

ALASKA CHAPTER / THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Intensive Management Timeline

1994 to Spring 2010

Table of Contents

YEAR	PAGE / LINK
1994	<u>3</u>
1995	<u>5</u>
1996	<u>6</u>
1997	<u>7</u>
1999	<u>8</u>
2000	<u>9</u>
2001	<u>11</u>
2002	<u>12</u>
2003	<u>13</u>
2004	<u>15</u>
2005	<u>17</u>
2006	<u>19</u>
2007	<u>20</u>
2008	<u>21</u>
2009	<u>23</u>
2010	<u>27</u>

1994

1. Governor Suspends Intensive Management Program.¹

- o In December, Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska, suspends the State of Alaska's (State) ground based, lethal predator control program;
- o Governor Knowles mandated three standards for predator control programs:
 - Based on sound science;
 - Economically justifiable;
 - Broad public support.

2. The Intensive Management Law is passed by the Legislature.

During its 1994 session, the Alaska Legislature passed HCS CSSB 77, "An Act Relating to the Powers of the Board of Game and to Intensive Management of Big Game to Achieve Higher Sustained Yield for Human Harvest." The law was incorporated into Alaska Statutes, Title 16.05.255 (e), (f), and (9).

The 1994 passage of the IM law was not opposed by the DFG. They had no recommendation but generally supported the "concept" of predator management.

In 1995 (19th Legislative Session), the legislature immediately tried to amend the IM law. The bills [original language](#) wanted to insert that ungulates would be managed based on "[historical high population estimates](#)". That language could not survive the legislative committee process. Yet, the bill did finally pass both the House and Senate with the [final language](#) restricting the ADF&G from considering reducing human harvest as an intensive management "tool". The bill was vetoed by Knowles and the legislature did not override his veto.

Following is a legislative transcription of Acting Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation Wayne Regelin testifying in a [Hearing of the House Resources Committee](#):

"WAYNE REGELIN, ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, ADF&G, said the department remains opposed to SB 77 even if substitute language is used from the house version. The department feels SB 77 is bad wildlife policy. He stated the department is working hard to settle the wolf control controversy. In order to settle the controversy, the department must have a wolf management policy which is balanced and science based, so the public can accept it and the Board of Game and the department can use it to make good decisions.

¹ David Kelleyhouse, the Acting Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, resigns to become a spokesperson for the fur industry. Wayne Regelin replaces David Kelleyhouse as the Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

MR. REGELIN said unfortunately, the debate over the wolf control issue is being controlled by three to five percent of the people on each side of the issue with the most extreme views. He stated SB 77 is supported by a very small minority of hunters who are demanding very high harvest rates for moose and caribou. Their solution is wide-spread wolf control which will virtually eliminate wolves, brown bears, and black bears from many areas in Alaska. He noted it is the same group that is advocating paying bounties for wolves.

MR. REGELIN stated mainstream hunting groups in Alaska, like the Safari Clubs, the Alaska Outdoor Council, and local sportsmen associations, do not endorse SB 77. He said these groups are very much in favor of intensive management but they are not in favor of a bill which goes this far. They know that management programs must have some balance or in the long term, they will damage hunting. He told committee members the department and the Board of Game currently have all the tools needed to manage wildlife. He noted the department and the Board of Game also have the intensive management bill the legislature passed last year that provides a clear direction on how the legislature wants them to manage. He explained the department and the Board of Game are in the process of implementing that new law and are moving as fast as the law allows.

MR. REGELIN said SB 77 mandates harvest levels which are unattainable in the northern areas of the state which have hard winters. Even if all of the predators were removed from these areas, the department does not believe the harvest levels could be achieved as mandated in SB 77. He stated if SB 77 does become law, the department will do its best to implement it. However, based on his experience over the past five years working in wolf management, implementing a program in unit 20A, and going through much effort to have a wolf control program, he is convinced the public will not accept the wide spread wolf control program which SB 77 mandates because it lacks balance and safeguards for predator populations. He pointed out the program will be extremely controversial; it will direct world-wide attention and public ridicule at Alaska and will result in tremendous amounts of litigation and very likely federal intervention. In the long term, it will be stopped and the loser will be the hunter, not only in Alaska, but throughout the U.S.

3. Board of Game amends the Unit 20A Wolf Intensive Management Plan

- o On November 9, the board modified the boundaries of the Unit 20A wolf reduction program, expanding the area for wolf reduction.²

² [94-80A-BOG](#) Wolf Predation Control Program in Unit 20A

1995

1. The Board of Game (Board) authorizes three intensive management plans

- o **Unit 13**³
 - The board adopts both a wolf and brown bear reduction policy;
 - The intensive management action is based on liberalizing the general hunting and trapping regulations;
 - Minimum Brown bear population objective: 350 bears;
 - Minimum wolf population objective: 135 – 165 wolves.
 - Adopted to increase the moose and Nelchina caribou populations.
- o **Unit 20D**⁴
 - The board adopts a policy for liberalizing brown bear harvest regulations;
 - The board requests the ADF&G draft a wolf control implementation plan to be presented to the board in October 1995 to reduce the number of wolves in Unit 20D.
- o **Unit 19D:**⁵
 - The board requests the ADF&G draft a wolf control implementation plan to be presented to the board in October 1995 to reduce the number of wolves in Unit 19D.
 - At the October board meeting the board **adopted** the intensive management plan for reducing wolves in 19D East.
 - o Total Area 19D East: 8,531 mi²;
 - o The board set an implementation date of July 1, 1997;
 - o Minimum wolf population objective: 50 wolves.

2. Governor Knowles Requests a National Academy of Science Review of Alaska's Historical Intensive Management Programs

- o Cost is \$300,000;
- o David Klein, a professor at the University of Alaska, is a member of the NRS review committee.⁶

³ [25-84-BOG](#) Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 13

⁴ [25-85-BOG](#) Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 20D

⁵ [25-86-BOG](#) Findings on Intensive Management in Unit 19D

⁶ Dr. Klein stated: "The rapid increase in control programs is far exceeding the ability of Fish and Game biologists to come up with the data to justify them," [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#) / January 8, 2005

1996

1. The board amended the Unit 19D East intensive management plan

- o The implementation date is moved up one year, to July 1, 1996.⁷

2. The board makes a finding addressing Unit 20A intensive management

- o The board finds opposition by local citizen advisory committees to cow hunts in 20A is strong.⁸

3. A Statewide Citizen Referendum Passed By Voters Restricted Predator Control (Proposition 3)

- o Allowed the state to conduct wolf control by aircraft when no other alternative is available;
- o Requires the Commissioner of the ADF&G to make a finding of a biological emergency prior to implementing an intensive wolf control program;
- o Conducting wolf control programs is restricted to only ADF&G personnel;
- o Land and shoot hunting of wolves, wolverines and foxes by the public (hunters with a trapping license) is banned, repealing an existing regulation authorizing the land and shoot of wolves when the trapper is 100 ft. from the plane.

