, higher success due spring access via snowmachine.</p> <p>*1 Abstain</p> |

## VIII. Next Meeting: 12/29/2021

## IX. Closing Comments:

- Chris Brockman
  - Unit 14A Antlerless proposals are important.
  - Acting manager for Unit 17 if any questions come up.
- Dan Montgomery
  - Asked about in-person meetings in future. Herb looking at options.
- Andy Couch
  - Concerns with Unit 14A moose management.
- Birch Yuknis
  - Asked about department comments. They are being finalized and should be issued in couple days.
- Mel Grove
  - Will not be available for next 2 meetings.

## X. Adjournment: 10:04pm

Minutes Recorded By: Chad Schierman

Minutes Approved By: Herb M.

Date: 1/5/2022