Minutes

Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Teleconference
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 11P.M.

Wildlife Safeguard – 800 478-3377 (Chair) If meeting attendees want to report a game violation, they should call this number.
SHAC meets to discuss ways and means, habitat and other biological data for hunters and fishers to harvest wild animals, and meeting time is limited."

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Doug Carney at 11 am
Chair then called attention to the Wildlife Safeguard info on agenda

Roll Call & Quorum
The roll call was done **–**
Red Devil – Barb Carson & Ruby Egrass present
Sleetmute – Doug Carney and appointed alternate Susan Hubbard present / Frank Egnaty unavailable
Stony River – David Bobby & Tom Willis absent
Lime Village – Rick Breckheimer & Ursula Graham present
A Quorum of 6 was reached.

Others Attending
Boards Support Regional Coordinator Kyle Campbell
ADF&G Area Wildlife Biologist Josh Peirce
Alaska Wildlife Protection Trooper Patrick Simasko

SHAC member additions -
Are there any proposals members want the committee to comment on, other than those listed on this agenda?
No additions were asked for.

Approval of Agenda was given

Chair –
- The proposal indexes I sent out to members should help you with are discussions and approvals.
- There are quite a few proposals for us to go over. Most of them won't take a lot of discussion, since they are easy to spot as being for or against the best interests of the residents & prey populations of 19E, 19, and the Interior Region.
- The Joint Board proposals can be viewed similarly in regard to advisory committees' ability to function & their effectiveness.

Reading of & Approval of Minutes
- Minutes of the Nov.14, 2022 SHAC Meeting by Barb - approved
- Minutes of the Oct. 18, 2023 SHAC ACR Meeting by Doug - approved

Vice Chairman Barb – BOF / Fisheries Update
At the Jan, 2023 BOF Meeting, nothing SHAC proposed passed. The lower Kusko was closed quite a bit – Upriver was not. We still have dual management – a lawsuit is still pending.
Salmon escapement & health –
- King –Escapement goals were met, but the Kogrugluk & Kwethluk Weirs were not running., **due to high water.** Data from other sources confirmed escapement was met.

- Red – Had good escapement / Kogrugluk was not running. Telequana weir had double the escapement of last year
- Chum – stronger than last year with better #s, but still poor. Kogrugluk still not running.
- Silver – Very strong run w/ good escapement, and fish were larger. Both Weirs were running.

Chairman Doug – Introduction

- ***SHAC's Agenda Change Request was approved by BOG on Nov.16. It has become Proposal 208 for the March meeting. The proposal promotes changes to some conditions of the RM682 hunt in 19E. They are - to allow Proxy hunting, to delete the "one permit per household" condition, & to add 5 days to the hunt, (Sept. 1 -10.)***
- There are 21 sheep proposals & 16 bear proposals – mostly brown bear.. A lot of those are duplicates of each other, so it won't take that long to go through them. There are a couple proposals that stand out, & there will probably be more discussion on those.
- The Joint Boards, (BOF & BOF members), proposals deal mostly with advisory committee makeup and regulations. If approved, these proposals will affect SHAC's ability to meet and continue to be an effective committee – either positively or negatively. *An index of these proposals is attached to the same email.*

ADF&G Area Biologist Josh Peirce Report

Did GSPE surveys of 19A & C. Described BCFA size

- GSPE Survey & Composition Survey results for 19E and McGrath Area were given, with discussion of herd health indicators. Gave data from both surveys. 40 bulls to 100cows / 28 calves to 1oo cows
- 2023 Hunter success for RM682 was given 29 permits – 15 hunted, 7 killed.

Chair – SHAC Comments

I hope you all had time to go over the proposals online, as well as to look over the indexes I sent for both the BOG & the Joint Boards meetings.

March 15-22, 2024 BOG Interior proposals

Regional & Multiple Unit Proposals

- Josh helped explain & answer questions on 47, 49, 50,
- Discussion- Bad weather is main reason sheep crashed. Slow recovery rate – about 15 years the last time. Eagle predation is 30%.
- 49 – For purposes of this prop. - SHAC decided that the main rivers are the Kusko, Holitna, Hoholitna, Stony, Swift
- 50 – **Strongly Oppose – singed fur.** Doug will make a comment to the RAC, asking what they were thinking when they

McGrath Area Proposals – Units 19, 21A & 21E

- BOG proposals 53-57 concern ANS & Intensive Management - Josh led discussion & answered questions on those proposals.
- Josh &Doug will come up with our own IM numbers for SHAC to give BOG for proposal **56** – IM harvest and population objectives for 19A, B, & E.
- 57 is to fix an admin. error. Replace 19A with 19E in codified.
- Support 60 - McGrath AC to establish IM in 19C
- 65 is ADF&G IM Plan.
- 66 McGrath AC proposal was made before comp count was done. SHAC will support if McGrath does.
- 67 - SHAC will support it, if McGrath still wants it
- Doug led discussions on proposals 68-72, & gave info on creation of CUA – 40hp in 19E. GMU18. people trying to udo conditions of RM682 hunt. Doug will send 1992 BOG summaries of Actions & Findings to SHAC members.

- The main reason the sheep population plunged is due to severe weather – they can't feed. There was much discussion on the various sheep proposals, where the committee agreed that 19C sheep should stay closed, and allow the BOG Working Group that is being formed to determine what is to be done besides the recent closure.. So SHAC opposed all sheep proposals – 43-46 & 76-90. SHAC then supported 91 & 92. 91 is a APHA proposal of support for the BOG Working Group. 92 will close non-res. sheep hunting in 19B.
- There was discussion on the brown bear proposals. SHAC supports 93 – 107, with a preference for 97, which includes raising the Brn. bear bag limit to 2 bears. There was agreement that standardizing the regs in the subunits of 19 and 21A & E would be a positive thing for hunters and for prey populations that suffer from the large number of bears in those subunits.
- SHAC agreed that Josh & Doug will work on language for a program to suggest to BOG. Making 19B & C the same, and 19A, D, E & 21 A & E the same seasons & bag limits & conditions will make things better for village safety, hunters, enforcement, & relieve pressure on moose calves.
- SHAC has 4 proposals – **54** is asking for an ANS setting for 19E / **100**- no closed season for Brown bear in 19E / **103** – increase Brn bear bag limit in 19B & C to 5 bears. / **208** – Is from our ACR that will change RM682 hunt conditions to allow proxy hunting, delete the one permit per household condition, & add 5 days to the hunt – Sept 1-10.

March 25-28, 2024 Joint Boards Proposals

The main view & statement by SHAC is that "**"One size does NOT fit All ACs" .**

Also, SHAC members are disgusted with what they view as micro-managing through regulation telling us how to run our committee. IF the boards want a bunch of ACS that are hamstrung by regs that severely limit or make an AC's existence or function impossible, then that's exactly what they'll get.

- Term limits & regulations that force members off committees, bleeds them of experience & knowledge.
- ACs in rural Alaska represent small communities that meet once or maybe twice a year.
- These committees & exist so these communities can express what they know about fish & game in their areas and what they would like to see regulations say.
- SHAC members don't think more regulation helps a bit with this
- Also, SHAC is **our** committee - we are capable of making decisions about who represents us and how they do it. This includes terms lengths.
- We do not want undesignated seats forced on us.
- We don't need or want "non-consumptive seats" mandated. For SHAC & other rural ACs, that would be bringing an enemy inside the camp.

There was discussion on most of these proposals, which is reported in the comment forms.

Adjourn

SHAC adjourned at 1:22 pm

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, 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**
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.			
43	Change all general season sheep harvest tickets in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to registration permits, and allow hunters to obtain a registration permit once every two years		
Oppose	0	6	• There was much discussion on the various sheep proposals, and the committee agreed that 19C sheep should stay closed, and allow the BOG Working Group that is being formed to determine what is to be done**, if anything,** about the 19C sheep closure**. So SHAC opposed sheep proposals 43-46 & 76-90.** • **SHAC then supported 91 & 92.** • **91** is an APHA proposal of support for the BOG Working Group. • **92** will close non-res. sheep hunting in 19B.
44	Reduce the sheep bag limit for resident hunters in Units 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B and 26C to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every two regulatory years		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
45	Reduce the Unit 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C sheep bag limit for residents to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
46	Change all sheep hunting in Units 12, 19, and 20 to drawing permit only for residents and nonresidents, with a set allocation of permits between user groups		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
47	Allow proxy hunting for bison in Units 12, 19 and 20		
Support	6	0	Only a certain # of permits are issued, whether proxy or not.
48	Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska		
Support	6	0	Yes – brown bears are targets of opportunity, and folks can't afford a tag for an animal they have no intention of hunting.
49	Clarify which rivers in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C are major rivers for the purposes of bear baiting		
Support	6	0	**SHAC identifies the Kuskokwim, Holitna, Hoholitna, Stony, and Swift rivers as the major rivers in GMU 19.** It's always a good idea to clarify regulations

