

April 15, 2014 Meeting

Members Present: Frank Neumann George Jacoby Kevin Taylor Joel Doner Robert Caywood Grant Klotz Vince Baldauf, Jim Stubbs Kevin Sparrowgrove Gary Brell Neil Dewitt Robert Peck Matt Rogero Ehren Strawn Phil Calhoun Bruce Morgan  
Members Absent Excused: Mark Campbell

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Chairman Bruce Morgan at the Fish Hatchery  
A quorum was established of the members present  
The agenda for the night's meeting was approved.  
The minutes of the last 2 meetings were approved.

Department guests: Tom Lohuis- the area sheep biologist for the Chugach Mountains.

Tom reported on the sheep research for Units 13D and 14C. It has been 5 years of research in unit 13D and 2 years in 14C. In Unit 13D from the 1960's to the 1980's the population was ranging from 650 to 750; and then from 2007 to 2009 it declined from 350 to 420. The research is trying to figure out what is driving the sheep populations.

In the capture and handling programs they don't use drugs anymore, they use nets instead. In unit 13D they have captured 40 adult ewes each year for the last 5 years. The body condition appeared extremely poor, even for late winter with no subcutaneous fat. The pregnancy rate was 62% where it is normally 82% to 100%. It had dropped to 21% in 2012 and then rose to 85% on 2013. In unit 14C the sheep were also in poor condition but were slightly better than in 13D.

The sheep are checked 2 times a month, the location is recorded and the health is checked. Unit 13D had 21% adult mortality and the majority of those were from avalanches. Unit 14C had 6% adult mortality. Lamb survival rates vary from 42% to 63% in 13C and out of 77 tagged from 2009-2012 11/3 of them had survived. The data for 14C is incomplete as only 26 were captured. In Unit 13D the summary is an annual adult survival rate of 87%. And a lamb survival rate of 27%.

Public Testimony:

Jack Frost- The Alaska Bowhunters Assn. He wanted to present proposals from them in the upcoming B of G cycle. Neil asked about having a bow hunter certification and having it be renewable every 4 years and Jack said it had been discussed.

Bruce asked him if there were any proposals that he would like the AC to endorse and they had none at this time.

Rod Arno- Executive Director of the Alaska Outdoor Council. That upcoming Friday is the Copper Center Community Harvest meeting and the AOC has proposals relating to this for us to look at. The Board and the Department has a number for the population and harvestable surplus. As of now in the Nelchina area the harvest has been below the surplus. That area has an ANS range of 300 to 600 moose and the board can be pressed to do more predator/prey management or habitat enhancement. In unit 13 there are 9 million acres of state owned land, 1 million of native owned lands and 4 million acres of BLM owned land. As long as the harvestable surplus is above the ANS, they can't differentiate between users. Frank spoke to us about these community harvest proposals at the B of G.

Jim motioned to support proposal 4A to have a weighted draw hunt and do away with the community harvest hunts, seconded by Robert Peck. It passed unanimously in support.

We discussed the Board of Fish appointments. Jim supported the 3 re-appointees. But Joel questioned their knowledge of the issues by some members. Jim motioned to have the chair write a letter of support for the 3 existing members for re-appointment. The vote was taken and 7 in support and 6 oppose. The opposed really wanted to take no action on the people appointed.

We discussed a new election policy. It was discussed when to have the election. Jim mentioned about having the election in April. Joel mentioned the same thing as well. Robert Peck asked about why not in October, but Grant mentioned that we are just getting back into meetings and then getting into board proposals. Neil mentioned that the department is discussing having a get together in the summer for new members. George motioned to have election meeting the first Tuesday of April. Vote was taken and it was unanimous.

Neil had phone poll of the members to have electronic voting. It was 12 in support and 2 oppose. Neil gave the comments for the members on this and it was discussed. The first issue was what constitutes an emergency. Are the members discussing it before the next meeting? Joel mentioned that it takes out the public process that we also ask of the department. He said that there should be guidelines as to a timeline.

Robert motioned that we use electronic voting under the following circumstances.

- 1) In an emergency the discussion will last only 12 hours.
- 2) The vote will be for 12 hours minimum through the chair or vice-chair.
- 3) The vote will have to have a majority per Roberts Rules of Order.
- 4) Time will be maximized when available.
- 5) It will be part of the next meetings minutes.
- 6) For representation appointments, the time will be shortened if needed.
- 7) There will be a 7 day public notice if possible.

On amendments- if there is an objection on whether it is an emergency, there will be a vote to decide on the emergency.

Vote on amendment was 15 in support and 0 oppose.

Vote on proposal was 14 in support and 1 oppose.

Oppose was worried about the public process being eliminated.

We discussed the UCIDA letter and Kevin Taylor motioned to take no action, seconded by Vince.

Vote was 14 support and 1 oppose to take no action.

We went over the ac generated proposals to the Board of Game.

Robert motioned to adopt the proposal by Joel to be from the AC. It will be changed by Joel and all of the other AC proposals. Vote was 15 in support and 0 oppose.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 PM.

The next meeting will be determined at a later date.