

POINT MACKENZIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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20810 West Mackenzie RD
Wasilla Alaska 99623
(907) 671-0003

Friday, October 23, 2020

President Gary Foster

Fish and Wildlife
Boards and Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

During our Point Mackenzie Community Council meeting on 10-8-2020 a motion was unanimously made by the audience to send this letter (attached) to you the Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, regarding Moose Hunt Proposal 79-Palmer Area. Mr. Gary Johnson of Point Mackenzie spoke about the Proposal 79-Palmer Area Moose Hunt. Local residences were surprised to hear about the upcoming November moose hunt in light of our local dwindling moose herd numbers. Our residence agreed that there are fewer moose, area wide, have been seen both from our local herd, or the migrating herds. The lower population does not appear to be from natural causes such as wolves or bear, and given that there are fewer vehicles on the roads since Covid-19 we are concerned.

We had numerous people concerned as well about the large number of calves in the area without cows being with them. As we know the calves without assistance from the cow will not survive the winter. If your regulations state that they should look for calves before for shooting a cow that is not being adhered to this is just another reason we with the Community Council are asking for the cow season in this area to be closed.

The Point Mackenzie Community Council would like to invite you to attend the next meeting and address our community's concerns. Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 12, 2020. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Point Mackenzie Community Council
Gary Foster, President



Every year the cow and antler-less permit hunts are renewed and every year our resident moose herd at Point MacKenzie is reduced until in 2020 the numbers have become alarmingly low. **NO** more cow or antler-less moose hunts should be permitted for the Point MacKenzie / Port MacKenzie / Big Lake area.

Discussion:

Point MacKenzie is a major wintering area for migratory moose. Moose radio collared in the Talkeetna Mountains have wintered at Point Mackenzie (adfg 2005). We winter a large number of moose that move in from the refuge and areas farther west. Moose will move up to 60 miles into wintering areas. Other moose only move a few miles and those are our local herd (fs.fe.us, 2010).

Using a February 2019 fly over as a basis for local moose population is not good data. Most of those moose will move back out of the area in the spring. Some will not even be in the 14A hunt area May through November. They will not be available for harvest during the regular September hunting season. This leaves our local breeder cows to absorb all the pressure from cow, antler-less and youth cow permits. In addition; a moose count in February does not take into consideration winter kill as those moose normally start to die off in March. Moose cows killed with calves result in 100% mortality for the calves (adfg study). Poaching also increases our mortality rate. All of this has resulted in our local moose herd numbers getting dangerously low. But the cow / antler-less permits are the largest factor.

Kills Port MacKenzie 402 Permit Area and Big Lake 403 Permit Area:

75 in 2016

74 in 2017

74 in 2018

70 in 2019 (adfg harvest data look up).

2020 data not available at the time of this writing.

The goals of the cow / antler-less hunts are to reduce numbers for forage areas and road kill. Large areas of prime first year growth willow in the Point MacKenzie area are not being browsed. The vehicle traffic is not that high on our local roads and hunting kills in our area does little to reduce vehicle collision in the valley's more populated areas.

Using the the Nuisance Moose hunts to control moose in high vehicle traffic corridors would be more effective.

The Point MacKenzie / Big Lake area is easily accessed by hunters from the valley and Anchorage. It is a popular area and receives a lot of hunting pressure every season. Enough pressure so that if there is a legal bull in the area it is probably going to get harvested.

Letting our local breeder cow numbers return to a reasonable level will result in more legal spike fork and 3 brow tine bulls ending up in hunter's freezers.



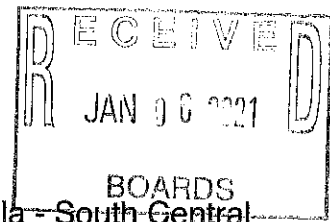
COMMENT REFERENCES:

adfg representative, personal narrative

<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/animals/mammal/alam/all.html#RangeExpansionAndContraction>

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/wildlife/research_pdfs/73_mo_calv_johnson_etal.pdf

https://secure.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=harvest.lookup&_ga=2.41532832.309731784.1602177935-1713910922.1387037100



Board of Game meeting originally scheduled January, 2021 in Wasilla - South-Central Area Unit 14



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Comment: Gary Thompson, Point Mackenzie resident.

