



Outdoor Alaska



The Official publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council and Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund.
"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor heritage since 1955"

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How much "Wilderness" designated federal lands are enough for Alaska?

By Rod Arno, Executive Director AOC

According to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2009-2014 today there are approximately 82.4 million acres of federal land designated as Wilderness in Alaska, that's over 20% of the entire state. Currently each of the four agencies managing federal lands in Alaska has recommendations out that would increase the amount of federal public lands and/or waters that would be eligible for wilderness designation under the National Wilderness Preservation System.

It takes an act of the US Congress to create wilderness designated areas on federal lands. The **Wilderness Act of 1964** defines wilderness as:

An area of underdeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions....

Each of the federal lands managing agencies;

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the NPS, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and the BLM all have slightly differing interpretations of what it takes for federal lands to meet "wilderness characteristics" but one thing is clear; they are generally **roadless**. Each federal agency has their own method of tinkering with the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The **National Park Service (NPS)** manages 52.8 million acres in Alaska, of which 33.5 million acres have been designated Wilderness. The NPS released their draft EIS of the Nabesna ORV Management Plan last summer which includes a slight increase in lands eligible for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. They managed to accomplish this partially by creating ineligible corridors along both sides of motorized trails that were established before the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). While the NPS has not yet prepared a formal wilderness quality

Continued on Page 6 : Wilderness

Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

Well spring is here and we have had a busy one. We had our first Anchorage Banquet at the Marriot downtown as well as our Annual meeting. It was a great success. For those of you that attended, donated items and time, I would like to thank you all for your support. Everyone seemed to have had a great time and we got lots of good comments. Those of you who didn't make it, I hope to get your support next year. We want to make this the biggest AOC Banquet in the state with your support. Tickets will be available soon.

Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell, guest Speaker at the 2011 AOC Awards Banquet, brought outdoors people great news from the governor's office. That very day, thanks to the effort of the Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell, the Alaska Department of Law had notified the Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, of the State's intent to sue for quiet title on eight RS2477 trails in the Forty Mile area. The news brought a round of applause from the crowd. These eight well established trails have a long history of providing access for the public to lands, waters, and minerals dating back to the gold rush days of the late 1800's. The timing on the State's part was critical with BLM on the verge of releasing their Resource Management Plan for the Eastern Interior RMP/EIS. Outdoors people could not thank the Lt. Governor enough for having the State take a stand regarding public access to public resources.

We gave awards to: **Ken Manning** - Sam McDowell award, thank you for your driving spirit and perseverance, **David Rutz** - Biologist of the year - Fisheries, thank you for your many years of service to the Outdoorsmen of Alaska, (Retired 2010, ADF&G sport fisheries biologist for Susitna River Upper Cook Inlet), **Gary Stevens** - Outstanding AOC Board Member Thank you for your outstanding continued participation and vigilance, and **Interior Airboaters Association** for the **Club of the year**, thank you for your unequalled commitment and support both monetarily and physically.

We have had very successful Sports Show raffle ticket sales in Wasilla, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Soldotna. We will finish out at the Palmer State Fair. The raffles are for a Polaris ATV4 wheeler 550 or Snowmachine 600 IQ (your choice), a Browning X-Bolt 300 Win Mag Rifle and a Ruger 44 Magnum Commemorative (50th anniversary of Alaska Statehood)

The Governor reappointed Ted Spraker, and Stosh Hoffman to the Board of Game (BOG) despite their refusal to abide by the constitution. They have gone forward with their CHP (now Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH)) in defiance of the judge's ruling and the Attorney Generals recommendation to not pursue this direction until the Supreme Court ruled. They completely ignored all the of the local AC's (advisory committees) and the majority of the written comments. The process failed completely, in a misguided attempt to give a native priority with crafty wording. There was a huge amount of opposition to this but it all fell on deaf ears.



Here is the website showing the current board. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.bogmembers>

In October, of this year, we will be having our 1st Annual Kenai Peninsula Banquet Fundraiser in Soldotna. **We are looking for volunteers for that function.** Contact me at president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

If anyone has changed or acquired an email address recently, please let us know so that we can keep you posted on the latest occurrences. Most of the time things happen fast and email is the way we let you know, timely.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Kenai Peninsula Banquet The Soldotna Sports Center October 8, 2011 Saturday: 5pm - 10pm | Annual Matsu Banquet Evangelo's Restaurant October 15, 2011 Saturday: 5pm - 10pm |
|---|---|

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Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director



The Right to Hunt and Fish in Alaska & There is none.

It is a privilege; there is no law giving anyone the right to hunt and fish in Alaska.

During the last decade hunting opportunities have been threatened across the nation by citizen ballot initiatives leading to so called “right to hunt” legislation in 21 States, six States have passed laws. The impact of these laws is unclear as of yet, many of them grant the right to hunt “in accordance with current law and regulations”. Alaska’s Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced legislation in the US Congress (S.1770) in 2009 titled the “*Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act*” which dealt with access to federal lands and was still subject to valid existing rights in federal law. The bill didn’t pass.