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50	Lengthen the marten trapping season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 by two weeks to end March 15		
Oppose	0	6	Trapping during those late dates in spring, when there is more sunlight and clear weather, will result in a large number of females being taken and singed fur – and low profit for the trapper.
51	Align muskrat trapping seasons with beaver trapping seasons in Units 19, 20 (except 20E), 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
Support	6	0	SHAC said – Sure, why not?
52	Allow the use of night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers with a trapping license in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C		
Support	6	0	This will provide more opportunity and allow trappers to take some larger animals with a firearm.
53	Revise the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for moose in Unit 19E		
Support as Amended	6	0	**SHAC would support this proposal only if 19E is NOT included in the 19A ANS, as the proposal states. 19E should have a separate ANS** **Note** – • In 2006, the ANS for "old 19A"was set at 175-225 – not 300 at the top end. • A new & separate ANS needs to be set for this new 19A subunit, as well as for 19E. • These subunits contain 2 separate moose stocks that have been managed separately for many years – long before 2006. • Proposals 53 & 54 need to be addressed due to the creation of 2 new subunits in GMU19. • ADF&G proposals 56, 57, & 58 deal with separate IM Plans and separate population & harvest objectives for 19A, 19B, & 19E. • SHAC advocates for separate ANS in 19A and 19E. This will complete the separation of the subunits that started with separate hunts, then splitting the "old CKAC" into SHAC & the "new CKAC", and finally the "old 19A" subunit split into 19E & the "new 19A."Although the 2 moose pops have been managed separately for many years, this will improve the Area Biologist's ability to manage. **Since –**

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			• In 2006, the Board of Game (BOG) adjusted the moose Amount Necessary for Subsistence,(ANS), for Unit 19A and 19B and nested it – separating it from the rest of Unit 19. This was done in an attempt to lower the ANS enough so that the existing harvestable surplus would not force western Unit 19A into a Tier II hunt. This was unsuccessful, but the ANS has remained lower than it had been before the 2006 meeting. • With the "Old 19A" split, the existing ANS of 175-225 fits pretty well for the new, smaller 19A.
54	Review the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for moose in Unit 19		
Support	6	0	• SHAC made this proposal, because it is required and needed with the creation of 19E. • ANS is usually not computed when a wildlife population is low and hunting is restricted, as it is in 19E. **SHAC wants the19E ANS to again be part of the total GMU19 ANS, as it, (Old 19A), was before the nested GMU19 subunit numbers were determined in 2006.**
55	Establish a positive Intensive Management finding for moose in Unit 19C		
Support	6	0	IM is needed in 19C.SHAC supports this McGrath proposal
56	Create separate Intensive Management (IM) population and harvest objectives for Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 19E		
Support w/amend	6	0	**(Refer to Attached SHAC Document A)** These subunits and their moose populations are managed separately and have different use patterns. Create separate Intensive Management (IM) population and harvest objectives for Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 19E.
57	Modify the Intensive Management Plan for Unit 19		
Support	6	0	This was a book keeping error & is needed since 19E is newly created and was part of 19A. Create separate Intensive Management (IM) population and harvest objectives for Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 19E
58	Authorize a Unit 19A predation control program		

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Support	6	0	There are increasing numbers of both wolves and bears, the same as in the rest of GMU19. Predator control is needed
59	Lengthen the resident only Tier II moose hunt, TM680, in Unit 19A by opening the season five days earlier		
Support	6	0	Support given, because this is what residents of the area want and what CKAC proposes.
60	Allow aerial wolf control in a portion of Unit 19C		
Support	6	0	Increasing wolf numbers, and decreasing moose numbers, demand & require a predator control program.
61	Allow the take of wolves in Unit 19C the same day a person has been airborne and create an Intensive Management Plan for Unit 19C. BY McGrath AC		
No Action			McGrath AC proposal 60 does this
62	Establish an Intensive Management program for Unit 19C		
No Action			McGrath AC proposal 60 does this
63	Change the Unit 19C registration permit moose hunt RM653, to a drawing permit for nonresidents, issue up to 20 permits, and shorten the season to September 8-17		
No Action			
64	Change the Unit 19C moose hunts to a drawing hunt for both residents and nonresidents, and specify the number of permits available for residents, guided nonresidents, and nonguided nonresidents		
No Action			
65	Reauthorize the Unit 19D Intensive Management Plan		
Support	6	0	IM is needed in 19D. An ADF&G proposal
66	Modify the moose hunting season dates and permit requirements in Unit 19D		
Support	6	0	SHAC supports this McGrath AC proposal, which recognizes the area biologist's ability to use his discretion in altering the season in future years.
67	Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D		
Support	6	0	SHAC supports this ADF&G proposal, which recognizes the area biologist's ability to use his discretion in altering the season in future years.

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68	Allow moose registration permit RM682 to be obtained online		
Oppose	0	6	**(See attached Document B – 2019 Board findings)** The 2019 BOG Findings list the conditions for the RM682 hunt. Proposals 68. 69. & 70 seek to eliminate 3 of these conditions. *Every few years an individual or entity from an urban area will make a proposal similar to 68, to require registration hunt availability online.* Permits for the RM682 hunt in 19E are available in 2 villages. **BOG hunt opened this hunt as an Experimental hunt, and it continues to be.** The hunt conditions exist to ensure a conservative harvest, since there are a limited number of animals. ADF&G has opened limited registration hunts in other areas of the state with low moose populations. In GMU18, there are a total of 4 registration hunts for moose. In each of 3 of those, permits are available in 2 villages, and not online, for the same reasons. comment Some Registration hunts are available online - some are not. Herd health, and local dependency are major factors. To address the 3 GMUS SHAC has jurisdiction in, there are - • 10 registration hunts in GMU 19 – including 5 for moose - with 1 of those available online • 10 registration hunts in GMU 18 - including 4 for moose - with 1 of those available online • 9 registration hunts in GMU 21 - including 6 for moose - with 4 of those available online Since this hunt began, there are people who have flown out 250 miles from Anchorage or traveled the same distance by boat from Bethel to get the RM682 permits.

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			Having online availability for these permits would give a priority to those - • Who can afford to buy a computer & pay for internet service • Who have reliable internet service available • Who have 5g over those with 3g or 4g • Who are fortunate enough to have the time to sit at a computer - waiting to pounce on a permit • Who apparently can afford to pay many hundreds of dollars for RT airfare to these remote areas & to ship back meat at a minimum of a dollar a pound for their "subsistence hunt". It could be viewed as an Urban priority, & would give the person at the keyboard priority over folks – • Who actually are there in person - standing in line - waiting their turn to get a permit, • People who actually live in the hunt area, • People who are the most dependent on these moose as a source of protein • People who have limited or no access to grocery stores
69	Allow hunters that hold registration moose permit RM682 in Unit 19 to be eligible to hold other moose permits in the Kuskokwim River drainage		
Oppose	0	6	**(See attached Document B – 2019 Board findings)** This proposal **says -** ***"What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?*** *Individuals fortunate enough to obtain an RM682 permit are not allowed to receive any other permit in the Kuskokwim drainage. These harvest opportunities are about filling the freezers for the populations living here. RM682 permit holders are being*

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			punished for having this permit. With the decline of subsistence fishing and economic hardship for people living in this area. People should be afforded more opportunities to feed their families." While 19E residents & SHAC appreciate the "concern" for their ability to get moose, we don't feel "punished" by this hunt condition. 19E resident moose hunting is traditionally done within 19E, or up into 19B or C. SHAC knows of no 19E resident interest in hunting in any other permit hunt. That includes hunting in permit hunts downriver or upriver, whether in GMU 19 or 18. Lime Villagers have the TM684 hunt, and can make the choice between that hunt and the RM682., or in the general hunt in 19B & C.
70	Make fifteen registration moose permits for the Unit 19E moose hunt available in Bethel		
Oppose	0	6	**(See attached Document B – 2019 Board findings)** Permits for the RM682 hunt in 19E are available in 2 villages. **BOG opened this hunt as an Experimental hunt, and it continues to be.** The hunt conditions exist to ensure a conservative harvest, since there are a limited number of animals. BOG uses limited registration hunts as a tool in other areas of the state with low moose populations. In GMU18, there are a total of 4 registration hunts for moose. In 3 of those hunts, permits are available in only 2 villages, and not in Bethel, for the same reasons.
71	Eliminate the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19		
Oppose	0	6	**(Please refer to SHAC Document C – for a History of 40hp CUA , 1992 BOG Findings & 1992 Actions *(Proposal D),* a 1994 ADF&G Memo)** *None of the conditions that led to this CUA's formation have changed. Documents provided at this meeting to BOG demonstrate what a beneficial regulation this has been, with better hunter success for all hunters, as well as addressing boat safety concerns and protecting salmon spawning beds.* • In 1992 BOG created this 40hp CUA to resolve user group conflicts, some of which had surfaced in a lawsuit & court ruling.