⁷ [96-101-BOG](#) Findings – Intensive Management for GMU 19D East

⁸ [96-103-BOG](#) Findings – Antlerless Moose in Unit 20A

1997

1. The National Academy of Science Releases its Study “Wolves, Bears, and Their Prey in Alaska”⁹

- The resulting report included nine major biological conclusions and eight recommendations.
- The report noted: “shortcomings in the design of past predator control programs make it impossible to determine whether wolf or bear reduction programs are effective in the long term.”

2. The board Adopts a Resolution Opposing Citizen Initiatives on Wildlife Management Policy¹⁰

3. ADF&G Conducts Non Lethal Wolf Control in Unit 20¹¹

- In 1994, the Fortymile Management Team was created. The team included:
 - 14 public members representing a wide range of special interest groups;
 - 5 management agencies;
- The team developed a plan which recommended a combination of public trapping and nonlethal wolf control to reduce wolf predation on the Fortymile caribou.
- The board adopted the implementation plan during spring 1996, and Governor Knowles allowed the nonlethal wolf control program to begin in fall 1997;¹²
- Between 1997 and 2001 the ADF&G conducts a non lethal sterilization of alpha wolves and a relocation of sub dominate wolves to areas outside the range of the Forty Mile Caribou Herd.

4. HB 26 is approved by the Legislature¹³

- An Act relating to big game tags for wolves; and providing for an effective date;
 - Reduced the nonresident wolf tag fee from \$175 to \$30 statewide;
 - Reduced the nonresident alien wolf tag fee \$250 to \$50 statewide;
 - Revoked the nonresident and nonresident alien wolf tag fee in the entire game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted and intensive management program under AS 26.05.255 (IM Law) for all or a portion of the game management unit.

⁹ The study “[Wolves, Bears, and Their Prey in Alaska](#)”

¹⁰ [97-112-BOG](#) Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process. In 2000, a statewide vote endorsed the citizen initiative process.

¹¹ During the course of the program the Fortymile caribou herd grew from 22,000 to 38,000.

¹² [2000 Wolf Management Report GMU 20D & 20E](#); pg. 180

¹³ [HB 26](#) “An Act relating to big game tags for wolves; and providing for an effective date”

1999

1. The Legislature amends the regulations defining the implementation of the Intensive Management Law

- o Senate bill 74D "An Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne." is passed by the legislature;¹⁴
- o SB 74 amends the current law (1996 citizen initiative) by adding language authorizing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the state Board of Game to implement airborne control by department personnel or private citizens operating under the department's authority;
- o The bill also amends AS 16.05.783(a) to allow aerial shooting of wolves, wolverine, fox or lynx if identified in an IM plan;¹⁵
- o The bill removed the requirement for the Commissioner of Fish and Game to make a determination of a biological emergency prior to implementing a predator control program:
 - Removing the language in AS 16.05.783(a)(1) that required [adequate data demonstrating a biological emergency exists and that there is no feasible solution other than airborne control to eliminate the biological emergency];
 - And replacing the biological emergency language with [acting under a request from the Board of Game ... based on prey population set by the board under AS 16.05.255(g)]
 - See footnote 14 for a copy of the bill
- o The bill is vetoed by Governor Knowles;
- o The legislature overturned the Governor's veto by a 2/3 majority vote.

¹⁴ [SB 74D](#) / The bill went through multiple revisions prior to being passed. [SB 74 Amendments](#)

¹⁵ Aerial shooting was limited to wolves prior to the passage of SB 74

2000

1. Restricting Predator Control to ADF&G Staff Repealed

- Senate Bill 267 “An Act Relating to Management of Game” was passed by the Alaska legislature removing more components of the 1996 voter referendum.
- It removed the requirement that only ADF&G personnel conduct predator control;
- The Governor vetoes the bill;
- The legislature overturned the veto by a 2/3 majority vote.

2. Limiting Predator Control to ADF&G Staff Reinstated by Public Referendum.

- In November, a citizen referendum, Ballot Measure 6, was passed by public vote;
- The measure reinstated the restriction that predator control programs can only be conducted by ADF&G personnel.

3. The board Reaffirms its Resolution Opposing Citizen Initiatives on Wildlife Management Policy ¹⁶

4. The Board makes two “Findings of Emergency” and reauthorize the Unit 19D East and Unit 13

- **Unit 19D East**
 - The board reauthorizes the intensive management plan from 2000 - 2005; ¹⁷
 - An adaptive wildlife management team (AWMT) is established by Governor Knowles to make recommendations to the Commissioner of the ADF&G regarding implementing the Unit 19D East predator reduction program; ¹⁸
 - The AWMT is composed of 2 ADF&G staff members, 2 residents of McGrath and 2 residents from Anchorage with the residents of Alaska representing multiple vested user groups.

¹⁶ [2000-132-BOG](#) Reaffirm / Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process

¹⁷ [2000-131-BOG](#) Finding of Emergency: Unit 19D-East (Wolf Control Implementation Plan)

¹⁸ [2001-135-BOG](#) Resolution concerning Unit 19D-East Adaptive Management Team Work

- **Unit 13**
 - o The board reauthorizes the intensive management plan for Units 13A, 13B, and 13E;
 - o The plan focuses on wolves and bears;
 - o Adopted for the benefit of moose in Unit 13;
 - o Includes liberalized general hunting and trapping regulations.

5. The Legislature Votes to Include Ballot Measure 1 in the November Election Requesting a Constitutional Amendment Banning all Wildlife Related Initiatives

- Alaska Voters reject the ballot and affirm the initiative process.

2001

1. Unit 19DEast

- The AWMT publishes its draft recommendations in a report, February 2001;¹⁹
- The AWMT recommends the following:
 - a) Establish a Control Area / The Experimental Micro Management Area (EMMA);
 - b) Close all hunting in the EMMA during active predator removal;
 - c) Remove and/or relocate all bears and wolves;
 - d) Conduct a census of the moose population;
 - e) The team would reconvene periodically to review progress and suggest alternate approaches as necessary
- Before the program could be implemented a moose census significantly increase the moose population estimate.²⁰
- The board adopts the AWMT draft recommendations;
- The Department's plan included predator control, restrictions to hunting, and an intensive monitoring program to scientifically document the effectiveness of the proposed intensive management actions;²¹
- Initial IM plan restricts aerial gunning of wolves to ADF&G personnel using helicopters;

¹⁹ [EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO REBUILD THE MOOSE POPULATION IN GMU 19D](#)

In fall, 2001, an updated moose survey indicated that moose numbers were much higher than previously noted. At least one AWMT member, Leo Keeler, no longer supported intensive management of wolves based on the fall census findings.

