



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
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Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



FOREST SERVICE

OSM 20110.DP

AUG 12 2020

Richard (Greg) Encelewski, Chair
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Encelewski:

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) met on April 20-23 and April 27, 2020 via teleconference to consider proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. This letter provides a report on the actions taken by the Board on Wildlife Proposals (WP) and Wildlife Closure Reviews (WCR) affecting residents of the Southcentral Alaska Region.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) regarding take unless, (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council's recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required by Secretarial regulations to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

Out of 54 proposals submitted, one proposal (**WP20-21**) was withdrawn by the proponent. The Board agreed with the recommendations of the Councils, in whole or with modifications, on 48 of 54 proposals. The Board deferred **WP20-26**, which would allow for the use of snowmachines to assist in positioning wolves or wolverines in Units 9B, 9C, 17B, and 17C, until its summer 2020 work session. Furthermore, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Councils on all 17 WCR's, voting to maintain status quo on 13 of them. Details of these actions and the Board deliberations are contained in the meeting transcriptions. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling the toll free number 1-800-478-1456, and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

The Board uses a consensus agenda on those proposals where there is agreement among the affected Council(s), a majority of the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action. These proposals were deemed non-controversial and did not require a separate discussion. The consensus agenda contained seven proposals affecting the Southcentral Alaska Region where the Board deferred to the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) recommendations in whole or with modification. The Board *adopted with the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) modification* **WP20-18a** requesting that the Board recognize customary and traditional use of goats in Unit 7 by residents of Cooper Landing, **WP20-22a** requesting that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of caribou in Units 15B and 15C by residents of Ninilchik and **WP20-23a** requesting that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of goats in Unit 15 by residents of Ninilchik. The Board *adopted as written* **WP20-24a** requesting that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of sheep in Unit 15 by residents of Ninilchik and **WP20-51** requesting the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of sheep in Unit 12 by residents of Slana. The Board *rejected* statewide proposal **WP20-08**, requiring traps or snares to be marked with a name or state identification number and **WP20-19**, requesting revisions to the elder/minor sheep hunt in Unit 11.

The remaining proposals affecting the Southcentral Region appeared on the non-consensus agenda. However, for six of these proposals, the Board took action consistent with the Council's recommendations, or with further modifications. The Board adopted *with the Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council modification*, **WP20-50** requesting to align State and Federal regulations for moose in Unit 12. The Board adopted *with the OSM modification and further modification the following proposals*: **WP20-18b** to establish a goat season and harvest limits in Unit 7. The Board further modified the proposal to identify the harvest quota in the Delegation of Authority letter versus regulation; **WP22b** to establish a goat season with harvest limits in Unit 15. The Board further modified the proposal to add sex restrictions to the Delegation of Authority letter; **WP23b** to establish a goat season with harvest limits in Unit 15. The Board further modified the proposal to add the language "nannies or nannies with kids may not be taken" to the regulation; and **WP20-24b** to establish a sheep hunting season with harvest limits in Unit 15. The Board further modified the proposal to add the language "1 ram with $\frac{3}{4}$ curl or larger" and delete the sex restrictions from the Delegation of Authority letter. Lastly, the Board rejected **WP20-20** requesting restrictions on hunting and trapping within one mile of roads and trails and marking of trap sites in Unit 7.

The Board's action on three WCR's for the region was also consistent with the Council's recommendations. The Board *maintained status quo* for **WCR20-03**, which reviewed the closure to moose hunting in Unit 7, (draining into Kings Bay) except by residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek; **WCR20-41**, which reviewed the closure to moose hunting in Unit 6C from November 1-December 31, except by Federally qualified subsistence users; and **WCR20-42**, which reviewed the closure to caribou hunting for the Mentasta Caribou Herd and to non-Federally qualified users of the Chisana Caribou Herd in portions of Unit 12.

The Board also acted on deferred proposal **WP18-19**, adopting Council's recommendations from its November 2017 meeting; namely, *adopted with the Interagency Staff Committee modification*, **WP18-19** to provide a community hunt for moose and caribou in Unit 13 and for moose in Unit 11 for Federally qualified subsistence users of the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, administered by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. The Board further modified the proposal by removing the broad definition for the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory and naming specific communities under this definition. Under **WP18-19**, the Board also added a December 1-December 31 may-be-announced season for moose in Unit 13, which satisfied the Council's recommendations under withdrawn proposal **WP18-18**.

The Board appreciates the Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Council chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was truly admirable.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator, at 907-209-7817 or deanna.perry@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members
Susan Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Thomas Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Lisa Maas, Acting Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record