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			• In 2004, the 40hp CUA is listed as one of the 3 key regulations that existed when *t*he Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan Committee completed its Plan. • In 1994, harvest checkpoints on the Holitna River & harvest ticket reports showed that GMU18 hunters had a higher success rate with the 40hp limit than in previous years. • Safety concerns caused by large boats high hp outboards created wakes that had swamped and endangered smaller boats on theses narrow & shallow rivers. • Salmon spawning beds were affected by water disturbance and turbidity.
72	Change the restrictions of the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area by allowing outboards with greater than 40 horsepower to hunt a portion of the season		
Oppose	0	6	**(Please refer to SHAC Document C)** **Apply Proposal 71 comments to this proposal**
73	Reauthorize the Intensive Management Plan for Unit 21E for six years as follow		
Support	6	0	GASH made this proposal & SHAC supports it.
74	Require applicants for Unit 21E moose drawing hunt DM837 to provide a unique verification number when applying for that hunt		
Support	6	0	GASH made this proposal & SHAC supports it.
75	Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E		
Support	6	0	ADF&G would not reauthorize this hunt if moose numbers do not justify it.
76	Reopen all Unit 19C sheep hunts		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
77	Reopen Unit 19C to sheep hunting		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
78	Reauthorize nonresident Dall sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
79	Reopen Unit 19C to nonresident sheep hunters		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
80	Reopen sheep hunting in Unit 19C to nonresidents		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
81	Reestablish seasons and bag limits for sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
82	Change nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
83	Reopen sheep hunting in Unit 19C to nonresidents, by bow and arrow only		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
84	Change the sheep bag limit in Unit 19C for resident hunters to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every two regulatory years		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
85	Set the sheep bag limit in Unit 19C for resident hunters based on the age of the ram harvested, for six- to eight-year-old rams		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
86	Set the sheep bag limit in Unit 19C for resident hunters based on the age of the ram harvested, for six- to ten-year-old rams		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
87	Shorten the sheep hunting season in Unit 19C for residents and open a season for nonresidents in Unit 19C		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
88	Change all sheep hunting in Unit 19C to archery only, and require future nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C to be by bow and arrow only		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
89	Reopen the subsistence winter sheep hunts in Unit 19C		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
90	Reopen the late season resident only subsistence sheep registration hunt RS380 in Unit 19C		
Oppose	0	6	See Proposal 43 comment
91	Modify sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 19C or other subunits in the western Alaska Range by implementing a sheep management plan		
Support	6	0	This proposal supports the BOG working group solutions, as SHAC does.
92	Close all nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19		
Support	6	0	**SHAC supports this proposal, which will close 19B to non-resident hunters. Sheep #s are down, and they should not be hunted**
93	Lengthen the resident and nonresident brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 19C by opening the season on August 10		

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Support	6	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
94	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season by opening the hunt in the fall on the same day as the sheep and caribou seasons and closing the hunt on June 30		
Support	6	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
95	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 19C		
Support	6	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
96	Lengthen the resident and nonresident brown/grizzly bear hunting season by changing the start date to August 10.		
Support	6	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
97	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season and increase the bag limit in Unit 19C		
Support	6	0	**(Refer to SHAC Document D - SHAC's recommendation for Bear reg. liberalization & standardization throughout GMU 19 and 21A & E)** SHAC supports all these proposals that lengthen Brown Bear hunts or increase the bag limit **Proposal 97 does both, so that is SHAC's preferred proposal.** Also SHAC believes that standardizing /simplifying both brn bear & black bear hunts in GMU19 and 21A & E would be an aid to hunters, biologists and Wildlife Protection, as well as helping keep these expanding bear populations in check. Calf survival is a big issue throughout these areas as well. For those GMUs containing villages - having no closed season would help relieve safety & property concerns**. (See proposal 100 comments)**
98	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 19C by one month to align with Units 19A, 19D, and 19E		
Support	6	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
99	Open the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 19C for residents and nonresidents on August 10		
Support	6	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
100	Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 19E to year-round		
Support	5	0	**The following conditions exist to varying degrees throughout GMU19 & in 21 A & E.**

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			• There have been several wildfires in 19E in recent years, which has destroyed the habitat for some animals that bears feed on. • Salmon runs have decreased in recent years, limiting that source of food for bears. Because of this, there has been increased bear activity in and near villages, fish camps, and in dumps. Smoke houses have been damaged, nets dragged out, and fish taken. Some bears are becoming habituated. Villagers are threatened when bears are this close to humans, and unafraid to come near. *Due to increased Bear activity in and near Lime Village, SHAC made Proposal 106 for the 2020 Interior BOG meeting, which urged the expansion of the 19E Bear Control Focus Area. (BCFA), into the Lime Village Management Area. This proposal was not adopted.* Bears are targets of opportunity to locals, and are taken incidental to moose hunting or some other subsistence activity, or out of necessity for defense of life and property. <u>Presently, brown bear season is closed only 41 days a year.</u> Unfortunately, during that time, local residents are busy fishing and smoking fish, which is an activity that attracts bears. Folks are then forced to shoot bears, and to be legal they are required to skin the animal and turn it over to ADF&G. That's a lot of work folks don't need at a time they are subsistence fishing. Along with doing that work, they don't benefit from it. Also, with adoption of this proposal, 19E residents will be able to legally defend themselves and their property, and also keep the animal they have killed. **See Documents E.**
101	Allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken over bait in Unit 19C, and to be taken at a bait site the same day a hunter has flown		
Support	5	0	**See Proposal 97 comments**
102	Open a fall bear bait season in Unit 19E		

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March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, 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**
Support	5	0	There are a large number of brown bears in19E. Predation on moose and safety concerns in and around the villages reflect the need for an increased harvest of bears. Baiting bears in the fall will be productive for hunters, will benefit the moose population. **See Documents E**
103	Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 19B and 19C from three to five		
Support	5	0	**A SHAC Proposal** -here are large numbers of black bears that justify an increased bag limit. This change will bring 19B & C bag limits in line with those in the other subunits of GMU19. **See Documents E.**
104	Remove the requirement for a general season black bear harvest ticket in Unit 19D		
Support	5	0	**See Proposal 97 comments. This is a McGrath proposal.**
105	Allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken over bait in Unit 21A		
Support	5	0	**See Proposal 97 comments This is a McGrath AC proposal**
106	Allow hunting of black and brown bear with the use of bait or scent lures in Unit 21E		
Support	5	0	**See Proposal 97 comments. This is a GASH proposal**
107	Open a fall brown/grizzly bear baiting season in Unit 21E		
Support	5	0	**See Proposal 97 comments.**
208	Make changes in hunt conditions to RM682 in 19E		
Support	5	0	• After 5 years with the RM682 hunt in 19E, moose numbers have slowly grown in 19E. • At the 2022 Statewide BOG meeting, Proposal 120 passed, allowing proxy hunting in hunts where there is an antlered bull limit, so SHAC would like to see it in this hunt. • The March, 2023 ADF&G GSPE survey showed a decent increase in moose density in the Bear Control Focus Area (BCFA) • The Nov, 2023 comp count shows a 48 bull to 100 cow ratio, and a 28 calf to 100 cow – the cow ratio being a little low but acceptable. **Bears!** SHAC believes that allowing proxy hunting, allowing more than one permit per household, and adding 5 days to the hunt, will offer more hunting opportunity, while not compromising the growth of the 19E moose population.

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, 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**

Adjournment: 1:22 pm

Minutes Recorded By: __Doug Carney_____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

A

RE: Proposal 56 –

Create separate Intensive Management (IM) population and harvest objectives for Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 19E

In 2021 the board passed proposal 171 to split unit 19A into units 19A and 19E. This created several administrative errors including in 5 AAC 92.108. Currently the IM harvest and population objectives are for all of Unit 19A and Unit 19B. This proposal splits out the IM population and harvest objectives for Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 19E.

Below are what SHAC specifically proposes for 19E, B, and A.
It also suggests #s for 19 C.

