

Cooper Landing AC Minutes 02/13/2023

Members Present-

Josh Hayes
John Pearson
Jason Lesmeister
Billy Coulliette
Tom Lessard
Todd Donahue
Alex Kime
Jeremy Lewis

Members not present with excused absence-

Mike Adams

Alternate members-

Lorraine Temple

Official Staff-

Fari Sylvester-Fish and Game
Heather Thamm-Forest Service Subsistence Division
Dave Battle-Fish and Game(Sub for Nick Fowler)

Community Members and Alaska Residents present-

Vince Belltrami
Amy Broderson
Evan Smith
Nicole Schmitt
Mike Amos
Chris Perry
Kathy Sarns
Kathy Reckon(Liston)
Heather Pearson
Rhonda Lynn
Ryan Holt
Paxson Woebler
Ken Green
JJ Brown
Ed Schmitt

Agenda Approved unanimously from last meeting.

Public Comments-

Ken Green-supports trap set backs, hopes Cooper Landing AC represents the community. Doesn't believe any proposals before the BOG about trap set backs will be accepted. Until trappers and dog owners can sit down and discuss a happy middle ground because user groups aren't collaborating and he doesn't see anything changing until it does.(Cooper Landing Resident)

Mona Painter (as read by Lorraine temple as a proxy)-told stories of old days, thinks responsible dog ownership is a must, and thinks there should be trap set backs and more detailed info on trap tags on traps about owner of traps.(Cooper Landing Resident)

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Lorraine Temple-Is tired of using trails because there are possibly traps on trails, thinks trapping on or near trails may effect commerce, and thinks younger people are using trails now who don't trap.(Cooper Landing Resident)

Paxson Woebler- supports trap set backs he is a nordic ice skater who avoids trails he thinks trails aren't safe for dogs or children because of trapping. He thinks there should be safe places.(Anchorage Resident)

Kathy Sarns- read Homer AC proposals for trap setbacks in unit 15C(Homer Resident)

Nicole Scmitt- authored proposal 145 for no trapping by wild life crossings in unit 7-15. (Anchorage Resident)

Ed Schmitt- supports trap set backs told story of going on a walk up Russian River Trail with 10 friends and 8 dogs and when his friends heard people are allowed to trap on the trails in the National Forest they didn't want to use the trail anymore.

Amy Broderson(Julie Almonrode, John Almonrode,Sylve Montoblo,Mike Amos,Kathy Reckon) Amy did a presentation representing the six people mentioned above in support of trap set backs. Cooper Landing Safe trails Committee sent out 450 surveys to CooperLanding Residents and had 130 people respond, out of the 130 surveys 120 supported trap set backs and 10 did not. Amy says that there is a 7-8% margin of error depending on how many in household so the positive response rate to the survey is a 80-90% approval rating for the trap set backs.(Cooper Landing Residentsand camp ground hosts)

JJ Brown- supports trap set backs. JJ has been a year round resident in Cooper Landing the last three years and thinks that the people opposed to trap set backs don't use the trails. (Cooper Landing Resident)

Vince Belltami- supports trap set backs. Vince uses trails with dogs and says his dogs are good 98% of the time and isn't sure what the proposals are but supports them.(Cooper Landing Resident)

Jeremy Lewis-supports trap set backs. Jeremy has dogs and children and doesn't want his kid to fall off a snowmobile into a trap or have his dog get caught in one.(Cooper Landin Resident)

Chris Perry- opposes proposal 162 for extending ptarmigan season in 15C. Supports trap set backs.(Homer Resident)

Rhonda Lynn- has lived in Cooper Landing on and off since 1978 and supports trap set backs. Rhonda believes that the majority of Cooper Landing residents want trap set backs.

Ryan Holt- asked Josh to read the ANILCA act for the participants of the AC meeting. Ryan stated that Unit 7 and 15 are rural subsistence areas and trapping should be allowed anywhere. Ryan does not support trap set backs.(Moose Pass Resident)

Heather Pearson- believes that the Cooper Landing Safe Trails proposals don't address the issues of loose dogs running wild, believes that this is a social issue not a BOG issue. Heather started that there is a 21 square mile area void of traps and trapping in the KNWR for the public to use. Heather does not support trap set back laws.

BOG proposals-

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62-86-89- All proposals are written by ADFG for the management of moose populations to keep populations in check to reduce car collisions and human conflict.(8-Approve)

105- Limit hunters to one registration permit at a time in units 7-15.(8 oppose) Limits opportunities for motivated hunters.