Alaska is unique among all the States in that it does say specifically that fish & game are reserved for Common use (Alaska State Constitution Article 8, Section 3), but the constitution doesn’t differentiate between those that want to take fish & game for food or just want to see it or even residence who feel good knowing wildlife is out there roaming free on public lands. The Alaska Supreme Court said in the Owsichuk decision that the common use clause constitutionalized the state’s public trust duty toward wildlife; this is a duty to manage these resources for the benefit of all the people.

Article 8, Sections 1 of the Alaska State Constitution makes it clear that use of natural resources are available for maximum use only if that use is *consistent with the public interest*. That is why hunters and anglers join organizations like the AOC and one or more of its member clubs; to make sure they have a voice in the political process and with the regulatory agencies that are responsible for the management and allocation of fish and game.

The framers of the Alaska State Constitution had a clear understanding of the importance of fish and game because it meant “food security” for **all** its residence. The US Congress violated the Alaska State Constitution when they passed the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Federal law, ANILCA Title VIII, gave a priority to hunt and fish on federal lands only to federally qualified rural Alaskan. Which meant Alaskan residence who weren’t federally qualified residence lost their equal opportunity to hunt and fish on federal lands and waters. (Only the US Congress or the US Supreme court can right this wrong.)

Each time there has been an Alaska Supreme Court challenge to the Alaska Board of Game’s (BOG) attempt to impose a special right to hunt to a specific class of Alaskan residence they have lost.

Yet both the Board of Fisheries (*Chitina Dipnetters v. SOA, BOF*) and Game (*Manning, AFWCF v. SOA, BOG*) keep trying to adopt regulation in GMU 13 to give a priority of moose and caribou and salmon to Alaskans who adhere to the Ahtna Athabascan way of life, even in times of abundance.

AOC, through its litigation arm the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (AFWCF), continues to challenge these discriminatory board actions in the state courts. Currently AFWCF has two Appeals from the Superior Court before the Alaska Supreme Court, and a new challenge in the Superior Court to make sure all Alaskan residence continue to have the “privilege” to hunt and fish on the remaining 24% of the state own lands not under federal control or privately owned.

While there is no law giving Alaskans the “right to hunt” the privilege to hunt and fish in Alaska depends on whether there is enough Alaskans who are willing to speak out that “yes the opportunity to gather a wild food harvest is a strong beneficial use of fish and game.”

Donations to the AFWCF for continued litigation are tax deductible and can be made online or mailed with the form on the back page of the newsletter.

In the not too distant past State, and to some degree federal, land managers had the courtesy and good sense to realize Alaska’s outdoors people were outdoors as much as possible during the long days of summer. But that doesn’t seem to be the case anymore:

DNR has come out with their DRAFT **Chugach State Park** Management Plan. The plan is available online at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning.htm>.

Comments must be received by September 9, 2011. Anti-hunters and trappers in the urban Anchorage bowl have made a habit of opposing those legislatively protected activities in the State Park for some time now. It will be important for outdoors people who hunt, fish, and recreate on snowmachine to weigh in and send their comments on this State Park Draft Management Plan.

On the federal side the Draft CCP/EIS for the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge** (ANWR) is scheduled to be out any day now. There will be a 90-day period for the public to comment on proposed eligibility of addition wilderness areas and an additional ten National Wild and Scenic rivers. Information on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and wilderness eligibilities can be viewed on their planning website;

<http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>

Another federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that outdoor motorized users have been waiting a year to hear the results of from the National Park Services (NPS) is the alternative they have chosen for allowing non-federal qualified ORV use of the Nebesna Road area. Still no word yet but you can watch for the NPS decision to come out soon on their website;

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=20698>

AOC's Outstanding Member Club of the Year

By Dick Bishop

Interior Alaska Airboater's Association, Inc.

At its Annual Meeting in March, the AOC Board of Directors recognized the Interior Alaska Airboater's Association, Inc., as the Outstanding Member Club of 2010. It's well deserved recognition.

The Interior Airboaters joined AOC in early 1988 and have been strong supporters since. They annually make the Fairbanks AOC/Fund Dinner & Auction a success through their financial support, donations and participation.

In the mid – 60's the group got started in a Chena River neighborhood known as Broadmoor, but affectionately called "Weinsville" or "Smitty's Hog Farm". First known as the "Chena River Sports Club", neighbors socialized, talked boats, and launched boats and snowmachines on the Chena at Lloyd Pike's recently built Pike's Landing. They bought land near Angel Creek off the Chena Hot Springs Road with a club house in mind, but interest waned for a few years.

Concerns over more restrictions on airboats in the mid-70's attracted a lot of new members and renewed interests, especially in access on Interior rivers and on the Tanana Flats where the U.S. Army was getting jittery about people accessing their maneuver areas. The club became active in challenging

questionable access restrictions there and in some other similar areas adjoining the Tanana River.

A number of club members put a lot of effort and money into improving airboat performance, including better hulls and reducing noise levels by improving power plants and especially propeller design. Club leaders encouraged airboat users to upgrade and emphasized responsible operation in the outdoors.