²⁰ In 2000, the ADF&G estimate the moose population is 869 moose based on aerial surveys. An in depth census in 2001 documented an estimated moose population of 1863 animals in Unit 19D East, a population level above the minimum moose population objective. This is the last time a stake holder group has been convened by the State for a predator control program. [ADF&G Press Release](#) / [Memorandum](#) / also see testimony of David James (ADF&G Region III Supervisor), [audio file](#) (01:30 mark), of March 6, 2003 Board meeting (Audio file available by request to [Board Support](#))

²¹ The six members of the AWMT (from urban and rural backgrounds) met several times over a period of about 12 months to discuss management strategies and options. Their recommendations were submitted to ADF&G Commissioner Frank Rue for consideration, and primarily focused on temporary reductions in wolf and bear predation as well as temporary suspension of moose hunting. The Department's plan included predator control, restrictions to hunting, and an intensive monitoring program to scientifically document the effectiveness of the proposed intensive management actions.

2002

1. Public Aerial Shooting of Wolves is Authorized by the Legislature.

- Senate Bill 155 is passed by the legislature, essentially revoking all aspects of the 1996 and 2000 statewide votes. SB 155 authorized;
 - o Removal of the requirement that the Commissioner of the ADF&G determine that same day airborne or land and shoot harvest of predators is necessary to accomplish a game management program authorized by the Board;
 - o Removal of the requirement that the Board make a finding of low or declining prey populations prior to implementing predator control. This allowed the first “preemptive” intensive management authorization in 2010;
 - o Same day airborne shooting of wolves in fixed wing aircraft by the public when authorized by permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2003

1. **The Board Authorizes Both Lethal and Non Lethal Intensive Management Plans for Wolves and Bears.**
2. **The Board adopts liberalized hunting wolf hunting regulations in (Unit 16B), amends and implements the Unit 13 the Unit 19D East intensive management plans.**

- **Unit 13 (Glennallen Area):** ²²
 - o No study plans is required for this program;
 - o The board requests a Commissioner's finding regarding same day airborne wolf hunting in GMU 13; ²³
 - o The board amends the wolf control implementation plan for portions of Units 13A, 13B, & 13E, adopting wolf reduction using aircraft; ²⁴
 - o Authorizes land and shoot and aerial gunning of wolves by permitted residents; ²⁵
 - o Adopted to increase the moose population in GMU 13;
 - o Wolf population objective: 135 – 165 wolves;
 - o Unit 13C is added to the previous IM plan wolf control area (Units 13A, 13B, 13C, & 13E);
 - o Total area is expanded to 15,413 square miles;
 - o Bear and wolf hunting regulations continue to be very liberal; ²⁶

“multiple measures have already been taken to improve survival of moose in this area, including the liberalization of seasons and bag limits for wolves, brown bears, and black bears over the past 10 years; the current wolf hunting and trapping seasons are effectively maximized and any further extensions into the summer season would likely fail to increase the take by any significant amount; the current hunting seasons for brown and black bears are year-round with no resident tag requirement;” ²⁷

²² The 1995 & 2000 emergency findings authorized liberalizing general hunting seasons. This amendment to the IM plan incorporates aerial gunning of wolves for the first time.

²³ [2003-141-BOG](#) Request for Commissioner's Finding Regarding Same-Day-Airborne Wolf Hunting in Game Management Unit 13

²⁴ The Board [2003-143-BOG](#) Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13

²⁵ The Board [2003-144-BOG](#) Authorizing Wolf Control in Portions of Unit 13

²⁶ The board significantly liberalized the general hunting regulations in GMU 13:

“The approach adopted by the Board of Game was to reduce the numbers of brown bears in Unit 13 by increasing human harvest ... As a result of these liberal regulations, brown bear harvests between 1982 and 1987 and since 1995 were high and exceeded the calculated sustainable harvest rates” - [2007 Brown Bear Management Report](#) pg. 149

²⁷ Unit 13 Intensive management plan: 5 AAC 92.125 (C) (3) (G)

- **Unit 16B (Western Cook Inlet)**
 - Unit 16B Mainland: The board adopts a wolf reduction policy.
 - Authorizes the use of a snow machines for taking wolves;
- **Unit 19D East (McGrath)** ²⁸
 - The intensive management plan is implemented;
 - The ADF&G uses snares to trap and relocate all captured black and brown bears in 528 square mile EMMA; ²⁹
 - Total area: 8,513 mi²;
 - Minimum wolf population objective: 40 wolves;
 - Revoke requirement that only ADF&G personnel conduct aerial wolf control using helicopters;
 - Authorization of airborne and same day airborne shooting of wolves in Unit 19D East Predation Control Program (8,513 for permitted residents; ³⁰
 - The ADF&G establishes a 5,313 square mile moose survey area within the wolf control area for monitoring moose population trends

²⁸ In 2002, Governor Frank Murkowski appointed an unprecedented 5 new members to the Board of Game. In March, 2003, the new board reviewed the Unit 13 predator control program. The Adaptive Wildlife Management Team was disbanded, November 2001, when Governor Murkowski was elected as Governor.

²⁹ In 2003, nine grizzly bears, including two cubs of the year, were captured and moved from the EMMA and surrounding area. In 2004, one grizzly bear was removed from the EMMA. [2007 Brown Bear Management Report](#): pg 198. In 2003 and 2004, 102 black bears were removed from the EMMA. [2008 Black Bear Management Report](#): pg. 210 (Pre removal estimate = 130 / Post removal estimate = 28) By 2007 the population was back up to 72 black bears, an increase of 157% or 55% of pre removal estimate

³⁰ [2003-145-BOG](#) Authorization of Airborne or Same Day Airborne Shooting in Unit 19D East Predation Control Program

2004

1. The Board Adopts Five New Intensive Management Plans

The Board authorizes two intensive management plans including the aerial harvest of wolves by permitted residents, and, for the first time, the baiting of brown bears.