106- Modify restrictions for ATV's while hunting moose in unit 15C.(8 oppose- see 107)

107-Allow exemption for disabled veterans to hunt in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C using motorized vehicles-Voted to resend amendment for all people with disability's, Voted as Amended.(8 Approve)

108- Make all sheep hunts in unit 7-15 registration. (8 Approve) More data to help ADFG understand and manage sheep populations in units 7-15 is a good thing.

109-Close sheep hunting in Unit 15. Bypassed vote (See proposal 108)

110-113- establish bow only hunts for sheep in units 715. (8 Oppose) Preferential to one user group.

114-Change RG 331 goat hunt in unit 7 to archery only.(8 Oppose) Preferential to one user group.

115- Divide all unit 15C drawing hunts into two seasons.(7 Oppose, 1 no vote Jason Lesmeister) Jason doesn't think there needs to be any change unless ADFG believes there is a reason)

116- Change the regulation to clarify that any hunter who harvests a Nanny Goat in 15C is restricted from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 years.(8 Pass on vote) not enough information on goat populations for a educated vote from Cooper Landing AC.

117-Implement a penalty in the RG 364,365,374 in unit 15C. (No Vote See above 116)

118- Change the the general season bag limit in unit 15 to include bull with fork antlers. (6 oppose 2 Approve) The fork rule allows for more mistakes to be made for the taking of illegal bulls, the moose population is bouncing back due to forest fires in previous years and we would like to see more opportunity for bulls to reach mature breeding age. The yes votes by Josh Hayes and Tom Lessard were because Tom and Josh don't think harvesting forks will impact populations or be a factor in more illegal bulls being killed.

119- Create archery only moose hunts in remainder of Unit 7 for residents and non residents.(8 Oppose) Preferential treatment to one user group.

120-Open an archery fall moose hunt in unit 15- (8 Oppose) See above.

121-126- establish an early archery moose hunt in units 15 A,B,C.(8 Oppose) Preferential Treatment for one user group.

127-Extend the TM 549 moose hunting season in unit 15C.(8 Abstain) No vote was due to not enough information or local knowledge of area mentioned.

128-Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in unit 15C.(7 Approve 1 Abstain) 7 approved because the ADFG supports the proposal. Billy Coulliette abstained from vote due to lack of knowledge on the area.

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129- Expand the hunt area boundaries in unit 15C for antlerless moose hunt.(8 approve) hunters need more area to hunt do to the amount of private land in area.

130- Renew and update the unit 15C intensive management plan.(8 Approve) ADFG approved plan that wasn't implemented in past due to Covid.

131- Reauthorize the ante less moose season on Kalgan Island in Unit 15B.(8 Approve)

132- Remove antler sealing requirement for moose harvested on Kalgan Island and from TM 549 Tier 2 subsistence area.(8 Approve)AGFG house keeping proposal

133- Prohibit the taking of black bear in unit 15C.(8 Oppose) There is no reason to restrict hunters from feeding their families or for sound game management.

134-Extend the brown bear season in Unit 7-15.(8 Oppose) We aren't opposed to extending the season in the spring to align with black bear baiting season, but don't think opening the season earlier in the fall is a good idea due to use conflict. The earlier fall season would allow hunters to potentially harvest bears in high use areas along water ways that are traditionally used by anglers and berry pickers that time of year.

135- Extend the brown bear season in Unit 15 to align with black bear baiting season.(8 Approve) We support extending the brown bear season due to the fact that the season closes when the bears are moving the most during their breeding season. The Kenai Peninsula has a quota of bears that are allowed to be harvested for sound game management and this will not impact it in a harmful way.

136-137-138-139- extend the season in units 7-15 to June 15.(8 Oppose) Already voted for 135.

140- Make units 7-15 brown bear season bow only.(8 Oppose) Preferential to one user group.

141-142- Lengthen the brown bear and black bear season in units 7-15 to start April 1.(8 Approve). Earlier start of seasons will allow for safer travel into baiting areas before spring thaw and break up.

143- Restrict bear bait stations within a half mile of certain structures.(8 Oppose) Poorly written proposal. To vague in definition.

144- Define developed recreation facility and permanent dwellings for bear baiting in units 7-15.(8 Approve). ADFG needs to make specific definitions in unit 7-15 as well as state wide in order to take away any ambiguity for hunters and law enforcement alike.

145- Close areas to hunting and trapping within a 1/4 mile of parts of Sterling Highway in Units 7-15.(3 Oppose as written. 5 abstain). Josh Hayes, Todd Donahue, Tom Lessard oppose as written. The remaining five board members abstain from vote because this law is not applicable due to the highway still being under construction.