As the club grew and prospered, it took an interest in community betterment. A few years ago the club donated a new, ready to go airboats to the Salcha Rescue Inc. volunteer group. They also support a long list of local non-profit programs, ranging from Alaska Youth Special Olympics to the Red Cross, along with their support of

sound fish and game management and the AOC's efforts in that arena.

Roger and Betty Redfern, long-time President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively, have been instrumental in the Interior Airboaters' work in the community.

AOC thanks the Interior Airboaters for their support and for their civic pride.



Awards Banquet 2011

Bill Iverson

At this year's Annual Banquet and Awards ceremony AOC gave awards to:

Ken Manning – Sam McDowell award
Thank you for your driving spirit and perseverance.

David Rutz - Biologist of the year – Fisheries
Thank you for your many years of service for conservation and for the anglers of Alaska.

Gary Stevens – Outstanding AOC Board Member
Thank you for your outstanding continued participation and vigilance.

Interior Airboaters Association – Outstanding AOC Member Club
Thank you for your unequalled commitment and support both monetarily and physically.



Gary Stevens awarded by AOC

AOC Report on the 27th Legislature- 2011

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

Legislation moved slowly or not at all during the 1st Session of the 27th Alaska Legislature. It took a Special Session of the legislature, called by Governor Sean Parnell, to get the operating and capital budgets passed. Legislative confirmations for commissioner of ADF&G, DNR, and the AG were unanimous. Board of Game and Fisheries appointments drew objections from commercial fisheries representatives for Dr. Bill Brown and Senator Hollis French objected to Ted Spraker's confirmation on the grounds that Ted was the architect of the regulations allowing brown bears to be snared. Bill Brown and John Jensen were reconfirmed to the BOF. Mike Smith and Susan Jeffrey were confirmed; Jeffrey replaces Mel Morris on the BOF. Ted Spraker and Stosh Hoffman were reappointed, Nat Turner was confirmed along with Nick Yurko who replaced Lew Bradley on the BOG.

Legislation discussed at the 2011 AOC Annual Meeting;

HB 20 - If passed into law HB 20 would put personal use ahead of commercial use in a fishery that is restricted to "residents only." HB 20, sponsored by Representative Bill Stoltze, was heard once in the House Fisheries Committee. We're hoping Fisheries Committee Chairman Steve Thompson, of Fairbanks, will hold an interim hearing somewhere in the Railbelt so we can show the legislature how important personal use is to Alaskans.

HB 187 - Freshman Representative Alan Dick introduced HB 187, which says ADF&G must include "building diversionary or temporary fencing" in their Delta Bison Management Plan. The bill also states that the Commissioner of ADF&G shall consider the studies and suggestions from work groups or task forces. The bill wasn't heard in the closing days of the legislative session, but AOC will be interested in seeing what the department estimates such a fence to cost, and where they propose to get the money. Also the department needs to weigh in on the effects of miles of diversionary fencing on other wildlife species.

HB 186 - Introduced by Rep. Alan Dicks and Freshman Rep. Eric Feige HB 186 would require the legislature to first approve any Wood Bison importation or relocation before the ADF&G commissioner could implement the relocation. Fears of federal oversight of the transplanted Wood Bison herd and any area

they range to under the ESA is fueling this concern. The House Resources Committee passed the bill on to the Rules Committee near the end of the regular session. We'll see what happens.....

SB 20 - On the Senate side, AOC was also watching SB 20, sponsored by Senator Tom Wagner. SB 20 says that if you're just personal use (dipnet) fishing, you don't have to buy a sportfish license, but do have to purchase a dipnet permit. Money from the sales of dipnet permits would be directed to a "personal use fishery fund" which could be used to pay to mitigate the damage done by the hoards of people lining up on the Kenai, and other rivers, hoping to fill their freezer. The bill was never heard; it's sitting in Senate Resources.

SB 24 - Still on the Senate side, SB 24 came out of the gate hot, but quickly cooled off. Anchorage Senator Lesil McGuire sponsored SB 24 with the intent of creating a sportfish guide services board, modeled after the Big Game Commercial Services Board. Opposition to this bill in the Senate Resources Committee was widespread and vocal. Senator McGuire pulled back on the bill and announced that she'd work on it over the summer. AOC is hoping to participate in that process.

HB 173 - After SB 24 slowed down the House Fisheries Committee introduced HB 173 to extend the system of licensing

sport fishing guides. ADF&G says they rely on information the guides are required to provide under this law but we haven't seen any more fish in our streams since it started. Kind of like an unfunded mandate. The bill passed both House and Senate and should be signed by the Governor sometime this summer.

HB 80 - Finally, a bill not related to fish and game, but favored by many active in AOC and by the NRA, is HB 80 by Representatives Mark Neuman, Eric Feige, Bob Lynn, Mia Costello, Mike Hawker, and others. HB 80 expands the area where a person can use deadly force to protect themselves. Current law allows the use of deadly force to protect yourself in your home. HB 80 expands that and says you can use deadly force to protect yourself anywhere you have a right to legally be. The bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee where it faces a tough sled.



