

Middle Nenana River AC meeting Minutes from 12/2/2025 at Denali Aurora Lodge

I. Call to Order: **6:03**

II. Roll Call: Healy: Jacob Matilla (chair), Erik Haugen-**excused**, Matt Nustvold, John Basile, Coke Wallace

Clear: Allan Mortenson, Leroy Sutton, Nathan Goodin-**on the phone**

Ferry: Andrew LaBar (vice chair)

McKinley Village: Alex Buetow (secretary)

Undesignated: Paul Nyberg

Alternates: Mike Green-**on the phone**, Ethan Graham

III. Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

IV. Introduce Fish and Game Staff Present: **Jeff Wells, Lindsey Dreese, Andy Gryska, Natalie Romo**

V. Introduce Guests Present: **Wayne Valc, Pat Owen, Tom Howorth, Tony Buckley**

VI. Approval of Agenda-**Unanimous**

VII. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: January 7, 2025 -**Unavailable?**

VIII. Reports

a. Chair's Report **None**

b. ADFG staff reports

Jeff Wells- Introduced Lindsey as the new (assistant regional biologist?) Jeff taking lead on 20A and B Moose. Lindsey taking lead on the rest of interior moose as well as 20A caribou and interior sheep. Jeff is officially regional area biologist.

In the spring of 2025 the moose twinning surveys in 20A/B were higher than historical average. Collared 24 bull moose in 20A and plan to do six more after the muzzleloader hunt ends.

They started a pilot study with the help of 10 bear baiters who put out two cameras each and left them up all spring to hopefully learn something about bears.

ADF&G issued ~7000 moose permits for unit 20. Thus far 76% of permits have been reported. There are still a few hunts on going and reminders to file hunt reports have not been emailed so this is not a concern.

20A Moose: A harvest of 236 bulls has been reported in 2025 after 265 bulls were harvested in 2024.

DM774: 91% of 2025 permits have been reported with a harvest of 173 bulls.

20B Moose: A harvest of 270 bulls has been reported in 2025 after 357 bulls were harvested in 2024.

20C Moose: A harvest of 152 bulls has been reported in 2025 after 186 bulls were harvested in 2024.

Grizzly Bear: The combined spring/fall harvest in 20A is at 27 animals. The 10 year average is 23.

Delta Caribou: The 2025 DC827 harvest was 52 bulls. Historical average is ~70s? The plan is to issue 175 permits again in 2026.

20A Sheep: 60 rams were harvested in 2025 with an average age of 8.8 and an average horn length of 35.5 inches. There were zero sub legal rams reported. In 2024 the number of rams harvested in 20A was 45.

Lindsey-

Delta Caribou: The population estimate is currently at ~2,500 animals after the recent photo survey.

20A Dall Sheep: Summer survey resulted in 369 sheep in zones 1, 2 & 3 which is comparable to the last 20-30 years. They counted 87 lambs compared to counts in the 30's the last few years.

20C?? Moose: Bull:cow ratio is at 45:100. Calf:cow ratio is at 27:100. ADF&G put collars on some young cows on eastern side of range. A composition survey for moose in 20C (focused near Kantishna drainages) observed 671 moose and resulted in a bull:cow ratio of 49:100 and a calf:cow ratio of 35:100.

Sheep info: Collars have been placed on 30 rams and 30 ewes in GANP. Collars have been placed on 30 rams and 30 ewes in DNP and 20A. So far the total mortality in 20A collars stands at three. There has been no difference in survival rates between hunted and nonhunted populations. There is a statistical difference between full curl rams observed between DNP and 20A.

Andy Gryska- three proposals to amend the Pike management plan in Minto Flats.

c. Others

IX. Public Comment: **None**

X. Old Business: **None**

XI. New Business: **Elections**

Leroy's Clear Seat: Nominated by Nate 2nd Andrew. Unanimous.

Andrew's Ferry Seat: Nominated Wayne, 2nd Leroy. Unanimous

Eric's Healy Seat: Nominated Leroy, 2nd John

Alex's Mckinley Seat: Nominated Jacob 2nd Coke

Undesignated Alternates: Mike Green and Ethan Graham. Unanimous

d. Other fisheries, wildlife, and committee business as needed

We talked briefly about proposals for next year and the popular topics that came up were:

The addition of a muzzleloader moose hunt in 20C as well as resident allocation for muzzleloader hunt DM766.

Small game and waterfowl hunting within the Healy-Lignite Management Area.

And a passionate discussion regarding a moose identification class and/or field dressing class for nonresidents.

XII. Set next meeting date: **1/8/26 at Denali Aurora Lodge**

XIII. Adjourn **7:39pm**