…	Finding	Population	Harvest
GMU 19A	**Positive**	**4,300 – 5,300**	**175 – 225**
GMU 19B	**Positive**	**5,900 – 7,200**	**235 – 290**
[19(A) and 19(B)	Positive	13,500 - 16,500	750 – 950]
GMU 19(C)	**Positive** [Negative]	4**,400 – 5,000**	**175 - 200**
GMU 19(D)-East	Positive	6,000 - 8,000 3,000 - 3,500	400 – 600
GMU 19(D)-remainder	Positive	4,000 - 6,000	250 – 600
GMU 19E Positive		**3,300 – 4,000**	**130 – 160**

B

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game

2019-225-BOG

Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game on Subsistence Moose Hunting in Unit 19A Remainder Provided during the Southcentral Region Regulations Meeting

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Advisory Committees, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the department take the following actions:

1. Registration permits for moose in the remainder of Unit 19A will be available in person in communities in the hunt area only, during the month of July, and only one permit is allowed per household.
2. A person holding a permit for this hunt may not hold another moose permit in the Kuskokwim River drainage for that regulatory year.
3. 30 permits will be issued the first year. Up to 75 permits may be issued in subsequent years at the department's discretion. In exercising this discretion, the department should consider the harvestable portion of the moose population, the success of hunters in harvesting moose under these permits, and the potential for overhunting that could result in a population decline.
4. If the 2-year average bull:cow ratio decreases below 35:100 the hunt will close until a 2-year average bull:cow ratio is at least 35:100 within the hunt area.
5. If the harvestable portion of the population decreases below the lower range of the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for 19A, the hunt will close until the harvestable portion reaches the minimum ANS for 19A.
6. No proxy hunting will be permitted for this hunt.

Vote: 5-0-2
(*Members Hoffman and Burnett Absent*)
March 20, 2019
Anchorage, Alaska

Ted N. Spraker

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

C

File "C" includes –

1 - A Background & History of the Holitna-Hoholitna 40hp Controlled Use Area

2 - 1992 Board of Game Findings on Proposal "D"

3 - 1992 Board of Game Summary of Action on Board generated Proposal "D"

4 - 1994 proposals 111,112, 119, 120, & 121 (There were a total of 11 proposals, 111-121 to eliminate the 40hp CUA.) They were all similar, and originated in GMU18.

5 - An Aug. 26, 1994 memo from former McGrath Area Biologist Jack Whitman to Wildlife Conservation Director Chris Smith. The memo discusses the effectiveness of the CUA during its first 2 years, and the increased success rates of GMU18 hunters.

6 - The ADF&G comment on 1994 Region III BOG Proposal 119. This corroborates the previous memo, saying essentially the same thing.

7 - The 1994 Board Summary of Findings on Proposal 111, taking "No action" on the other similar proposals to eliminate the 40ho CUA.

8 - The 1994 Board Summary of Actions failed Proposal 111, taking "no action" on the other similar proposals for CUA elimination.

5

1. Background & History of Holitna-Hoholitna /40hp CUA

In the years since the CUA was formed, (1992), there have been many proposals originating in GMU 18 to get rid of it. In 1994 there were Proposals 111-121, in 1996 Proposals 118-121, in 2004 Proposals 236 &238, 2008 Proposal 87, and 2017 Proposal 80. Now in 2020, there is Proposal 101 to get rid of the 40 HP CUA.
Nothing much has changed, except for the moose herd populations, which have decreased in 19A & increased in GMU18.

Due to the habitat on & between the two rivers, the Holitna drainage had a remarkable concentration of moose. That changed due to the ban on aerial predator control from the late 80s till 2004.
During the 90s, the Mulchatna caribou herd migration route changed, and for several years the migration turned north at the headwaters of the Holitna, and followed the valley. This also brought in wolves that accompanied the migration, some of which stayed in the Holitna.
The ban, along with the continuing access of many boat accessed hunters, finally took its toll, and the effect was visible by the late 90s.

Prior to 1992, there had been 4 proposals for horsepower limit regulation in the Holitna Drainage

Chronology of events

1986 Subsistence Act/AS 16.05.258 becomes law. Protecting users who rely economically on subsistence resources for basic necessities was a primary purpose of the 1986 Act, (McDowell Decision)

Nov. 21, 1990 – The Native Village of Sleetmute files suit against Alaska Commissioner of Fish & Game Don Collinsworth.
This suit was actually filed at the instigation of the Bethel-based Alaska Village Council Presidents, (AVCP), by one of its employees, who had lived in Bethel most of his life, but was still enrolled in the federally recognized tribe of "The Native Village of Sleetmute."
This suit blamed guided hunters for wanton waste, and creating an environment that affected / deprived local users of their ability to harvest subsistence moose. The suit claimed that commercial guiding interests were unfair competition for local hunters in moose hunting that they wasted meat, etc.

Nov.8, 1991 - Bethel Superior Court Judge Dale Curda made a "partial summary judgment" in favor of Sleetmute, saying that BOG failed to comply with state subsistence law, (AS 16.05.258),which gives priority to subsistence users over sport users. Curda remanded the issue to the Joint Boards, with the judgment saying, "the board's action will become effective only after being submitted to & reviewed by this court."

April 3, 1992 –At the Region 3 BOG Meeting, the board generated its own Proposal "D" - creating The Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, (40 hp limit).This was in response to a number of proposals, and with Judge Curda's ruling in mind.
There was much testimony, and what became evident to the board, is that the largest user group hunting moose in the Holitna drainage were boat-accessed GMU 18 hunters. The main problem for Sleetmute hunters was created not by airplane-accessed, guided hunters, but by GMU18 hunters with large boats & large outboards. **The BOG Summary of Findings from that meeting are very clear. See the attachment below**

Fall, 1992 – AVCP meeting in Sleetmute –after the fall hunting season, AVCP found that the people of Sleetmute, including the tribal govt., were unanimously in favor of & satisfied with the new 40hp CUA .

May 7, 1993 After reviewing BOG's actions, Judge Curda made a final judgment on the case in favor of Sleetmute.

Fall, 1993 – The "Boat Owner's Association" of Bethel, obtains a court injunction to throw out the 40hp ruling. The injunction was thrown out one week later.

Spring, 1994 - At the Region III BOG meeting, there were proposals 111-121 to get rid of the 40hp CUA. Harvest success records kept by ADF&G again showed that GMU 18 hunters were by far the main competition Sleetmute hunters had for fall moose hunting. ADF&G records also showed that success rates for GMU 18 hunters had increased in the 2 years since the 40hp limit became regulation.**(See Aug, 26,1994 Memo below).**

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Summer, 1996 – "Boat Owner's Association" files suit against state to get rid of the 40hp CUA, which the court throws out.

2002-2004, The Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Planning Committee, (CKMMPC), met. This committee was made up of members from advisory committees- Central Kuskokwim, Lower Kuskokwim, Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, guides, transporters, Native organizations, & a conservation group.

2004 – **The completed CKMMP, listed the Holitna-Hoholitna CUA as one of the "Key Regulations"** that was in place before the planning project began, along with the Upper Holitna-Hoholitna Management Area, and the Non-resident Closed Areas in GMUs 19A & B, & a few others. The plan recommended & resulted in an aerial predator control program and BOG approving an unlimited Tier I registration hunt.

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#92-59-BOG

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
UNIT 19 A & B MOOSE

The Board of Game heard public testimony, staff reports, advisory committee reports, and discussed the issue of management of moose in Units 19A and 19B on April 1 and April 2, 1992. Based upon all the testimony and reports, both oral and written, the Board makes the following observations and conclusions:

Biological Findings:

1. The Board finds that the moose found in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in 19A and 19B are a moose "population." AS 16.05.940 (18). The boundary between 19A and 19B was drawn to reflect different use patterns of the population. The Unit 19A and 19B portions of this population have been subjected to discreet management.

2. The moose population within the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in GMU 19A and 19B is of moderate density, increasing in size, and highly productive. Calf:cow ratios in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna rivers in the fall during the past 10 years have averaged about 50-60 calves per 100 cows. Calf:cow ratios in the upper Hoholitna drainage in Unit 19B over this time have averaged about 25 to 30 calves:100 cows.

3. Bull-cow ratios within the 19A portion declined from 60-70 bulls:100 cows to approximately 30 bulls:100 cows during the 1976-1990 period as a result of high hunting pressure. The current ratio remains biologically adequate for productivity and the population sex and age structure provides for high sustained harvests.

4. Bull-cow ratios within the 19B portion remain higher than 19A, reflecting lower hunting pressure.

5. An estimate of the annual moose harvest during the period 1985-1990 for the Holitna and Hoholitna drainage for all types of uses is approximately 300 bulls and 30 cows, which is well within sustained yield limits. Of this estimated harvest, an average of 40-50 bulls were harvested each year by non-residents during this period, with the remainder by Alaska residents.

6. In general, the harvest of moose in the 19A portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is predominately by hunters using boats, primarily residents of Units 18 and 19. The harvest of moose in the 19B portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is primarily by hunters using aircraft access. Wheel-equipped aircraft are used to access upland areas, and float-equipped aircraft are used to access Whitefish Lake and certain landing and takeoff points along the rivers, including the

confluence of the Holitna with the Kuskokwim, the confluence of the Hoholitna with the Holitna, and other locations downriver from the mouth of the South Fork.

Subsistence Use Patterns:

1. The Board of Game found in 1987 that there are subsistence uses of moose in Unit 19, including the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages described above.