Members of the Trustee Advisory Board at the 2011 AOC Annual meeting

Wilderness: Continued from Page 1

classification for wilderness they have a system of classification of wilderness lands based on four qualities of wilderness characters;

- Untrammeled – Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation.
- Natural – Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization.
- Undeveloped – Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent or modern human occupation.
- Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation – Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Using these wilderness characteristics NPS staff were able to strip established motorized trails out of an area and call the lands outside of a ¼ of a mile corridor on each side of the trail as eligible for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

NPS is also preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve General Management Plan Amendment and Wilderness Study. The wilderness study is being conducted for the purpose of developing wilderness recommendations as a part of this planning effort. Currently 7 million acres of the 8.2 million lands within the Park and Preserve are already designated Wilderness.

The US National Forest Service (NFS) manages 22.8 million acres in Alaska. The 16.8 million acre Tongass National Forest conducted an (EIS) in the early 2000's to determine whether new "roadless" areas should be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The EIS resulted in recommending an additional 0.7 to 9.6 million acres should be added to the 6.6 million acres already designated as; Wilderness, National Monument, or LUD II lands by Congress.

The 5.4 million acre Chugach National Forest is conducting studies in the Nellie Juan, College Fjords to determine whether an additional 1.9 million acres should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are currently 19 Wilderness areas within the two National Forests.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service manages 76.8 million acres which currently contains 21 wilderness areas, totaling 18.7 million acres, and 6 National Wild & Scenic Rivers. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) has completed a Draft eligibility report of Wild & Scenic River, which is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, that list 10 more rivers for eligibility. This is part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and EIS wilderness suitability study which is scheduled to be available for public review this summer.

The US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 75 million acres of Alaska. As of last December 23rd Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar ordered that all BLM land would undergo a wilderness review to determine their suitability to be included as part of a new "Wild Lands" designation. The Sec. of Interior Order No. 3310 states part of the reason for issuing the "Wild Lands" order was because;

"Many people and communities value BLM lands for hunting and fishing, observing wildlife, biking, and other non-motorized and non-mechanized recreational uses."

BLM lands that met the wilderness characteristics, as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964, would be managed as Congressional designated Wilderness without needing to be acted on by the US Congress. Bud Cribley, Alaska State Director of BLM, estimates that over 95% of BLM lands in Alaska would meet the wilderness characteristics necessary to qualify for "Wild Lands"

So back to the question, how much of the 238 million acres (64% of the state) of federal public lands in Alaska needs to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Alaska's Congressional delegation and the governor who were negotiating ANILCA back in the late 70's figured that the 150 million acres of protected conservation system units (CSUs) which included the 57 million acres of designated Wilderness withdrawn in the bill were enough. Congress agreed and ANILCA passed with a **no more withdrawal clause**;

No further studies of Federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of considering the establishment of a conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation areas or for related or similar purposes shall be conducted unless authorized by this Act or further Act of Congress. ANILCA Section 1326(b)

Of course we all know **no** US Congress can "bind the hands" of a future US Congress, but clearly the intent was there; enough withdrawals and preservation of federal lands in Alaska had occurred.

I've asked federal land managers are they seeing the wilderness characteristic of Parks, Preserves, Monuments, and Refuges that are not part of the National Wilderness Preservation System deteriorating since the passage of ANILCA? Not a one has told me yes, and I don't see it happening. To the contrary, I've seen less human activity on federal lands everywhere except along the road system compared to the mid-80's.

Access to public resources on federal lands will become more restrictive to outdoors people under the current policies of the Department of Interior. The BLM "Wild lands" Order will create additional acreage of protective conservation units (CSUs) administratively, bypassing the authority of the US Congress under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and ANILCA. Increases in established UCS lands eligible for inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System will also result in further access restrictions as these lands will be managed to preserve their wilderness characteristics until such time as the US Congress takes action to create new Wilderness.

Outdoors people place a high value on Alaska's wilderness lands and they would like the opportunity to access them. It will take the efforts and participation of outdoors people to make sure they get that opportunity to access public lands. Contact our Congressional delegation and the federal land managers to let them know Alaska has enough Wilderness designated lands in Alaska.

Halibut – Dollars and Sense!

By Richard Yamada

Federal regulators have hammered another nail in Alaska's sport halibut coffin. NOAA Fisheries' Charter Halibut Limited Entry Program begins implementation this summer, and based on the number of permits issued, is reducing the charter halibut fleet by a third. In March, NOAA Fisheries changed the bag limit for guided anglers in Southeast Alaska, from one halibut, any size, to a halibut with a maximum size limit of 37 inches, or about 23 pounds. This will deliver a drastic blow to Southeast charter businesses and associated businesses that depend on visiting anglers' dollars. This could be a knockout punch.