- a) **Units 12 & 20E (Upper Yukon/Tanana)**³¹
 - Implemented January 2005
 - Wolf control to increase the Fortymile caribou herd population;
 - Wolf Population Objective: 88 – 103 wolves;
 - 75% reduction in the pre-control population estimate (315 – 410 wolves);
- b) **Unit 16B (Mainland)**³²
 - ADF&G recommend against adopting the IM plan;³³
 - The Board chooses to adopt the plan anyway;³⁴
 - In December 2004, land and shoot same day aerial harvest is authorized if the shooting occurs 300' from the plane.
 - Management objective is to maintain a population of 22 – 45 wolves in Unit 16B;
- c) **Unit 19A and 19B (Central Kuskokwim)**³⁵
 - Adopt a wolf control implementation plan;
 - 17,680 square miles;
 - Allows aerial and Same Day Airborne harvest in 9,969 square miles;
 - 80% reduction in wolf pre control wolf population estimate (180 – 240 wolves);
 - Minimum population objective: 40 wolves.

³¹ [2004-152-BOG](#) Authorizing Predator Control in Portions of the Upper Yukon/Tanana Predation Control Area, in portions of Units 12 and 20E

³² [2004-148-BOG](#) Authorizing Predator Control in Western Cook Inlet, Unit 16B

³³ ADF&G (Jeff Hughes) testimony at the March 2004 Board meeting regarding Unit 16B's IM proposal: "We have black bears, brown bears, and wolves. They're all taking moose calves. And we're going to be vulnerable to criticism and we're going to be unable to assess the results of a wolf control program without having at least a rudimentary understanding of which, what are the serious predators out there, and how many are they taking? Should we be concentrating on black bears, brown bears, wolves or all three? And we just don't have the level of confidence in the biology for GMU 16B. When I started out I said our recommendation was that the board not initiate a program at this meeting. And that's where we are at."

³⁴ Board chairman, Mike Fleagle, responding to Jeff Hughes (ADF&G) testimony at the March 2004 Board meeting's Unit 16B IM proposal: "I think we can jockey back and forth in the question and answer with the Department, but we are not going to get out of them what we are asking for right now, which is a nod of approval that we should go forward. If the board finds that we have adequate rationale for doing so, then Jeff's objections and Departments objections shall be heard and considered but they will be overridden".

³⁵ [2004-150-BOG](#) Authorizing Predator Control in Central Kuskokwim Area, Unit 19A

d) **Unit 20A**

- A wolf reduction plan;
- Implemented to increase the Delta Caribou Herd;
- The plan is authorized for 5 years;
- The plan has some unique characteristics:
 - o The plan sets a late winter minimum population limit of 75 wolves;
 - o The plan does not authorize aerial gunning. It is restricted to hunting and trapping;

e) **Unit 20D**

- A wolf reduction plan;
- Implemented to increase the moose population in 20D;
- The plan is authorized for 5 years;
- The plan has some unique characteristics:
 - o The plan sets a minimum population limit of 25% of the early winter, pre control, population estimate;
 - o The plan does not authorize aerial gunning. It is restricted to hunting and trapping;

2.

2. The Board Adopts a Statewide Bear Conservation and Management Policy

- The policy restricts aggressive bear control actions, such as snaring of bears, to board approved intensive management areas. ³⁶

³⁶ [2004-147-BOG](#) Bear Conservation and Management Policy. At the March, 2010, Board of Game meeting the ADF&G recommends amending or revoking the bear management policy. At the October 2010 board meeting, the board requests a draft amendment to both the bear and wolf management policy language to be prepared by the ADF&G for consideration by the board at the November 2010 board meeting. The board also states that the policy will be codified as a formal regulation which requires the board to adhere to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). At the November meeting, the board reverses its decision and announces that the policy will remain a policy and not be codified. The board advises the public that the drafting of the new policy is currently taking place in private consultation between the board and others which is an action not allowed by the APA. In December 2010, the board publishes the draft wolf and bear policy finding in the proposal book for the March 2011 Board of Game meetings.

([Draft Wolf and Bear Policy Findings](#) / Page 318 and 322)

2005

i. The Board Amends Two Intensive Management Plans:

- **Unit 13**
 - o To include Unit 13C; ³⁷
 - o Total area 15, 413 square miles;
 - o Population objective is to maintain 135 – 165 wolves in Unit 13.
- **Unit 12 & 20: Upper Yukon/Tanana Wolf and Bear Control Program (UYTPCA)** ³⁸

Wolves

- o Expands the area to include Units 12, 20(B), 20(D), 20(E), and 25(C) for wolf control;
- o Total wolf control area is now 18,750 square miles;
- o Population objective is a 75% reduction in pre control wolf numbers;
- o To maintain a minimum population of 88 – 103 wolves;
- o A privately funded “payment” to individuals for harvesting wolves in the Fortymile caribou range existed for two years. ³⁹

Bears

- o Adopt a brown bear control area in Unit 20E;
- o Authorized the baiting of brown bears;
- o Adopted to increase moose population in Unit 12 and Unit 20E;
- o Total area 4,050 square miles;
- o Population objective is 60% reduction in pre control bear population estimate;
- o To maintain a population of 68 bears.

³⁷ [2005-157-BOG](#) A reauthorization of wolf control in portions of Unit 13.

³⁸ [RC 140](#) 2010 Interior BOG Meeting

³⁹ During 1995 and 1996, there was a privately funded wolf harvest “payment” designed to increase wolf harvest within the FCH summer and winter ranges. [2000 Wolf Management Report GMU 20D & 20E](#): pg. 179.

Neither the Board nor the Intensive Management law authorized this program - included for general awareness of the societal issues influencing wolf management.

2. A Public Education Fund Pertaining to Predator Control Requested by the Board

- o Board passes a resolution requesting the Alaska legislature to fund an education program on predator control and the Intensive Management Law. ⁴⁰

3. The Board Adopts a Resolution Regarding Guides Harvesting Wolves

- o The board requests the legislature to repeal AS 08.54.720(17) which prohibits guides from personally shooting big game while guiding clients;
- o The board requested the statute be revised to allow the taking of wolves which “could help avoid the necessity for additional predator control actions”. ⁴¹

4. The Board Updates the Unit 13 Intensive Management Plan

- o The update addresses the high harvest rates of brown bears under the liberalized hunting regulations.

The Board stated:

“In actions similar to liberalizing wolf season, the Board has gone as far as possible to reduce the number of brown bears given the current hunting regulations, including establishing a year-round season for most of Unit 13. A series of record brown bear harvests averaging 141 bears per season over the past 6 years resulted. Although recent high harvest rates exceed estimates of sustainable levels, the Board has no evidence the bear population is being – or even will be – reduced” ⁴²

The Area Biologist for Unit 13:

“A major problem pertaining to brown bear management is the difficulty in obtaining population data ... Because of this; population data are available for only a limited portion of Unit 13. All unit wide bear estimates are based on extrapolations of estimated densities. The problems associated with this are obvious, particularly given the differences in study area and census techniques” ⁴³

⁴⁰ [2005-158-BOG](#) A resolution from Game Board in support of a public education program on predator control.