2. There are at least three distinct subsistence use patterns for moose in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages: a Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 18, a Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 19, and a Floater/Drifter Use Pattern by Alaska residents supported by floatplanes. In the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, hunters tend to access 19A and 19B by boats powered by outboard engines often in excess of 70 horsepower, which is part of the means and methods of harvest. In the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, including Sleetmute residents, hunters tend to access the areas by boats with horsepower engines less than 70 horsepower. In the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern, hunters typically access the area by airplanes of transporters combined with float craft.

3. In addition, there is some non-Alaska resident guided hunting in 19A and 19B. Guided hunters typically access the area by airplane, and harvest is predominately large bulls. The number of moose taken by guided hunters in 19A is small; harvest information indicates 7 moose taken by guided hunters for all of Subunit 19A in 1991.

4. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern is about 50%. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern is in the 70% range. The success rate for hunters who are part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern is estimated to be about 50%, although there is no detailed information on this group.

5. Hunters from Sleetmute hunt as part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern. The Department estimated an annual subsistence harvest to be somewhat more than 1 moose per multiperson household during the 1980s. A high estimate of the traditional use level by Sleetmute residents for the 1980s was between 1 to 2 moose per multiperson household, or about 48 moose for the community; however, actual harvest levels fluctuate according to a number of factors including weather and competition from other hunters. The reported harvest during the September season was approximately 12 with an additional 7 taken in the November and February seasons during the 1982-83 season, or about .86 moose per multiperson household. There

probably also were moose taken outside the open moose hunting seasons, but there is no estimate of numbers for Sleetmute. Sleetmute residents have indicated increasing difficulties in hunting moose along the river corridor during the September season.

Moose Required for Subsistence Uses:

The Board concludes that there is not a Tier II situation for moose hunting in the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages, as there is a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses for the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, and the Drifter/Floater Use Pattern. The number of harvested moose necessary to provide for subsistence uses of this moose population for all subsistence uses is within a range that may fluctuate from year to year, and is estimated to be about 300 in the period 1985-90. This is also a reasonable estimate for 1992 based on available information.

Subsistence Use Concerns:

There is evidence that the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, particularly for Sleetmute, is being impacted by an increased number of hunters and increased noise and disturbance by hunters in the river corridor of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages of 19A and 19B. Most of the increase is by Unit 18 residents who hunt as part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern. There also may be an increase in hunters who hunt as part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern based on reports of local hunters, although the Department has no firm estimate of trends in numbers for this user group. The board recieved testimony from local residents who perceived that the use of aircraft in Units 19 A and B contributed to disturbance of moose and competition from urban hunters. The board found that the disturbance exists primarily along the river corridor from boat traffic, and that the use of aircraft for access to this population for hunting is not a significant disturbance factor. The major impact on the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern has been that there are fewer bull moose available along the Holitna and Hoholitna river corridor. Hunters of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern report having to spend more days afield and spend more money hunting in the fall to obtain moose. A shortfall of fall moose takes are made up to some extent by harvests in the November and February seasons.

Board Regulatory Action:

The board adopted the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area (5 AAC 92.540 (e) (2)) at the Spring 1992 board meeting. The board finds that this regulation, combined with the moose hunting seasons for Unit 19 A and B, provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the subsistence uses of this moose population. The moose seasons for Units 19 A and B (outside the Lime Village Management area) are as follows:

Unit 19 A (except the Lime Village Management Area):

Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20; Nov. 20 - Nov. 30; Feb. 1 - Feb 10: 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the Nov. 20 - Nov. 30 and Feb. 1 - Feb. 10 seasons.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

Unit 19 B:
Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25: 1 bull.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept 25: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

The purpose of the controlled use area is to minimize disturbance along the Holitna - Hoholitna River corridor which has tended to displace moose, especially bull moose, making moose less accessible to subsistence users who rely on river access. The horsepower restriction is intended to limit noise disturbance while still allowing reasonable access by the method primarily used by subsistence users of this moose population. The board is also recommending that the department establish a check station at Whitefish Lake to further document the use pattern for Floater/Drifter hunters and better assess the extent of this use.

Based upon the best available information presented to it, the board believes that the regulations now established for moose hunting of this population will provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users of this population to satisfy their subsistence needs.

Dated: April 3, 1992

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Richard Burley

Richard Burley, Chairman
Board of Game

3

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF GAME
ANCHORAGE, MARCH 20 - APRIL 8, 1992

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Ida Alexie, Vince Mathews, Ann Wilkinson and Janice Hotch.

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

WOLVES:

Area Specific Management Plans.

See Attachment 1 - Report of the Board of Game.

PROPOSAL NO. 66 **ACTION:** No Action

DESCRIPTION: Wolf harvesting by the land and shoot method shall be allowed in GMU 11,12,13,20E under the Zone 7 method.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to action on area specific management plans.

PROPOSAL NO. 67 **ACTION: No Action**

DESCRIPTION: Unit 13 taking of wolves, and land shoot August 10 through March 31.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to action on area specific management plans.

PROPOSAL NO. 68 **ACTION: No Action**

DESCRIPTION: Units 13 and 20A be zoned as Zone 7.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to action on area specific management plans.

PROPOSAL NO. 71 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Reduce from 30 to 5 the number of days in which a wolf hide must be sealed.

DISCUSSION: The Board felt this proposal would not necessarily solve the perceived problem and was both impractical and imposed an undue hardship on trappers and subsistence users.

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not be allowed. When this issue came up three years ago there was extensive debate and what the Board came up with then is fair to both sides. Feel the hunters have the right to this practice.

INTERIOR PROPOSALS:

PROPOSAL NO. A **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: Close GMU 19A and 19B to guided or outfitted hunters.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken by the Board because of its action proposal D.

PROPOSAL NO. D **ACTION:** Adopted

DESCRIPTION: Create the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use area: (A) the area consists of the waters of the Holitna River downstream from Kashegelok the Titnuk River downstream from Fuller Mountain and the Hoholitna downstream from the confluence of the South Fork and main Hoholitna River; (B) the area is closed to the use of any boat equipped with inboard or outboard motor(s) with an aggregate horsepower in excess of manufacturer's rating of 40 horsepower for the purpose of taking big game, including transportation of big game hunters or parts of the big game during the period August 1 to November 1.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law summarized the legal case associated with the proposal and the judge's decision. Law Department explained how the Board should handle subsistence proposals according to existing law. The legal discussion included biological factors, subsistence need, and reasonable opportunity. The Board questioned Law about other user groups in the area and how they would relate to the subsistence users. Discussion continued on the relationship between commercial activities and subsistence uses where commercial supplies the resources (gas, oil, boats, etc.) to live a subsistence lifestyle. The Board discussed alternatives available to the deal with subsistence requirements. The Department provided information to assist the board to determine the moose population for the area including the fact that there was a healthy and increasing population. Hunter residency and success for GMU 19A and 19B over time was provided by the Department. The Department provided data on the antler size by hunter residency showing non-local residents harvesting moose with larger antler size than local residents. The Department explained how the lower river hunting pressure harvests mainly yearling bulls resulting in a low bull-cow ratio. The bull-cow ratio reflects the management strategy for producing moose for meat instead of for trophy moose. Moose densities for the Holitna drainage area were provided with an average of 1 - 1.2 moose per square mile and

compared to statewide moose densities.

Subsistence use patterns for the Holitna drainage were provided by the Subsistence Division. Subsistence use patterns discussed were the lower Kuskokwim subsistence users (GMU 18), transporter - outfitter - floaters users, and middle Kuskokwim subsistence users (GMU 19A). The middle Kuskokwim group includes the communities of Sleetmute, Red Devil, Stony River, Crooked Creek, Chuathbaluk, Aniak, and Upper Kalskag. The middle Kuskokwim pattern has both a fall and winter hunt components. Sleetmute's main traditional hunting area is the Hoholitna and Holitna drainages for pre and post snowmachine use. The Department estimates that 48 moose are needed to meet the subsistence needs for residents of Sleetmute. Access means for the fall hunts were discussed and compared to winter hunts. The Board discussed the subsistence success rates for Sleetmute overtime. The Department summarized the management tools available for this situation (Tier II hunt, mean & methods, seasons & bag limits).

The Board established a subcommittee to draft a summary finding for Unit 19A & B moose based on public testimony, staff reports, advisory committee reports, and discussion by the Board.

Discussion centered around defining the controlled use area and access to and from the area. The management strategies for 19A and 19B where discussed and how the controlled use area should recognize the strategies. The Board discussed the advantages of a controlled use area how it addresses the concerns of boat traffic, noise, disturbance, and allowing for recreational hunters on the up river portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna. Discussion continued on the need for check stations on the lower portions and near the junction of Hoholitna and the South Fork of the Hoholitna Rivers. The Board action was based on public testimony and department hunter and subsistence use information. See Attachment 5 for the Board Finding.