This impact will ripple up to SouthCentral Alaska, very shortly. The migration of sport anglers from Southeast to SouthCentral Alaska, seeking better fishing opportunities, has already begun. Additional pressure will be placed on the availability of charter seats in SouthCentral Alaska, already limited by the Charter Halibut Limited Entry Program. When demand exceeds supply, the cost of a charter goes up. With an improving economy and higher booking rates, there is good reason to believe that SouthCentral guided anglers will exceed their allocated harvest level.

Federal regulators are prepared to issue yet another set of regulations called the "Catch Sharing Plan" which will reduce the allocation of halibut to guided anglers by as much as 30 percent! Thus, SouthCentral Alaska may also be facing a one halibut a day rule, or even one halibut up to a certain size, in 2012.

How did we get to this sorry state of affairs? Scientists say this is partially due to the biology of the fishery. For unknown reasons, halibut are growing much slower than in the past and halibut over 32 inches in length that are large enough to be commercially harvested, have been on the decline. This, coupled with the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) new Coastwide Assessment model, adopted in 2008, has resulted in extreme reductions in harvest for both the commercial and guided recreational sectors in Southeast Alaska.

The IPHC determines the harvest levels for Pacific halibut. If their current Coastwide Assessment model was to be cast back 10 years, close to 60 million pounds of halibut was allowed to be harvested over the model's recommended sustainable harvest levels by commercial halibut longliners. In comparison, guided recreational anglers went over their recommended harvest level by four million pounds. Given this disproportionate harvest history, the charter sector in Southeast is still being squeezed out of existence. We

need to find a solution to keep our guided sport fishery alive.

The scientific question has only one answer, harvest must be kept to sustainable levels. We now need to answer the political question. What is the best economic use of our harvestable halibut resource, for the State of Alaska, during times of low abundance? If pound for pound, halibut are worth more in the sport fishery, then we need some mechanism to be able to shift allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Two charter associations, the Alaska Charter Association and the Southeast Alaska Guides Organization, have been awarded a



grant to develop such a mechanism. If adopted, this will allow commercial halibut individual quota shares to be purchased and placed in a common recreational pool to supplement annual regulatory allocations. The intent is to purchase enough halibut quota shares to allow guided recreational regulations to stabilize the annual restrictions that may be imposed on the recreational fishery. You will hear more about this in the months to come.



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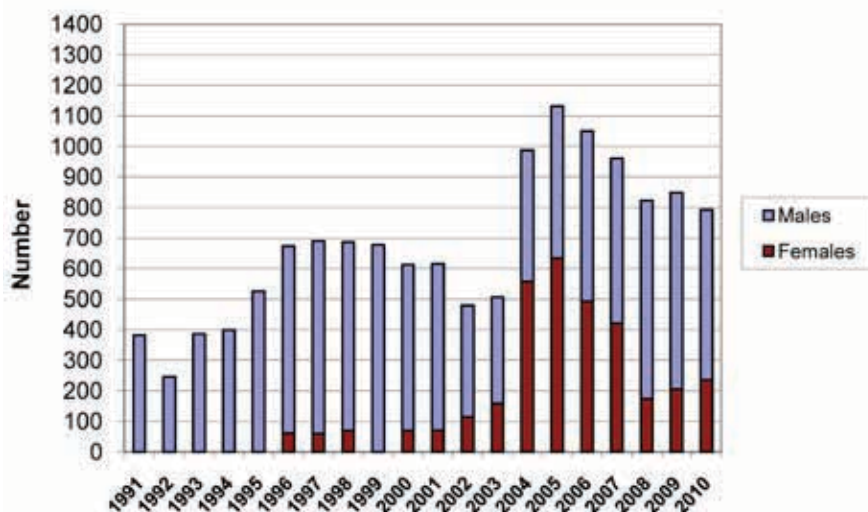
By Rod Arno

There is no better example of sustainable, renewable resource development in Alaska than moose harvest in GMU20A. Even the most hardcore environmentalist can't dispute that fact. The "food security" for Alaskans derived from drug free, solar powered moose meat is a real beneficial use.

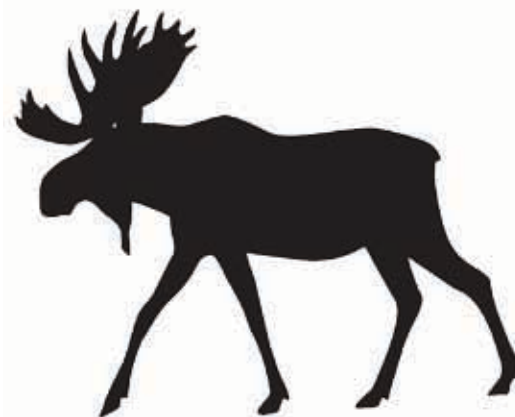
Game Management Sub-Unit 20A has provided 1 out of 7 moose reported harvested in Alaska every year for the last decade. While still maintaining one of the highest densities over a large area (6,700 sq. miles) of 3 moose/sq. mile. It took a segment of cow harvest to make that happen. (Graph 1, Reported harvest of moose in Unit 20A, 1991 – 2010. Prepared by ADF&G)