⁴¹ [2005-159-BOG](#) A resolution from Game Board in support of allowing guides to take wolves while under contract to clients.

⁴² [2005-157-BOG](#) A reauthorization of wolf control in portions of Unit 13.

⁴³ [2007 Brown Bear Management Report](#) pg. 148

2006

1. Alaska Superior Court Rejects All Five Intensive Management Plans

- Anchorage Superior Court issues an Order of Summary Judgment January 2006 (3An-03-13489 CI). The court found all five existing predator control implementation plans did not meet the legal requirements established by the State.
 - Two were overly broad in geographic scope;
 - All five existing predator control implementation plans failed to comply with some of the requirements in 5 AAC 92.110(b).

2. In May 2006, the Board Meets in an Emergency Meeting to Address the State Superior Court Revocation of the States Five Existing Predator Control Programs

- The Board re-authorized all five predator control programs
- **Unit 16A added:** The board simultaneously expanded the boundary of the wolf control area in GMU 16 to include portions of 16A, to be effective September 2006.⁴⁴
- In the 16A wolf control area:
 - Population objective to maintain 8 - 15 wolves in 16A;
 - Denali State Park is excluded;
 - Hunters can sell black bear hides and skulls;
 - A fall bear baiting season was established;
 - Same day aerial harvest was authorized if the hunter was 300 ft from the aircraft.

3. The Board Authorizes Use of a Snow Machine in Wolf and Bear Control Areas⁴⁵

- In any predator control area a snow machine may be used to position a hunter to select wolves for harvest and wolves may be shot from a stationary snow machine.
- In brown bear predation control areas, (Unit 20E) a snow machine may be used to position a hunter to select a brown bear for harvest and brown bear may be shot from a stationary snow machine.

⁴⁴ Supplemental Findings:

[2006-165-BOG / Unit 12 & 20 \(UYTPCA\)](#)

[2006-166-BOG / Unit 13](#)

[2006-167-BOG / Unit 16](#)

[2006-168-BOG / Unit 19A & 19B](#)

[2006-169-BOG / Unit 19D-East](#)

Finding of Emergency: [2006-161-BOG / Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans](#)

⁴⁵ [Proposal 32 / Winter 2006 BOG Meeting](#)

2007

1. Governor Palin Approves a \$400,000 Intensive Management Education Fund to be administered by the ADF&G

1. Black Bears Added to the Unit 16 Intensive Management Plan ⁴⁶

- o The use of liberalized bag limits and methods and means under a control area permit. These conditions are only permitted with a state issued control permit, not under general hunting regulations, and each resident hunter wishing to participate must be permitted;
- o Allow taking of any black bear with no individual hunter bag limit, including sows and cubs, over bait or using a snare;
- o Same-day-airborne taking of black bears as long as permittee is at least 300 feet from a fixed wing aircraft to access black bear baiting stations during the baiting season, April 15th to June 30th and August 10th to October 15th;
- o Allow up to four bait stations per person (previously 2 statewide);
- o Decrease baiting buffer zone: No bear baiting within 100 yard buffer instead of ¼ mile from the Unit 16 shorelines of the Susitna River, Yentna River below the confluence with the Skwentna River, the Deshka River (Kroto Creek) below the confluence with Trapper Creek, and Alexander Creek;
- o Allow bear baiting within one mile of cabins if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system from the bear baiting station and other permit conditions are met;
- o Allow sale of tanned or untanned black bear hides (not mounts) as long as sale tag remains attached;
- o Allow resale of hides by commercial fur buyers;

⁴⁶ [Proposal 70 & 71 / Spring 2007 BOG Meeting](#)

2008

1. Alaska Superior Court Rejects all Five Intensive Management Plans

- On March 13, 2008, the Alaska Superior Court issued a summary judgment (3AN-06-13087 CI) which found that the five existing predator control implementation plans did not meet the requirements of State law for the following reasons:
 - A lack of data (findings) to support the programs geographic scope.
 - A lack of data (findings) to support airborne or same day airborne shooting of wolves in GMU 16A, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D, and 25C.

2. Board of Game Call an Emergency Meeting to Address the State Superior Court Revocation and Reauthorize the Existing Predator Control Programs. ⁴⁷

3. The Board of Game Amends the GMU 16 IM Plan To Allow Public Use of Helicopters.

- The board authorized the public use of helicopters to assist in harvesting bears. Permits issued in 2009 only after the appointment of an assistant and deputy commissioner to the ADF&G by the Palin administration; ⁴⁸

4. Governor Palin introduces House Bill 256 / Senate Bill 176.

- The bill's stated intent is to "streamline predator management laws;
- The bill would amend the intensive management law by repealing language requiring scientific justification of an intensive management plan by the Board;
- The bill fails to pass the Senate Resource committee.

⁴⁷ Supplemental Findings:

[2008-174-BOG](#) Unit 19D East Supplemental Findings

[2008-176-BOG](#) Units 16A & B Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

[2008-177-BOG](#) Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E & 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

Finding of Emergency:

[2008-178-BOG](#) Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

⁴⁸ On [July 2, 2008](#), the board authorizes the use of helicopters in GMU 16's predator control program in a teleconference only meeting by approving a draft amendment to the IM plan proposed by the ADF&G. ([ADF&G Draft GMU 16 IM Plan](#) – page 9). No [public comments](#) were received regarding the use of helicopters. The [actions taken](#) overview of the meeting made no mention of the regulatory amendment allowing helicopter use by citizens in the GMU 16 IM plan. Interestingly, under direction of Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) director Doug Larson, the ADF&G subsequently refuse to issue a predator control permit for helicopter use in 2008, citing the departments discretionary permit authority. In December 2008, the Palin administration appoints one assistant commissioner and one deputy commissioner to the ADF&G to manage the department's predator control programs. The department's decision on issuing a permit for helicopter use is reversed by the commissioner's office. In 2010, DWC director Doug Larson is replaced by Corey Rossi, one of the two appointees to the commissioner's office made by Gov. Palin's administration in 2008.