PROPOSAL E **ACTION:** Adopted

DESCRIPTION: Amend 5 AAC 85.020(23) Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Brown Bear so that hunters may take only one bear every four regulatory years and increasing number of permits issued for each hunt. 5 AAC 85.020 (23) is amended to read:

5 AAC 85.020. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(23)		
Unit 25 (A), Sheeryek, Coleen,		

4

1994 Proposals

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PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Upper Kuskokwim and Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

Delete aircraft and outboard motor restrictions in these controlled use areas.

PROBLEM: Non-biologically justified restriction on access for hunting in the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area and the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. These two areas have the highest moose density and healthiest populations in the state. The current access restrictions (aircraft and outboard motor restrictions) are racially and/or residency based and cannot withstand legal scrutiny.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board should manage the State's wildlife and not our human population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Persons who believe in equality and equal access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? User groups who live inside the limited access areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Lynn Levengood (HQ-94-G-92)

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PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

Erase the horsepower limitation on boat motors as there is no need for it.

PROBLEM: The limit of only 40 horse engines on the Holitna River during the fall hunting season.

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

That the motor horsepower limit be removed to accomodate the boat that is being driven on state navigable waters.

PROBLEM: 40 horsepower limit on Holitna River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The people of the Lower Kuskokwim will not be able to buy a 40 h.p. outboard and pay a $400 hunting fee and pay a $150 storage fee at Red Devil. We will not get into state owned country to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The people that don't have money to buy a 40 h.p. and people who hunt on the Holitna for moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jerry Demientieff (HQ-94-G-28)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

All outboard motor restriction would be removed. If hunter number needs to be controlled by state law restrict non-residents first. No float planes on Holitna.

PROBLEM: Remove 40 HP limitation from Holitna River for moose hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters from down river use larger motors. This rule prevents down river hunters from using Holitna River while allowing non-resident hunters to sport hunt using airplanes. There isn't any biological reason to limit access to the Holitna. Down river hunters will be banned from area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters on Kuskokwim River with motor larger than 40 H.P. This is almost all of the hunters from Aniak down river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A couple of guides or outfitters who want the Holitna River as their private hunting area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eric Shrum (W-94-G-1)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

5

Date: 26 August 1994
To: Chris Smith
From: Jack Whitman
Re: Notes on Holitna CUA

Figure 7 displays reported hunter success rates in Subunit 19A of hunters from GMU 18, as well as depicting success rates by all hunters combined (including GMU 18 hunters). This clearly indicates that GMU 18 hunters have enjoyed higher moose hunting success rates than other segments of the hunting population during 4 of the last 6 years. Most notably, the success rates increased substantially during the 1992 and 1993 seasons, during which time the horsepower restrictions have been in effect. I hesitate to get too froggy, but Figure 7 kinda smacks of good management.

Figure 8 shows reported hunter success rates in GMU 19B by hunters from GMU 18 and hunters from all residences. It too, indicates that GMU 18 residents have enjoyed higher success rates during 5 of the last 6 years than the general hunting populace in GMU 19B. I really don't understand the lawsuit. Please explain.

Figure 9. It's obvious from the mandatory hunter reports that success rates throughout GMU 19 by GMU 18 residents has increased substantially during the 2 years that the horsepower restrictions have been in place. Further, during 1992 (the first year of the horsepower restriction), GMU 18 hunters harvested more moose than at any time during the previous 6 years in GMU 19.

Further, I would bet that if the GMU 18 hunters would quit poaching the Unit 18 moose and let them build to reasonable population levels, they wouldn't have to travel to GMU 19 to hunt: they would have plenty to go around if they'd allow them to become established.

It should be noted, that if subsistence harvest of moose is the real issue, the total reported take in the Holitna and Hoholitna River drainages (where local hunters, both Unit 18 and Unit 19 residents, make up the vast majority of users) was higher during the 2 years of the horsepower restrictions than during any of the 3 preceeding years.

If safety of boaters is the issue, the bigger the boat, the bigger the wake. It could be argued that the big boats (generally from GMU 18) are a hazard to the local (GMU 19) residents. The GMU 18 hunters should learn how to pack a boat reasonably and not overload.

There are myriad variables in regards to the question of number of river miles available to hunters, making it very difficult to obtain a pat answer. Annual (or daily) water levels, whether the boat is equipped with a lift, short shaft, jet unit, etc., as well as knowledge/skill level of the pilot all make a tremendous difference in whether a stream is "navigable". Nevertheless, I've made a stab at estimating the miles of navigable waterways in GMU 19.

When the entire Kuskokwim upstream of Kalskag (including the tributaries) is considered, I estimate there are about 650 river miles navigable by "large" boat, of which about 200 miles are on the Holitna/Hoholitna (31%). When smaller and/or shallower streams are considered, about 1,900 miles of waterways are available, of which the Holitna/Hoholitna Rivers make up less than 14% (about 260 miles).

6

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DIVISION

PROPOSAL 119. 5AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS.

This proposal would delete the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area.

Moose populations, as reflected by composition/trend surveys in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers, are doing well. No surveys were conducted during fall 1995 because of the lack of adequate snow cover, but until that time, populations appeared to be increasing (Figures 1, 2). With the increases in moose populations, there were limits imposed on motor size, but the reported harvest remained high (Figure 3). Throughout 19A, hunters from Unit 18 had very high reported success rates immediately following the instigation of the 40-hp limit, as did hunters from other areas (Figure 4). According to hunter harvest reports, the 40-hp restriction has resulted in marginally fewer Unit 18 hunters using 19A, but those that chose to hunt there had higher success rates. With the increases in the moose population, the increased harvest, and the increases in reported hunter success rates, the regulation prohibiting boats with motors in excess of 40-hp has apparently worked well.

Figure 1. Moose per hour figures from Holitna/Hoholitna Trend Area during the period 1976-1994.

Figure 2. Number of bull moose observed in the Holitna/Hoholitna Trend Area during 1976-94.

Figure 3. Total reported harvest of moose from 19A from 1983-1994.

Figure 4. Comparison of hunter success rates in 19A during the period 1983-94.

7

#92-59-BOG

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
UNIT 19 A & B MOOSE

The Board of Game heard public testimony, staff reports, advisory committee reports, and discussed the issue of management of moose in Units 19A and 19B on April 1 and April 2, 1992. Based upon all the testimony and reports, both oral and written, the Board makes the following observations and conclusions:

Biological Findings:

1. The Board finds that the moose found in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in 19A and 19B are a moose "population." AS 16.05.940 (18). The boundary between 19A and 19B was drawn to reflect different use patterns of the population. The Unit 19A and 19B portions of this population have been subjected to discreet management.

2. The moose population within the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages in GMU 19A and 19B is of moderate density, increasing in size, and highly productive. Calf:cow ratios in the lower Holitna and Hoholitna rivers in the fall during the past 10 years have averaged about 50-60 calves per 100 cows. Calf:cow ratios in the upper Hoholitna drainage in Unit 19B over this time have averaged about 25 to 30 calves:100 cows.

3. Bull-cow ratios within the 19A portion declined from 60-70 bulls:100 cows to approximately 30 bulls:100 cows during the 1976-1990 period as a result of high hunting pressure. The current ratio remains biologically adequate for productivity and the population sex and age structure provides for high sustained harvests.

4. Bull-cow ratios within the 19B portion remain higher than 19A, reflecting lower hunting pressure.

5. An estimate of the annual moose harvest during the period 1985-1990 for the Holitna and Hoholitna drainage for all types of uses is approximately 300 bulls and 30 cows, which is well within sustained yield limits. Of this estimated harvest, an average of 40-50 bulls were harvested each year by non-residents during this period, with the remainder by Alaska residents.

6. In general, the harvest of moose in the 19A portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is predominately by hunters using boats, primarily residents of Units 18 and 19. The harvest of moose in the 19B portions of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages is primarily by hunters using aircraft access. Wheel-equipped aircraft are used to access upland areas, and float-equipped aircraft are used to access Whitefish Lake and certain landing and takeoff points along the rivers, including the

confluence of the Holitna with the Kuskokwim, the confluence of the Hoholitna with the Holitna, and other locations downriver from the mouth of the South Fork.

Subsistence Use Patterns:

1. The Board of Game found in 1987 that there are subsistence uses of moose in Unit 19, including the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages described above.

2. There are at least three distinct subsistence use patterns for moose in the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages: a Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 18, a Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern by hunters from Unit 19, and a Floater/Drifter Use Pattern by Alaska residents supported by floatplanes. In the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, hunters tend to access 19A and 19B by boats powered by outboard engines often in excess of 70 horsepower, which is part of the means and methods of harvest. In the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, including Sleetmute residents, hunters tend to access the areas by boats with horsepower engines less than 70 horsepower. In the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern, hunters typically access the area by airplanes of transporters combined with float craft.