Make no mistake about it we are in the era of "sound science" regarding predator/prey management. The anti-game management crowd has made that clear through

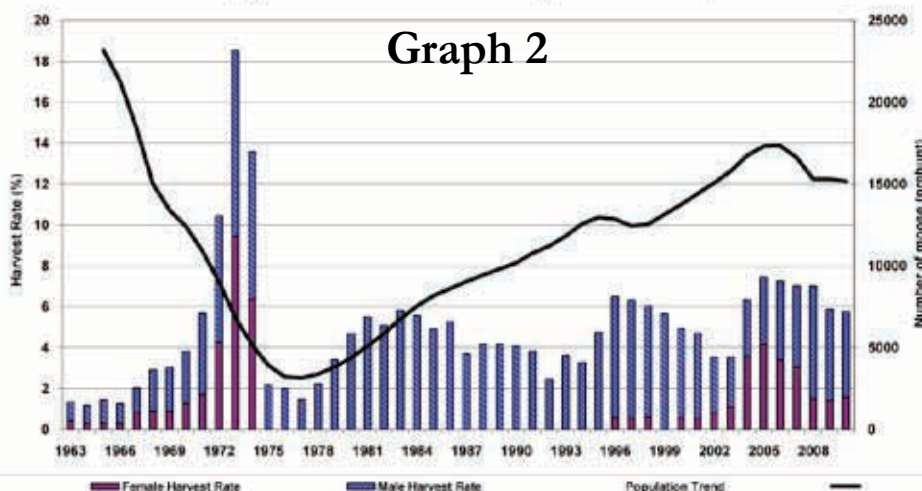
Reported harvest of moose in Unit 20A, 1991-2010



Graph 1



Prehunt moose population and harvest trends by sex in GMU 20A, 1963-2010

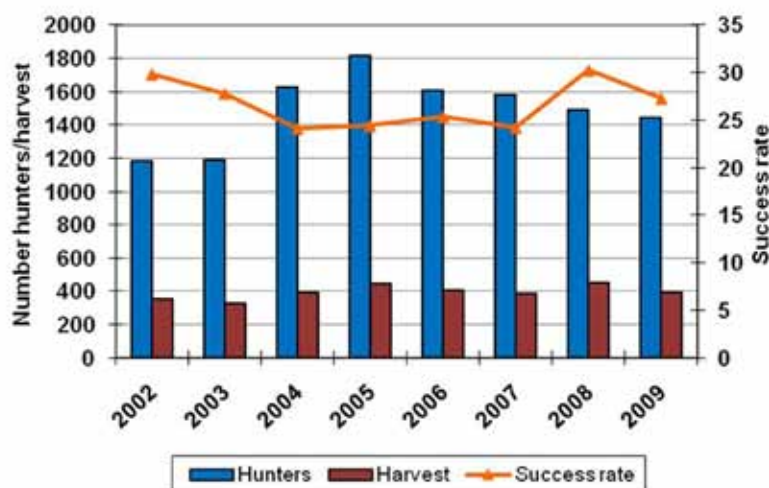


Graph 2

the courts and the ballot box. Bull/cow ratios, twinning rates, delayed reproduction, body mass, and browse biomass now rule the day for game managers. Because of new technologies and the availability of increased funding game managers are far better prepared to handle antlerless moose hunts than they were in the early 70's. (Graph 2, Prehunt moose populations and harvest trends by sex in GMU20A, 1963-2010. Prepared by ADF&G)

The bottom-line is Alaska's legislature has passed statutes and provided the funding that has allowed ADF&G to implement a successful harvest regime in GMU20A that has produced around ½ million lbs/year of quality moose meat to feed Alaskan families. Alaskan hunters are looking forward to achieving hunter success rates of over 25% in areas of state lands where predator/prey management is currently being implemented for the benefit of Alaskans who gather a wildfood harvest. (Graph 3, General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009. Prepared by ADF&G)

General moose season, Unit 20A, 2002-2009



Graph 3

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DOT&PF Interior Alaska Transportation Plan – Final Plan (November 2010)

<http://projects.ascg.com/iatp/Documents.asp>

Trail Recommendations for the next 20 year period;

1)- Build a trail between the Dalton highway and Stevens Village to precede road development.