NO on Proposal 79! NO more cow hunts.

Using a February flyover to determine local moose numbers is wrong. It counts a very large number of moose that move into the Point Mackenzie area as a wintering area. Those moose are not here for the general season. That leaves our local breeder cows to absorb all the cow permits issued for the August 25 - September 25 permit hunts. Our local herd numbers are way down. And those are the cow moose we depend upon to produce spike / forks and draw in legal bulls toward the end of general season. And yes, records will show that legal bulls are still being shot in the Point Mackenzie / Big Lake area, but the hunting pressure is intense with a very large number of hunters. If a legal bull is around, he is going to get shot.

If F&G wants to cut down on the number of moose / vehicle incidents; then using the nuisance moose hunts in high traffic corridors would be more effective. Shooting out our cows at the end of the road system with moderate traffic doesn't do that.

The general season ends September 25 just as the rut is beginning. I think Youth Permits should be encouraged. These should be set up for a time frame in October for BULLS when more bulls move into the area and are easy to call in using bull grunts and cow calls.

If F&G wants to sell permits, then an October hunt permit for "Any Bull" would be a very popular and not decimate the local cow herds.

If F&G insists on antler-less permits, then they should only be issued for December when moose migrate into their wintering grounds and the bulls start to shed antlers.

Think about it. You're shooting that cow; the calf or calves that are with it are going to die also. If the cow has been bred then the calf in her womb isn't going to be born next Spring. To harvest one animal you're killing at least 3 moose.

Residents in the Point Mackenzie / Big Lake area are tired of having orphan calves die in their yard. And everyone is upset about our local moose numbers going down. Speaking with outdoorsmen and naturalists in the Willow, Meadow Lakes, and Knik areas, all say their local breeder cow numbers are down.

That February flyover in 2019 - this biologist is not a good biologist.



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Submitted On
3/1/2021 12:37:48 PM
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I strongly oppose doubling up on meetings. There are many reasons this would be a poor decision.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
1/27/2021 2:20:12 PM
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I respectfully request the Board of Game re-open the call for Central/Southwest and Statewide proposals. I don't really care if this year's proposals are totally eliminated and we start over or if we add new proposals to those already on the books. It was not long ago that we could address issues every other year and this would push the next opportunity out 4 years. I especially think it is important for the statewide cycle. 4 years is a lifetime in the cycle of wildlife in some areas and even in hunting technology. Covid has also raised some questions that should be addressed in new proposals.

Thank You for your consideration,

Aaron Bloomquist



Dear members of the Board of Game,

The current Board of Game meeting notice indicates you will be discussing "the option for reissuing the Call for Proposals for the 2022 Central/South West Region and the 2022 StateWide Regulations meetings. I strongly urge that you approve this option and allow the submission of new proposals for those meetings in 2022. There will be important data compiled by then related to moose, brown bear, and perhaps emperor geese which will justify some new proposals. This will help the Board consider proposals which are based on more current data in the next cycle. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joe Klutsch

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Joe Klutsch
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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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Mike Wood

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Howard Delo

MSB STAFF

Ted Eischeid



BOARD MEMBERS

Tam Boeve

Andy Couch

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Pete Probasco

Kendra Zamzow

Ex officio: VACANT

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Memorandum

February 19, 2021

dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

907-465-6094 FAX

ADF&G Board Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
PO Box 115526
Juneau AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Daele and Board of Game Members,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was created in 2007 to advocate on fish and wildlife issues for the Mat-Su Borough and its citizens. We have a strong interest in fish and wildlife issues that impact the quality of life for the borough, which is the fastest growing region in Alaska, and where many enjoy abundant fish and wildlife.

Regarding your decision to postpone public meetings to consider 2020 —2021 Board of Game proposals until next fall / winter's cycle, the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission would encourage the Board to provide the public an opportunity to submit new game proposals, along with an opportunity for groups or individuals to amend and/or withdraw game proposals they had previously submitted for the 2020—2021 meeting cycle.

We believe this approach will provide for more carefully worded proposals, will allow the incorporation of the most recent biological data, and may help the public and board support and adopt better game regulations during the Board meetings rescheduled for next winter.