3. In addition, there is some non-Alaska resident guided hunting in 19A and 19B. Guided hunters typically access the area by airplane, and harvest is predominately large bulls. The number of moose taken by guided hunters in 19A is small; harvest information indicates 7 moose taken by guided hunters for all of Subunit 19A in 1991.

4. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern is about 50%. The success rate during the fall in 19A and 19B for hunters who are part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern is in the 70% range. The success rate for hunters who are part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern is estimated to be about 50%, although there is no detailed information on this group.

5. Hunters from Sleetmute hunt as part of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern. The Department estimated an annual subsistence harvest to be somewhat more than 1 moose per multiperson household during the 1980s. A high estimate of the traditional use level by Sleetmute residents for the 1980s was between 1 to 2 moose per multiperson household, or about 48 moose for the community; however, actual harvest levels fluctuate according to a number of factors including weather and competition from other hunters. The reported harvest during the September season was approximately 12 with an additional 7 taken in the November and February seasons during the 1982-83 season, or about .86 moose per multiperson household. There

probably also were moose taken outside the open moose hunting seasons, but there is no estimate of numbers for Sleetmute. Sleetmute residents have indicated increasing difficulties in hunting moose along the river corridor during the September season.

Moose Required for Subsistence Uses:

The Board concludes that there is not a Tier II situation for moose hunting in the Holitna and Hoholitna drainages, as there is a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses for the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern, the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, and the Drifter/Floater Use Pattern. The number of harvested moose necessary to provide for subsistence uses of this moose population for all subsistence uses is within a range that may fluctuate from year to year, and is estimated to be about 300 in the period 1985-90. This is also a reasonable estimate for 1992 based on available information.

Subsistence Use Concerns:

There is evidence that the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern, particularly for Sleetmute, is being impacted by an increased number of hunters and increased noise and disturbance by hunters in the river corridor of the Holitna and Hoholitna river drainages of 19A and 19B. Most of the increase is by Unit 18 residents who hunt as part of the Lower Kuskokwim Use Pattern. There also may be an increase in hunters who hunt as part of the Floater/Drifter Use Pattern based on reports of local hunters, although the Department has no firm estimate of trends in numbers for this user group. The board recieved testimony from local residents who perceived that the use of aircraft in Units 19 A and B contributed to disturbance of moose and competition from urban hunters. The board found that the disturbance exists primarily along the river corridor from boat traffic, and that the use of aircraft for access to this population for hunting is not a significant disturbance factor. The major impact on the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern has been that there are fewer bull moose available along the Holitna and Hoholitna river corridor. Hunters of the Middle Kuskokwim Use Pattern report having to spend more days afield and spend more money hunting in the fall to obtain moose. A shortfall of fall moose takes are made up to some extent by harvests in the November and February seasons.

Board Regulatory Action:

The board adopted the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area (5 AAC 92.540 (e) (2)) at the Spring 1992 board meeting. The board finds that this regulation, combined with the moose hunting seasons for Unit 19 A and B, provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the subsistence uses of this moose population. The moose seasons for Units 19 A and B (outside the Lime Village Management area) are as follows:

Unit 19 A (except the Lime Village Management Area):

Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20; Nov. 20 - Nov. 30; Feb. 1 - Feb 10: 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the Nov. 20 - Nov. 30 and Feb. 1 - Feb. 10 seasons.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 20: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

Unit 19 B:
Resident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept. 25: 1 bull.

Nonresident hunters: Sept. 1 - Sept 25: 1 bull with 50 inch antlers.

The purpose of the controlled use area is to minimize disturbance along the Holitna - Hoholitna River corridor which has tended to displace moose, especially bull moose, making moose less accessible to subsistence users who rely on river access. The horsepower restriction is intended to limit noise disturbance while still allowing reasonable access by the method primarily used by subsistence users of this moose population. The board is also recommending that the department establish a check station at Whitefish Lake to further document the use pattern for Floater/Drifter hunters and better assess the extent of this use.

Based upon the best available information presented to it, the board believes that the regulations now established for moose hunting of this population will provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users of this population to satisfy their subsistence needs.

Richard Burley

Richard Burley, Chairman
Board of Game

Dated: April 3, 1992

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

18

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF GAME

MARCH 26 - APRIL 5, 1994
ANCHORAGE WESTCOAST INTERNATIONAL INN

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Nancylee S. Babbitt

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

****

SOUTHEAST REGION PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL NO. 1 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.015. Reduce Unit 1C black bear bag limit to one bear.

DISCUSSION: There is no problem with bear population in this area.

PROPOSAL NO. 2 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.015. Reduce Unit 3 black bear bag limit by one bear.

DISCUSSION: Bear in this area remain constant, only 13 second bears have been taken.

PROPOSAL NO. 8 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.020. Change Unit 1B brown bear season to September 1 - December 31.

DISCUSSION: There is not an over abundance of bears in this area only one bear killed in the time period when the season was opened this early.

PROPOSAL NO. 107 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Add aircraft to motorized vehicle restrictions in the Yanert Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: Proposal is probably in response to tourist air traffic east of Denali Park which causes disturbance to horseback hunters. Most hunting access is by horseback. Adoption of this proposal would reallocate the harvest among different user groups. The problem is tourist flights and the board cannot create a CUA that eliminates people from flying in for non-hunting purposes.

PROPOSAL NO. 111 **ACTION:** Failed

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. The Upper Kuskokwim and Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete aircraft and outboard motor restrictions.

DISCUSSION: People from 19A generally use small river boats with 40 h.p. or less. Down river residents were using commercial fishing boats with 100/200 h.p. motors. Down river residents generally felt the problem was aircraft into upper portions of watershed. A check station established in the late 1980's and harvest tickets showed increasing resident use, but little impact from aircraft. Moose and caribou are at moderate density in the area. Effects of the CUA has been to displace hunting effort upstream in the Kuskokwim. Other hunters have found a way around regs by towing a small boat behind big boat till they get to the Holitna than towing their big boat with a small boat. Also some have taken larger boats up the Holitna and indicated they are not hunting while in their larger boats. 19A residents are happy with and support current regs. Lower Kuskokwim residents opposed. One board member noted that he had heard no compelling reason to change the 40 h.p. restriction. Another board member noted testimony from one Bethel resident who was initially opposed to the restriction and now is satisfied with the reg.

PROPOSAL NO. 112 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 113 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 114 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 115 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 116 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 117 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 118 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

PROPOSAL NO. 119 **ACTION:** No action

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Delete the horsepower limitation on boat motors.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on Proposal No. 111.

D

Black & Brown Bear Regulations for GMU 19 & GMUs 21A & E
Standardization of Regulations.

The many proposals for liberalization of bear regulations for these GMUs, (93-107), illustrate the differences in regulation between them & the benefits of regulation standardization, as well as the need for liberalization of bear regulations, increasing bear harvest.

There is unanimous support the villages of 19E for proposals 100, 101, & 103, which are specific to 19E. This includes support for proposals that are for similar regulation change in all 19 and 21 subunits. There are resolutions of support from the Village Councils within 19E, **Documents E,** for these proposals and for the Bear Plan SHAC is submitting.

Building on the content of bear proposals, many of which come from 19 & 21 advisory committees

- SHAC agreed that making 19B & C the same, and also making 19A, D, E & 21 A & E the same seasons & bag limits & conditions will make things better for village safety, hunters, enforcement, & relieve pressure on moose calves.
- Listed below & in the table, are liberalization & standardization of seasons, bag limits, and baiting regulations in19 and 21A & E. They will be positive changes for village safety, hunters, enforcement, and for prey populations that suffer from the large number of bears in these subunits.

Brown bear:

Unit 19B and 19C
Aug 10 – June 30
2 bear bag limit for everyone
Take at bait Apr 15 – June 30 & Aug1 – Oct. 31

Units 19A, 19D, 19E, 21A and 21E (contain villages)
No closed season
2 bear bag limit for everyone
Take at bait Apr 15 – June 30 & Aug 1 – Oct 31

Black bear:

Unit 19, 21A, 21E
No closed season
5 bear bag limit for everyone
Take at bait Apr 15 – June 30 and Aug 1 – Oct 31
No harvest ticket required

E-1

Resolution of Support for 2024 Board of Game Proposals 93-107 &

Stony Holitna GMU19 & GMU 21A & E Bear Season Plan

To The Alaska Board of Game –

In recent years, there have been several large wildfires in GMU19, which have destroyed habitat for bears and the animals bears feed on. At the same time, salmon runs have decreased to a large degree, limiting this food source as well. Because of this, bear activity and damage done in and near the villages and fish camps has increased noticeably.
Bears also take a huge toll on moose during calving and through the summer months.

There have been increasing incidents of bears entering this village and the other villages of 19E. Smokehouses and nets have been cleaned out and damaged, and bears have been hanging around dumps and walking around villages, endangering the residents.