5. The Board Adopts Intensive Management Plan for Wolves in Unit 9D ⁴⁹

- o To be conducted by ADF&G personnel using helicopters;
 - o Adopted to increase the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd;
 - o 100% reduction of all wolves in the spring calving area;
 - o 3,819 square miles; ⁵⁰
 - o For the first time, the Board authorizes the lethal harvest of wolves in the den, including pups; ⁵¹
 - o In 2008 and 2009 the ADF&G harvest wolf pups in the den, once by gunshot and the other by using poison gas – carbon monoxide (authorized in 2009).
 - o The board also authorizes the department to use snares and traps in and around den sites.
 - o The program is also the first plan to authorize 100% eradication of wolves in a specific area, in this case, a region defined as the “calving” area. A regional definition and map of the calving area defines the calving area, no specific GPS or distance from a point definition of the boundary is included.
- **A Third Citizen Ballot Initiative Addressing Predator Control**
 - o In November, ballot initiative 2 asks voters to approve restricting aerial predator control programs to:
 - Only ADF&G personnel;
 - Only when based on finding of a biological emergency;
 - o The State conducts a traveling public education campaign during the two months prior to the vote with the funding appropriated in 2007;
 - o The third vote fails 52% / 48%.

⁴⁹ [2008-175-BOG](#) Unit 9D - Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

⁵⁰ [Predation Management Summary, 2007 - 2009](#)

⁵¹ The intensive management plan was submitted at the meeting by the ADF&G as an RC document ([RC 166](#)). The proposed language of the intensive management plan was not included in the [proposal packet](#) distributed to the public prior to the meeting. The public had no advance opportunity to see the draft regulatory language. In the draft intensive management plan, the word “all” wolves was included in the regulation. No more clarification regarding the denning of wolves is found in the regulation adopted. Several board members testified at the January, 2009 BOG meeting that they were not aware, nor had intended, denning to be authorized in the Unit 9D intensive management plan.

2009

The Board updates four Intensive Management Plans and clarifies statewide regulations, including ADF&G Methods and Means for Conducting Predator Control

1. The Board Liberalizes Method and Means for all Predator Control Programs ⁵²

- o The board clarified board authorization for the Department of Fish and Game:
 - To hire “agents of the State” for conducting predator control operations using the same methods and means authorized for the ADF&G;
 - To use poison gas to euthanize wolves in the den in any predator control program;
 - To use snares and traps in and around dens in any predator control program.
- o To use helicopters to assist in the harvest of wolves in any predator control program. The board authorized the ADF&G to “assist” resident predator control operations when harvest objectives for predators are not being met or difficult to harvest “persistent” wolf packs are found in any specific predator control area.

2. Unit 12 & 20 (Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Area) ⁵³

- o The Board revokes the brown bear reduction plan in Upper Yukon/ Tanana Predator Control Area (Unit 20E) effective July 1; ⁵⁴
- o The Board cites the program as not effective at increasing brown bear harvest and large wildfires in the region may have displaced the brown bear population;
- o For the first time, the Board authorizes permitted citizens to use a helicopter to assist in the harvest of wolves. ⁵⁵

⁵² [Additional Predator Management Comments](#) (ADF&G supplemental report to 2009 Spring Board Meeting) these comments were submitted to the board after the deadline for comments had passed and only a few weeks prior to the meeting

⁵³ [Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Plan Renewal](#) / [Supplemental Findings](#)

⁵⁴ [Grizzly and black bear distribution and abundance relative to the 2004 wildfires in eastern Interior Alaska: Possible intensive management consequences](#)

⁵⁵ The board authorized helicopters to assist in the retrieval of wolves shot by fixed with aircraft

3. ADF&G “assist” Aerial Permit Wolf Harvest in Unit 12 & 20E ⁵⁶

- The department uses two spotter planes and one helicopter gun ship with two shooters onboard. The spotter planes have radio collar frequency receivers to avoid NPS collared wolves;
- ADF&G harvest a total of 84;
- The cost of the effort is approximately \$160,000; ⁵⁷
- Total wolf harvest (aerial permit holders & hunting/ trapping) in the UYTPCA is 217 wolves. ⁵⁸

4. Unit 16: The Board Adopts a Bear Snaring Program ⁵⁹

- Allow foot snaring of black and brown bears;
 - o Unlimited individual bag limit for black bears, including sows and cubs;
 - o Up to 10 lethal snaring “by catch” of brown bears (all trappers together), including sows and cubs; ⁶⁰
 - o Extend the snaring season into the summer months (4/15 to 10/15); ⁶¹

5. Unit 16: The Board Modifies Baiting Restrictions ⁶²

- Permittees are authorized to use the bait stations of others with written permission;
- Allow children age 10 – 15 to participate in bear baiting control program under the supervision of an permitted adult;
- The board reaffirms the use of helicopters by authorized residents;
- Helicopter access to baiting and / or foot snare camps;
- Helicopter access to bait stations and snare trap lines;
- Brown bears or black bears taken under a predator control permit do not count against the statewide bag limit in other units of the state.

⁵⁶ [Press Release: Status of Intensive Management Programs Reported](#)

⁵⁷ Alaska Public Records Act Request

⁵⁸ Includes wolves harvested by the department, permitted aerial gunning teams, trappers, and hunters

⁵⁹ [Proposal 171](#) 2009 Spring BOG Meeting

⁶⁰ 8 brown bears were snared in 2009

⁶¹ The ADF&G close snaring the first year Aug 31 using discretionary authority under the permit stipulations. There appears to have been some confusion regarding the board actions when adopting the regulation.

⁶² [Proposals 166, 168, 169, & 190](#) 2009 Spring BOG Meeting

6. Unit 19A and 19B ⁶³

- The board **revokes** subunit 19B's wolf control plan stating that it was not effective. The local village corporation owned the best moose habitat in 19B and it would not allow aerial gunning of wolves on its lands;
- The remaining habitat in Unit 19B was not conducive to aerial gunning of wolves due to rough terrain;
- In 19A, the board reauthorized the wolf program as follows:
 - Authorize a wolf control area of 9,969 square miles; ⁶⁴
 - Within the wolf control area establish a "focus" area of 3,819 square miles with a management objective for reducing wolves to "as low as possible"; ⁶⁵
 - The boundaries of the "focus" area can be changed at the discretion of the department;
 - Maintain a population of 30 – 36 wolves in 19A.