Thank you for your consideration of providing additional public input as a result of unforeseen delays caused by COVID-19 concerns.

Sincerely,



Mike Wood, Chair



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

PO Box 60095, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 (907) 371-7436
email info@residenthuntersofalaska.org web www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

March 5, 2021

Board of Game Special Regulatory Meeting – March 18, 2021

Allow New Proposals to be Submitted for the Central/Southwest & Statewide Meetings

Dear Chairman Van Daele and Board members,

With the postponement of the 2021 cycle meetings to 2022, it has now been 11 months since the deadline to submit proposals for those meetings. The harvest and biological data and hunter experiences in the field many take into account in order to submit proposals for those meetings was from 2019.

Much has changed since 2019, which is why we support allowing new proposals to be submitted for these meetings.

The board discussed this matter earlier this year and tabled a decision until this meeting. During that discussion there were concerns among some board members that if new proposals are allowed to be submitted, some members of the public would use existing proposals they didn't agree with to submit counter proposals. There were also concerns that allowing new proposals to come in would lead to too many proposals for the board to reasonably address at the 2022 meetings.

The pandemic that caused the Board to postpone meetings a year and move every future meeting out of cycle to a year later is unprecedented. So are decisions the Department and the Board has already had to make to address hunting issues surrounding the pandemic. This is no different.

This decision now, whether or not to allow new proposals to come in, needs to be realistically addressed so that we have fair and equitable public involvement in our wildlife management process, which is second to none in the nation.

By our count, there are currently 98 proposals for the Central/Southwest meeting and 171 for the Statewide meeting. (Antlerless reauthorizations and brown bear tag fee exemptions are not included, as they will be addressed at this meeting). Many of the proposals outside of antlerless reauthorizations and tag fee exemptions are from the Department. Surely the Department, and members of the public, may want to revise or submit new proposals based on new information. It's possible some may ask to rescind proposals based on new information.

We see no avenue for any changes the public or Department want to address for these meetings to be addressed with Agenda Change Requests, as those are *"not intended to address proposals that could have been submitted by the deadline"*



scheduled for submitting proposals.” The board should carefully consider that some issues may need to be addressed via new proposals that fall under the guidelines in the ACR policy for acceptance but won’t be allowed as ACRs for these meetings.¹

Surely the authors of any proposals, whether the public or Department, should be allowed to revise their proposal(s) based on new information. Any duplicate or similar proposals that come in can be conjoined and the board can address the original and take no action on the others, as is commonly done already with numerous proposals. New proposals based on new information can add to the Board’s workload, but as said earlier, this is all unprecedented and calls for special actions (and time) by the Board.

In closing, Resident Hunters of Alaska respectfully request that the Board allow new proposals to be submitted for the postponed 2020/2021 Region IV and Statewide cycle meetings by May 1st of this year. The pros to allowing new proposals to come in far outweigh the cons, and there are several ways the Board and Board Support can address some of the concerns they may have.

Thank you for your time and your service!

Sincerely,

Mark Richards – Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska

¹ https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/bog_acr_policy_2018.pdf



Submitted By
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Submitted On
3/5/2021 7:22:34 AM
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Please allow this young man's family to take his hunt.



Submitted By
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3/5/2021 3:21:57 PM
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Chase Bowerson's name was pulled for a tag after his death, and his family requests a transfer of the tag to his immediate family member as a proxy hunt. Please consider this transfer for the family in this instance. Proxy hunts happen a lot, and Chase is not present to have the chance to submit a letter for himself for an appeal in this circumstance. This would mean a great deal to his family, and I've asked that they consider applying for a potlach hunt if this circumstance can't be addressed and changed during this meeting. However, just the same as there is allowance of transfer for someone who is disabled or gets deployed, please consider writing this in policy with those allowances in case this happens again in the future.



Submitted By
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3/3/2021 6:27:13 PM
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To whom it concerns. Regarding members of the community bequeathing drawn hunting tags to next of kin due to untimely death. I'd ask the board consider under heartbreaking, horrific situations to allow the transfer, providing the proxy put in for the same hunt . I'd ask this take place in time for the 2021 season . Friends. Please consider an outstanding mother opening the mail of her twenty two year old son recently murdered in a manner most vile . Give her this win ? Thanks