In 2020, SHAC made proposal 106 - To expand the predation control area in 19A, (now 19E), into the Stony River and Lime Village Management Area. The proposal was not adopted, but the problems caused by bears has remained.

The Native Village of Sleetmute **strongly supports** proposals, 93-107 due to safety and property concerns for the people of our village and the other villages in GMUs 19 and 21A & E. Proposals 100 and 102 are specific to GMU19E, while the others proposals listed deal with the same issues in the subunits of GMU19 and GMUs 21A & 21E.

SHAC has drafted a plan that liberalizes bear hunting, and standardizes the regulations in these GMUs.
SHAC will present this plan to the Board at the March, 2024 Interior BOG Meeting.
Our village strongly supports this plan, and urges the Board of Game to adopt it.

The following 19E & SHAC proposals fit into this plan well.
SHAC Proposal 100 - In **19E** the present brown bear season is from August 10 to June 30, which leaves a 41 day closure. This closure coincides with a lot of subsistence fishing effort in GMU 19. We would like to see no closed season for Brown bear in 19E.

Proposal 102 is from a local guide. This proposal expands the **19E** spring bear baiting season by adding a fall season. This should increase bear harvest, making a difference in bear & moose populations and the safety of our village residents.

SHAC Proposal 103 is also a SHAC proposal that increases the Black Bear bag limit to 5 in **GMUs 19B & C.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Signed, Frank Egnaty

Frank Egnaty, Sleetmute Tribal Administrator

Resolution of Support for 2024 Board of Game Proposals 93-107 &

Stony Holitna GMU19 & GMU 21A & E Bear Season Plan

Ak Board of Game :

In recent years, there have been several large wildfires in GMU19, which have destroyed habitat for bears and the animals bears feed on. At the same time, salmon runs have decreased to a large degree, limiting this food source as well. Because of this, bear activity and damage done in and near the villages and fish camps has increased noticeably.
Bears also take a huge toll on moose during calving and through the summer months.

There has been increased number of bears coming into this village and the other villages of 19E. Smokehouses and nets have been cleaned out and damaged, and bears have been hanging around dumps and walking around villages, endangering the residents.

[redacted]

The Native Village of Stony River **strongly supports** proposals, 93-107 due to safety and property concerns for the people of our village and the other villages in GMUs 19 and 21A & E. Proposals 100 and 102 are specific to GMU19E, while the others proposals listed deal with the same issues in the subunits of GMU19 and GMUs 21A & 21E.

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Proposal 102 is from a local guide. This proposal expands the **19E** spring bear baiting season by adding a fall season. This should increase bear harvest, making a difference in bear & moose populations and the safety of our village residents.

SHAC Proposal 103 is also a SHAC proposal that increases the Black Bear bag limit to 5 in **GMUs 19B & C.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Signed,

12/22/2023

Mary Willis, Stony River Tribal Administrator

Resolution of Support for 2024 Board of Game Proposals 93-107 &

Stony Holitna GMU19 & GMU 21A & E Bear Season Plan

To The Alaska Board of Game –

In recent years, there have been several large wildfires in GMU19, which have destroyed habitat for bears and the animals bears feed on. At the same time, salmon runs have decreased to a large degree, limiting this food source as well. Because of this, bear activity and damage done in and near the villages and fish camps has increased noticeably.
Bears also take a huge toll on moose during calving and through the summer months.

There have been increasing incidents of bears entering this village and the other villages of 19E. Smokehouses and nets have been cleaned out and damaged, and bears have been hanging around dumps and walking around villages, endangering the residents.

In 2020, SHAC made proposal 106 - To expand the predation control area in 19A, (now 19E), into the Stony River and Lime Village Management Area. The proposal was not adopted, but the problems caused by bears has remained.

The Native Village of Lime Village **strongly supports** proposals, 93-107 due to safety and property concerns for the people of our village and the other villages in GMUs 19 and 21A & E. Proposals 100 and 102 are specific to GMU19E, while the others proposals listed deal with the same issues in the subunits of GMU19 and GMUs 21A & 21E.

SHAC has drafted a plan that liberalizes bear hunting, and standardizes the regulations in these GMUs.
SHAC will present this plan to the Board at the March, 2024 Interior BOG Meeting.
Our village strongly supports this plan, and urges the Board of Game to adopt it.

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SHAC Proposal 100 - In **19E** the present brown bear season is from August 10 to June 30, which leaves a 41 day closure. This closure coincides with a lot of subsistence fishing effort in GMU 19. We would like to see no closed season for Brown bear in 19E.

Proposal 102 is from a local guide. This proposal expands the **19E** spring bear baiting season by adding a fall season. This should increase bear harvest, making a difference in bear & moose populations and the safety of our village residents.

SHAC Proposal 103 is also a SHAC proposal that increases the Black Bear bag limit to 5 in **GMUs 19B & C.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Signed,

Ursula Graham

Ursula Graham, Lime Village Tribal Administrator

F

2020 BOG Proposals attacking RM682 Hunt Conditions

(BOG created the RM682 hunt in 2019)

There were several other 2020 proposals originating in GMU18 that dealt with management of the 19A TH680 hunt. They were 97, 98, & 102.
Those proposals and those addressing RM682 hunt conditions printed below – 100, 101, 103 - failed unanimously, except 103, which got one yes vote.
2024 proposals 68-72 are also from GMU18 individuals, again attacking RM682 hunt conditions. Three of these are from the same individual that authored all 3 of those in 2020.
****

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons **and bag limits for moose.**

Extend the resident season dates for moose hunting in Unit 19A Remainder as follows:

For Unit 19A Remainder moose hunt area:

Registration permit season dates: September 1 - 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the moose hunting season on the Unit 19A Eastern hunt area in and around the Holitna River from September 1 - 5 to September 1 - 30.

It is a limited registration hunt with only 30 permits given out so having a short season is not necessary. There are a lot of other restrictions on this permit making it hard to use and this might be the only chance at getting a moose if people are not allowed to have any other Kuskokwim moose permits for the year.

1) One per household; 2) no proxy hunting; 3) only moose permit for Kuskokwim; 4) Holitna control use are with 40hp restrictions, 5) very short season, and 6) permit is first come, first serve in the hunt area in July only.

Collectively these six restrictions make it difficult and stressful for hunters to put meat in the freezer. Especially if the Department of Fish and Game is only issuing a limited number of registration permits every year within the hunt area. I think some of these restrictions can be reduced and the actual hunting season can be extended because the department is in no danger of

overharvesting. Another bonus to this is that hunters would not have to hunt early September when it can be very hot and buggy.

Other considerations would be to allow people to get other Kuskokwim permits after they turn in this permit (if unsuccessful) and to allow proxy hunting. Being able to put a moose in the freezer is really important for a lot of families along the Kuskokwim River and life happens so being able to have a proxy or hunt a different moose permit later if unsuccessful would really help people.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Hancock (EG-F19-057)

****

PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Remove the horsepower restriction in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19A as follows:

The Unit 19A registration hunt gives the Department of Fish and Game many tools to limit the number of hunters and/or keep harvest at sustainable levels without the 40-horsepower restriction on big game hunters. Because the 40-horsepower economically discriminates against hunters and serves no other purpose, I recommend it be removed. If the department has concerns about the number of hunters on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers they can limit the number of registration permits issued.

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

5AAC 92.540(7)(B)

[(B) the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area

(i) the area consists of water of the Holitna River downstream from Kashegelok, the Titnuk River downstream from Fuller Mountain and the Hoholitna River downstream

from the confluence of the South Fork and main Hohlitna River.

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any boat equipped with an inboard or outboard motor with an aggregate horsepower in excess of the manufacturer's rating of 40 horsepower for hunting big game, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game, from August 1 through November l; however this provision

does not prohibit the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to remove the 40-horsepower restriction on big game hunters in Unit 19A.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Hancock (EG-F19-044)

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a Tier II permit hunt for moose in Unit 19A Remainder as follows:

For the Unit 19A Remainder moose hunt area, have a Tier II hunt if the harvestable portion drops below the lower range of the ANS.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 19A Remainder (Eastern hunt area in and around the Holitna River). If the harvestable portion drops below the lower range of the ANS (amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence) the hunt should transition into a Tier II hunt.

Moose meat is an incredible valuable commodity for people on the Kuskokwim River. Most people along the river self-identify as a substance user. When bull moose are available for harvest, we should harvest them not leave them on the landscape to die of old age. By not allowing a Tier II hunt in this area the state is wasting meat people could really use. We cannot save bulls for later, that's just not how that would work. Use them or lose them. I understand that some people in the area don't like Tier II hunts but if we are in a situation where we drop below the lower range of the ANS again we should have a Tier II hunt. It's the only way to make the best of a bad situation. If people only harvest bull moose it will not negatively affect the population. I don't like that a regulation was passed that would remove this subsistence option in the future just for this hunt area where subsistence is a way of life for most people.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Hancock (EG-F19-056)