7. Unit 19D East ⁶⁶

- Reauthorize the 8,513 sq mile wolf predation control areas;
- Brown bears or black bears taken under a predator control permit do not count toward the statewide bag limit in other units of the State;
- The department surveys moose in a 5,313 sq miles area within the wolf predation control area;
- Within the 8,513 sq. mile wolf control area a separate "focus" area of 4,600 square miles is created to concentrate wolf harvest activities;
- Within the wolf reduction "focus" area:
 - Management objective is to reduce the wolf population to the lowest possible level;
 - The boundaries of the "focus" area may be changed at the discretion of the department;
 - At minimum, 40 wolves to remain in Unit 19D east "non focus" wolf control area to meet the minimum population objective.
- Included within the wolf control focus area is a 528 square mile "Black and Brown Bear" focus area (former EMMA) where all predators will be removed

Within the black and brown bear control "focus" area the objectives and methods and means are:

- 100% reduction of all wolves and bears;

⁶³ Refer to 5 AAC 92.125(e) in [5 AAC 92.125](#) / [Supplemental Findings](#)

⁶⁴ A reduction in area from the wolf reduction area authorized in 19A previously

⁶⁵ The amended IM plans authorize removing "as many wolves as possible" in "focus" areas that total thousands of square miles. (Unit 19A 3,819 mi², Unit 19D East 4600 mi², Unit 9D / 9E 10,347 mi²). The minimum wolf population objectives will be met in the peripheral or non focus areas of the plan. For some IM plans, the boundaries of the focus area can be changed at the discretion of the department.

⁶⁶ Refer to 5 AAC 92.125(f) in [5 AAC 92.125](#) / [Supplemental Findings](#)

- o Land and shoot and Same Day Aerial shooting of wolf, black bear, brown bear, sows and cubs, includes “denning” of wolf pups;
- o Snaring of brown and black bears, sows and cubs;
- o Baiting of wolves and bears;
- o Legal sale and resale of black and brown bear, tanned and untanned hides;
- o Legal sale of black bear skulls.

8. Unit 20A and 20D Predator Control Implementation Plans Are Allowed To Expire Without Reauthorization.

DRAFT

2010

1. The Board Amends the Statewide Black Bear Management Policy⁶⁷

- The department proposes adding black bears to the list of species managed as furbearers;
- The Board adopts the proposal;
- On July 1, when the regulation language is published, the State has also authorized the legal sale of black bear meat if harvested under a general trapping license;
- The Board also adopted regulations allowing the sale of any part of a black bear except the gall bladder and a full mount;

2. The Board Liberalizes Bear Harvest Regulations for Unit 16⁶⁸

- Liberalize the dates that helicopters, baiting, and snaring may be conducted in Unit 16.
- Bear Baiting Stations and Camps (Rifle hunting)
- Same day airborne harvest is authorized if the hunter is 300 feet from the airplane or helicopter from April 15 to October 15, except that helicopters cannot be used from Aug. 5 to Sept. 25.
- Black Bear Snaring Camps and Trap lines (Trapping)
- Same day airborne harvest is authorized if the hunter is 300 feet from the airplane or helicopter from April 15 to August 15 and September 26 to October 15
- Up to 5 “remote” snaring camps are authorized to operate April 15 to October 15 with no closed season in between.
- A licensed guide-outfitter may register up to 10 bait station sites simultaneously and the guide-outfitter's contracted assistant guides may register for up to two bait stations each simultaneously, and a signed guide-client agreement is required for each hunter that uses any of the sites.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ The department made the recommendation to the Board at the 2010 Spring Board meeting, on the last day of the meeting. There was no public notice of the department's intent to propose changing the management status of black bears to a furbearer. There was no public testimony given to the board regarding the topic. The department did not submit an RC document with the draft regulation language for the public to review after the meeting. The final regulation language was not made public until July 1, when the regulation was codified. In addition to the management status of black bears, the legal sale of black bear meat was authorized. The Board did not discuss nor approve the legal sale of black bear meat.

⁶⁸ Refer to 5 AAC 92.125(d) in [5 AAC 92.125](#)

⁶⁹ Adopted at the 2010 Spring BOG Meeting

3. The ADF&G “Assist” Wolf Harvest in the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Area (Unit 12 & 20)

- Helicopter gunners supported by spotter planes;
- The ADF&G harvests eight wolves;
- Three of the eight wolves harvested by the ADF&G composed an entire pack with a den in the Yukon Charley Rivers Preserve. Two of the wolves had research collars;⁷⁰
- The spring wolf population in the Yukon Charley Preserve declined in 2010 to a 15 year low. In response, the National Park Service closed all sport harvest of wolves in Yukon Charley Rivers Preserve by emergency order late spring 2010;
- The State strongly opposed the NPS decision, stating the NPS lacked legal authority under ANILCA as well as lacking biological justification for closing the sport harvest opportunity.

4. The Board Adopts Three New Lethal Wolf Intensive Management Plans to Increase Caribou Populations

a) Unit 21E⁷¹

- o Adopted to increase the moose population;
- o Total area: 7,995 mi²;
- o **Authorized for 6 years;**
- o This plan is unique in that it is the first “**preemptive**” wolf control plan;
- o Under this plan, predator control “triggers” are established, as defined by minimum moose densities of 1 observable moose / mi², within the borders of an area designated as a “moose survey area” (MSA);⁷²
- o Once the density of moose declines within the MSA to the minimum “trigger” threshold, as confirmed by findings of the Board, wolf control will be implemented;
- o Within the MSA wolves will be reduced to “as low a number as possible”, or up to 100%. The MSA area is 2,617 mi² of the total 7,995 mi² intensive management area;
- o Source specific moose calf mortality studies have not been conducted;
- o Again, sustainable populations of wolves would be limited to areas of the predator control area bordering the MSA;
- o The ADF&G indicated they would request the Federal Subsistence Board eliminate the subsistence moose cow hunt in 21E if the moose “density” trigger is met, but not before it is met.⁷³

⁷⁰ The ADF&G and NPS had an agreement that collared NPS wolves would not be shot. The spotter planes had radio collar receivers. The ADF&G cite a mistake in transferring the frequencies to the spotter plane as being responsible for the shooting of the NPS collared wolves.

⁷¹ Refer to 5 AAC 92.125(n) in [5 AAC 92.125](#)

⁷² The historical observable moose density estimates have been based on surveys with CI 90% (+/- 13% to 17%). Sightability correction factors have not been established.