State of Montana

Population = 920,000

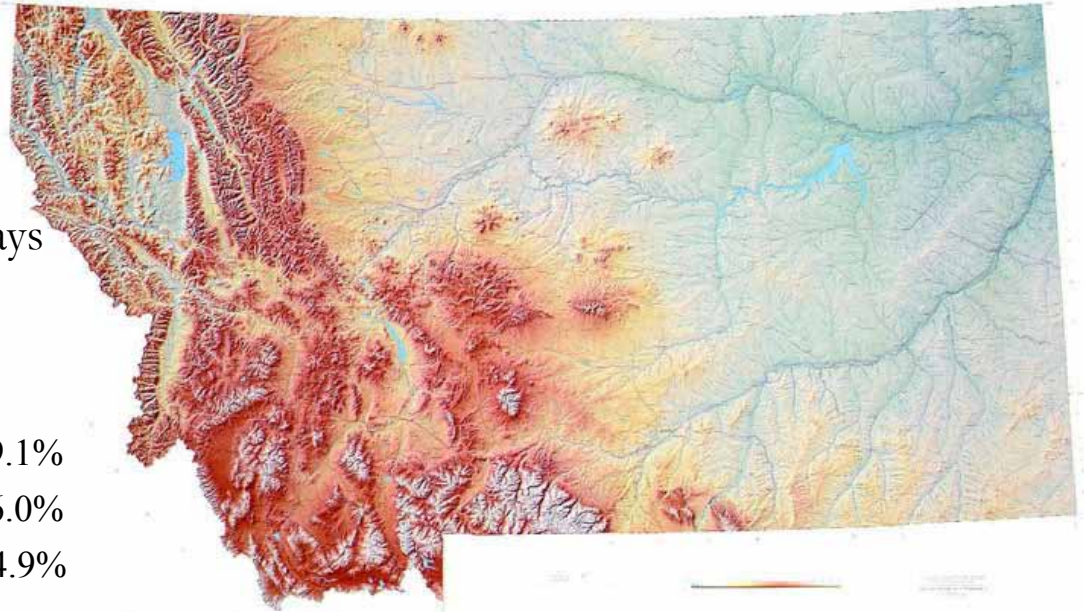
Years as a state = 122 years

National and state highways
= **69,567 miles**

Total area = 94,104,586 acres

Land Ownership;

- Federal owned lands – 29.1%
- State owned lands – 6.0%
- Private owned lands – 64.9%



DOT&PF - Interior Alaska Transportation Plan Area

Road connected population = 500,000+

Years as a state = 51 years

National and state highways
= **2,000 miles**

Total area = 84,620,800 acres

Land Ownership;

- Federal owned lands – (aprox.) 70%
- State owned lands – 25%
- Private owned lands – 5%

Alaska's Amazing Fishwheels

-DVD review

By Rod Arno

Alaska's Amazing Fishwheels, produced by Tom Payton, is an enjoyable firsthand look at the culture of gathering salmon via a fishwheel. I first met Tom at his cabin in Skwentna, he was a local hero at that time for beating the Alaska Board of Fisheries in a lawsuit that allowed all resident of Skwentna to participate in the salmon fishery with the use of a fishwheel.

Tom has produced a wonderful record of the history and use of fishwheels in Alaska. All the characters Tom runs into and interviews for this DVD are classic outdoors people who adhere to the true Alaskan lifestyle of gathering a wildfood harvest for themselves and their families. Anyone who appreciates the opportunity to participate in Alaska's outdoor activities will enjoy this documentary. The culture of fishwheel gathers is well worth saving, and this DVD could help do that. Rod Arno

You can contact Tom via email paytonplace@gci.net to purchase a copy.



Al Barrette

New AOC / AFWCF Board member

I reenlisted in the army, from my station in Germany, to be stationed in my lifelong dream, Alaska. I was always an outdoors person, born in Upper Michigan and reared in Wisconsin. Working on a dairy farm, hunting and fishing every day I could. It's funny how I choose Fairbanks as my duty station. My reenlistment NCO asked me what base I wanted to be stationed at. I had a choice of Anchorage, Ft. Greely, or Fairbanks. So I looked at a map and saw Fairbanks was more or less centrally located. So I thought this would be the best choice. I'll be centrally located to everything. Now 24 years later I'm still here.

I've been married to my wife Laura for all those years. Have 3 children Jacob 19, Mickenze 15, and Ashley who is 12.

I own and have operated Fairbanks Fur Tannery for the last 16 years. I supplement my household income by trapping and big game guiding. I have been elected for several terms as a member of the Fairbanks AC, and chair the trapping sub-committee. A life member of the NRA and the Alaska Trappers Assoc., a member of the AOC and SFW, and a member in good standing at Hamilton Acres Baptist Church.

Many of us use Alaska's resources and want a say on how we get to use those resources. So I got involved in those processes.



I never take lightly any membership I belong to. I know the AOC is the organization that promotes what most Alaskan want. And I will also promote those ideas. I believe it's time to step up to the plate and get involved, as we are losing access and opportunities yearly. The only things I see we are gaining on are regulations restricting Alaskans. I will continue to lobby legislators and BOG and BOF members for what we believe in. I greatly appreciate your votes and confidence in electing me.

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Chinook Protection Passes the Council

By: Pete Wedin, Secretary of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Your Support is Needed to Make It Stick

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council passed a “preliminary preferred alternative” (PPA) for capping Chinook Bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock trawl fishery at their last meeting in April. Over six hundred stakeholders of the Chinook salmon resource signed on to a letter urging the Council to take action. In addition to the letter submitted to the Council, the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Homer offered resolutions to the Council urging them to institute a meaningful cap and other measures to bring the waste of this resource under control. There was testimony from the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, a couple of members of the Homer fishing community, and others interested in the conservation of Chinook salmon.