146- Establish trapping set backs on specific trails within the Katchemak Bay State Park in Unit 15C.(4 Oppose 4 Abstain) Billy, John, Alex, and Jeremy abstained from vote to lack of knowledge of area. The 4 no votes were due to poorly written proposal that is to vague in description.

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147- Establish trap set backs along certain snow machine and nordic ski trails in Unit 15C.(2 abstain 6 Oppose). Jeremy abstained because he didn't hear proposal due to the fact he was at work and working, Alex abstained because he doesn't have knowledge of area. The 6 opposing votes were due to the fact that a 100 yard set back is to far a set back.

148- Require 100 yard trap set backs from known multi use trails in Unit 7.(8 Oppose) Poorly written, to vague.

149- Establish trapping set backs along the perimeter of campgrounds in Unit 7.(5 Oppose 3 Approve) The three who approve Billy, Alex, Jeremy believe that there should be areas that people can bring pets and not worry about traps. The 5 who oppose think the proposal is poorly written with different distances from 50-100 yards and that is already leash laws in developed areas in the Chugach National Forest, State Parks, and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

150-Establish trapping set backs in pull outs in Unit 7.(6 Oppose 2 Approve) the two who approve Alex and Jeremy want set backs because they have pets and or children. The 6 that oppose think the proposal is poorly written

151-Establish trap set backs along highway pull outs, back country access points, and winter trails in unit 7.(6 Oppose 2 Approve). Jeremy and Alex approve as above mentioned. 6 oppose as written.

152-Establish trapping set backs along trails and trailheads in Unit 7.(6 Oppose 1 Approve) Alex left meeting. 6 Oppose as written and Jeremy approves as above mentioned.

153-Establish trap set backs along Kenai Lake beaches in Unit 7.(5 Oppose 2 Approve) 5 opposed due to the fact that a 100 yards is too far a distance to abide by the leash laws in place on the public lands on the Kenai Peninsula which state a persons dog must be leash or under control at all times. 100 yards is too far a distance to control a dog with voice commands or an e collar.

154-Require signs be posted at all active trapping access points in Unit 7 as follows.(5 Oppose 2 Approve). Jeremy ad Billy approve and the remaining 5 oppose proposal as written. Prejudice to one user group.

155-Close unit 15C to beaver trapping as follows.(7 Oppose) We would like to se ADFG to take a closer look at the beaver populations on the Kenai Peninsula.

156-Close beaver trapping in the Anchor and Deep creek rivers in unit 15C for 6 years.(1 oppose 6 Abstain) Josh opposed because of lack of data 6 abstained to to lack of knowledge.

157-Shorten the beaver trapping season in unit 7.(7 Approve) Proposal written by Cooper Landing AC committee.

158-Shorten the trapping season in units 7-15(7 Approve) Proposal written by Cooper Landin AC.

159-Lengthen the wolverine season to start August 10 in units 7-15(5 Oppose 2 Approve) The two who approve Jason and Todd don't see any reason not to create more opportunity to harvest the most elusive big game animal in Alaska and don't think it will effect the game population in any way. The 5 opposing votes don't see any reason to change the status quo and don't think wolverines effect the sheep populations.

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160-Limit beaver trapping to one set per lodge for units 7-15 and require visual markers.(7 Oppose) 78 oppose as written.

161- Direct ADFG to do a feasibility study for blacktail deer to south side of Katchemak Bay.(5 Oppose 1 Abstain 1 approve). 5 who oppose Josh, Jason, Tom, Todd, John believe that ADFG doesn't transplant animal out if their natural environment and off set the natural balance anymore. The approve vote from Jeremy was because he thought why not it may create hunting opportunity. The abstain vote was from Billy due to lack of knowledge.

162-extend ptarmigan season in in Unit 15C to March 31.(2 Oppose 1 Yes 4 abstain) the two who oppose believe that upland bird seasons should not extend into the winter and spring months after January 1. Upland birds are not a subsistence animal and should be hunted in a sporting manner not shot with rifles from afar and on roads. The approve vote was because that season would align with most seasons int hesitate. That abstain votes are due to lack of knowledge of area.

163-172 Waterfowl hunting issues(7 abstain). We have abstained from voting on these proposals due to lack of knowledge. The Cooper Landing AC believes that the we need to due more do diligence research with the federal government and local AC to properly address and understand the impact of these proposals and local and migratory sea duck populations. We will contact the ADFG and Federal Identities to further educate ourselves on the subject.

Next meeting date.....?

End of meeting.

Meeting Minutes by: Jason Lesmeister

Minutes Approved By: Josh Hayes

Date: 2/26/2023