⁷³ ADF&G testimony at the 2010 Spring BOG meeting

b) Unit 9D & 9E ⁷⁴

- o The Unit 9D / 9E, and Unit 10 intensive management plans are the first plans to require federal refuge cooperation to be effective;
- o The majority of the area for the Unit 9D/9E intensive management plan is within the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge;
- o Adopted to increase the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd population;
- o The board passed the intensive management plan noting that it would not be implemented pending authorization by the US Fish and Wildlife Service;
- o For the first time, an IM plan is authorized for 10 years; ⁷⁵
- o Total area: 19,461 mi²;
- o Wolf reduction “focus” area: 12,825 mi²;
- o Source specific caribou calf mortality studies have been conducted;
- o The Board continues to establish wolf reduction “focus” areas that appear to be authorized for up to 100% wolf reduction; ⁷⁶
- o The board did not define a minimum wolf population objective; ⁷⁷
- o The board modified the population objective for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd. ⁷⁸

c) Unit 10 ⁷⁹

- o This plan also requires federal cooperation. The majority of lands in Unit 10 are USFWS federal refuge lands that are designated wilderness;
- o Total wolf reduction area: 1,571 mi²;
- o At the 2010 interior Board meeting, the USFWS recommended approving this intensive management plan; ⁸⁰
- o The minimum wolf population objective for Unimak Island is to maintain a population of 8 - 15 wolves;
- o No wolf population survey is available;
- o No source specific caribou calf mortality studies have been conducted to date;
- o In December 2009, the ADF&G advised the USFWS that the department intended to conduct an intensive management operation on Unimak Island to include wolf reduction and bull caribou transplants to the island;

⁷⁴ Refer to 5 AAC 92.125(m) in [5 AAC 92.125](#)

⁷⁵ Another significant liberalization of the previous policy of requiring reauthorization of each intensive management plan every 5 years

⁷⁶ The IM plan states: “the wolf predation management objective for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Predation Management Area is to reduce wolf numbers in wolf reduction areas within Units 9(C) and 9(E); because wolves will not be removed from all lands within the management area and because logistic limitations prohibit public access to the majority of lands within the management area, the majority of wolves in Unit 9(C) and 9(E) will not be affected by the management activities authorized by this plan”

⁷⁷ The IM plan states: “the wolf population objective for Unit 9 is to maintain a wolf population that can sustain a three-year-annual harvest of 50 wolves”.

⁷⁸ The board reduced the population objective from 12,000 – 15,000 to 6,000 – 15,000. The harvest of objective remained the same at 800 – 1500. The region is extremely remote and the human harvest potential is minimal. One board member commented that a 10% harvest of 15,000 caribou may be unrealistic. It appears the recent population crash is due to the herd exceeded the carrying capacity of the range at a population level of approximately 20,000.

⁷⁹ Refer to 5 AAC 92.125(l) in [5 AAC 92.125](#)

⁸⁰ The USFWS stated that approving the Unit 10 IM plan would allow the USFWS more flexibility in addressing the declining caribou population.

- o The USFWS determined a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis would be necessary prior to authorizing the department's intensive management objectives and stated any wolf reduction action prior to that authorization would be considered trespassing;⁸¹
- o In May, 2010, the State sued the USFWS requesting an emergency injunction regarding the NEPA requirement decision by the USFWS. The court rejected the States request. The State has appealed the decision and a ruling is pending.

5. The Board Reauthorizes the GMU 13 Intensive Management Plan⁸²

- For up to an additional 6 years (November 2016);
- The plan amends “reduced to” to read “maintaining” a wolf population at no fewer than 135 wolves;

6. The Board Liberalizes Harvest Method and Means in All Predator Control Programs⁸³

- The board authorized the contracting of privately owned aircraft, including helicopters, to the “agents of the State” authorization;
- The board authorized ground based methods of wolf harvest by the department or “agents of the State” including harvesting wolves using rifles, snares, traps, or poison gas, including targeting dens that are located by ADF&G staff or by other means.

7. The Board revokes 5AAC 92.110 and 5AAC 92.115 – regulations that require federal approval of State conducted predator control operations on federally managed lands, including National Parks.⁸⁴

8. The ADF&G submits an Agenda Change Request (ACR) at the Spring Board Meeting for the upcoming 2010 Fall Board Meeting

The ADF&G state that the department is interested in amending or revoking the statewide bear management policy that restricts the snaring of bears to Board approved intensive management areas;⁸⁵

⁸¹ The USFWS decided an EIS would be required and tentatively estimate it will be completed in early 2011.

⁸² [Proposal 31](#) (Page 35) – October 2010 Meeting.

⁸³ It was the intent of the Board that the liberalizations of methods and means adopted for the [Unit 9C & 9E intensive management plan](#) apply to all existing intensive management plans.

⁸⁴ The Board adopted [Proposal 131](#) but amended the proposal to remove 5AAC 92.110 and 5AAC 92.115 completely. NPS Comments [Proposals 78](#)

⁸⁵ At the March 2010, Board of Game meeting the ADF&G recommends amending or revoking the bear management policy. No proposal or announcement of that recommendation was made to the public prior to the meeting. Discussion occurred under miscellaneous business. At the [October 2010 meeting](#) the board debated and amended both the wolf and bear management policies but did not approve a final amendment to either. The board requests additional draft amendments for both the bear and wolf management policies to be prepared by the ADF&G for consideration by the board at the November 2010 board meeting. The board also states that the policy will be codified as a formal regulation which requires the board to adhere to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). At the November meeting, the board reverses its decision and announces that the policy will remain a “finding” and not be codified. The board advises the

The department also states they are interested in amending the management policy for brown bears;

- o Interior brown bears are proposed to be managed for low population levels via liberalized methods and means and bag limits;
 - o Coastal brown bears are proposed to be managed for trophy status;
 - o The boundary between management priorities will be defined based on the net worth of the bear to the guiding industry or based on Boone & Crocket definitions of a coastal brown bear.⁸⁶
- The board approves the ACR request but the ADF&G did not follow the required regulatory process.⁸⁷
- At the following October 2010 meeting, the ADF&G submit a proposal to authorize bear snaring under a trapping license. The board tables the proposal to the spring 2012 meeting and amends the proposal to remove the Game Management Units in Region II (south-central Alaska) This allows snaring proposals to be submitted and considered for adoption in south central Alaska (Region II and IV) at the March 2011 meeting.

public that the drafting of the new policy language is currently being conducted in private consultation between the board and others, an action not allowed by the APA. In December 2010, the board publishes the draft wolf and bear policy findings in the proposal book for the March 2011 Board of Game meetings.
[\(Draft Wolf and Bear Policy Findings / Page 318 and 322\)](#)

⁸⁶ The department submitted the ACR during miscellaneous business deliberations of the Board during the last day of the meeting. There was no public notice of the Departments intent to request the ACR or the proposed amendments to the management policy of bears statewide. There is no record of copy (RC) document submitted by the department outlining the scope of the ACR request. The only record is an audio record from [board support](#).

⁸⁷ The ADF&G is required to submit an agenda change request in writing which they did not do.
[5 AAC 92.005 / Actions Taken](#)