This is a good start and I applaud all of the folks in Homer, Kodiak, and other ports that took the time to sign the letter. Some pivotal testimony was given by Nancy Hillstrand reminding the Council that this is far from a fast-track action. Indeed, she offered headlines from 1992 that claimed that “something had to be done about Chinook bycatch”. So, now the Council has reacted to the public outcry that with so many Chinook salmon fisheries suffering, all user groups need to step up and feel the pain.

Included in the Council’s action was full retention of Chinook salmon and increased observer coverage in the form of 30%

coverage of the vessels under 60 feet. Much of the testimony at the April meeting called for better data of what is being caught. Many of us believe there is more wasted than is counted, while many in the industry feel that the extrapolation of unobserved effort from the observed data makes for more being counted than actually caught. More observation and full retention will only help to improve this data. The Council is working to restructure the entire observer program and that plan should be in place within the next couple of years.

The Council adopted a preferred alternative of 22,500 Chinook, which is a little more than the eight-year average, but would close the fishery when that cap is reached. Last year, there were over 40,000 caught. Although we were pushing for a 15,000 cap, we still feel good that a cap that would forbid what happened last year from happening, a win.

The final action on this issue will be voted on in Nome when the NPFMC convenes on June 6th. The Alaska Marine Conservation Council and the GOA Chinook Salmon Stakeholders will be asking communities to sign on to a new letter to send to the Council. We will have these in local coffee shops and fish processors for you to sign or you may log onto www.akmarine.org to sign on electronically. You may also be inclined to write a letter to the editor or possibly send a comment to the Council to add your opinion to this issue.

Clamming Clues

by Teresa Burnett & Pam Iverson

Digging and cleaning Razor Clams (*Siliqua patula*) shouldn’t be that hard, right? Well, over the years we have learned some lessons we thought we should pass on.

Gear needed: Head to toe rubber suit, boots, long gloves, bucket, clam gun or shovel. Best time to go is at or around ½ half after low tide. The sand starts to dry and firm up by then. Look for small dimple holes about ¼” in diameter. The clam will be directly below that hole. Clams travel through the sand up & down, NOT side to side, which some have learned the hard way. Dig away on the ocean side of the dimple a shovel deep hole. Skim away any top coating of mud, with an up and down motion as to not break the shell of the clam. When you feel your shovel lightly scrape across the shell start looking for the nozzle (white clam piece of meat) sticking up out of the hole. The goal is to grab the nozzle and shell and wiggle while pulling to get the clam out of the sand while NOT breaking the shell.

Place the clam in a bucket of salt water and repeat. Be sure to check regulations and limits before starting and have your fishing license in your pocket. Current limit is 60 per person per day.

If you are using the cylinder type of clam gun, place it over the clam dimple and press down while twisting. Place your finger over the air hole and pull up. Mud and sand will fall out, hopefully with a clam. As for cleaning the clams, which you should do as soon as possible,

we learned this method from a Native friend of ours.

Use a pan of few inches of boiling water (just enough to fully cover the clams), placing two or three clams in the water until they pop open. Shake off the shells with a pair of tongs. Immediately put the clam into a bowl of ICE water to stop the clam from cooking. Throw the shell into a bucket for disposal later. This water may need to be changed out periodically, depending on how many clams you have to clean. At this point you can continue cleaning them or put them in a zip lock and freeze, for cleaning later.



To clean, snip off the black tip of the nozzle, turn and slice open the nozzle channels, cleaning and rinsing as you go. Slice along the topside and then the opposite side of the nozzle. Pull off both gills from the foot and gut sack. Clean out all dark brown parts leaving only the white meat. We use a large bowl of clean water to rinse the clams as you go. Holding the foot, slice off the gut sack at a diagonal and then slice open the foot part

to clean out the dark brown veins. Separate the nozzles, with gills attached, from the foot of the clam. We puree the nozzles and gills, for use in clam chowder, in our blender since they are tougher parts with enough water to fill the blender.

Mom’s Clam Chowder recipe will be in the next newsletter.

Additional sources of info.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static-sf/Region2/pdfpubs/clams.pdf>
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/razorclams/>
<http://www.westportwa.com/activities/razorclams/cleaning.html>

Chinook Protection: *Continued from Page 14*

Letting the Council know how important these fish are to you makes an impression. Keep in mind that industry and their lobbyists will be there making sure that the Council knows what a hardship this bycatch cap is to the prosecution of their fishery. Let them know that this waste is unacceptable and must be reduced. If you have a burning desire to see Nome in the spring and would like to provide testimony in person, please call AMCC and let us know you are willing to attend the meeting on your own nickel and we will help you prepare an effective testimony. If you would like to view the agenda and read more about this issue, go to www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/.

All of this work and travel takes support. The Alaska Marine Conservation Council has made this issue a priority for this Council cycle. If you would like to help, go to our website at www.akmarine.org and become a member or just make a donation to help us in this endeavor. You may call the Anchorage office at 907-277-5357 or you can call Pete Wedin in Homer at 235-2911.

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