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POLICY BOOK

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Pursuant to the 2022 Annual Meeting

“Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor heritage since 1955.”

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Alaska Outdoor Council

Board of Directors

President: Bill Iverson, Soldotna

1st Vice President: Rob Mathews, Delta Junction

2nd Vice President: Jim CartMill, Juneau

3rd Vice President: Tammi Linn, Soldotna

Treasurer: Todd Clark, Anchorage

Secretary: Carl Nelson, Anchorage

At Large: Dalton Gray, Fairbanks

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The Alaska Outdoor Council is a 501(c)(4) corporation; donations to the Council are not tax deductible.

*The Alaska Outdoor Council is the official state association of the
National Rifle Association (NRA).*

SECTION ONE: COUNCIL OPERATIONS

Policy 1-87: Club Membership

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the advancement of membership to qualifying clubs and organizations.
- 2) To assist the board of directors in determining a club as qualified for membership, the Alaska Outdoor Council shall require a questionnaire be completed by the club being considered. The questionnaire should include, but not be limited to, applicant club information which indicates the compatibility of the club with the purposes and goals of the Alaska Outdoor Council.
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council board of directors shall, upon review of the questionnaire, authorize or deny membership for that particular club or organization. (Reference: Historically 1-87, amended 97)

Policy 1-88: Emergency Resolutions

- 1) Emergency resolutions and policies, placed before the delegates at an annual meeting, should meet the following criteria:
 - a) The issue to be addressed has arisen after the deadline established for submittal of resolutions.
 - b) The issue cannot be resolved by board action.
 - c) The issue cannot wait until the next annual meeting.
 - d) Copies of the proposed emergency resolution must be available to annual meeting participants at registration. (Reference: 1-88, amended 97)

Policy 5-97: Political Candidate Survey

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council shall survey political candidates to determine candidate positions on issues of common interest to Alaska Outdoor Council members and member clubs. The Alaska Outdoor Council shall attempt to incorporate statewide concerns of member clubs into the survey. The Alaska Outdoor Council shall make the results of these surveys available to member clubs in a timely manner for distribution through member club newsletters, telephone trees and other communication systems. (Reference: Historically Resolution 4-86, amended 87/97)

Policy 1-15: Electronic media storage

- 1) Any electronically recorded board meeting shall be destroyed after it has been transcribed into the board minutes and approved. (Reference: added 2015)

SECTION TWO: OUTDOOR USE OPPORTUNITIES AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Policy 2-83: Subsistence Priority and Common Use Management.

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the personal consumptive use of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. The Alaska Outdoor Council is, however, opposed to state and federal laws that give a preference to users based on criteria of residency, culture or ethnic background.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the Alaska State Constitution, which requires that fish and wildlife resources be managed for common use on the sustained yield (self-perpetuating) principle, for the maximum benefit of all the people.
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council recognizes the enormous contribution of personal consumptive resource uses to Alaskans' lifestyles, livelihoods, standards of living and overall economy. Peoples' needs must be accommodated, within the limits of the resources.
- 4) The Alaska Outdoor Council advocates active, scientific management of fish and wildlife to increase available resources for personal consumptive uses and for other purposes.
- 5) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports repeal of the federally mandated rural subsistence priority and associated federal oversight contained in ANILCA (Title VIII, PL 96-487).
- 6) The Alaska Outdoor Council urges the State to challenge portions of ANILCA in court regarding:
 - a) the infringement of federal law on the responsibility and authority of Alaska to manage its fish and wildlife resources; and,
 - b) the abridgment of individual civil rights conveyed in the state and federal constitutions.
- 7) The Alaska Outdoor Council will make resolution of the subsistence issue a priority and take all the necessary actions including state and federal litigation to achieve an acceptable solution. (Reference: 2-83, amended 85/86/90/91/97)

Policy 11-83: Access, RS2477 and Navigability

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council urges the Governor of Alaska and the Commissioners of Natural Resources, Transportation & Public Facilities and Fish & Game to aggressively assert and defend the state's right to possess and manage all navigable waters (including coastal waters), and all RS2477 rights of way.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council also urges the Governor and his/her administration to ensure that ANCSA 17(b) easements are identified and reserved prior to land transfer to private ownership.
- 3) Furthermore, the Alaska Outdoor Council urges the Governor and his/her administration to identify and reserve historic trails and access to waters for public use on all state lands by whatever designation is most appropriate.
- 4) The Alaska Outdoor Council requests the Alaska Legislature to continue its efforts to protect in law historic public access on the lands and waters of Alaska. The Alaska Outdoor Council expresses its appreciation to the Alaska Legislature and individual legislators who have made efforts to do so through specific bills and resolutions. (Reference: Historically Policy 1-83 & Resolution 4-83, 1-92,1-96, amended 97)

Policy 1-97: Sovereignty, Land and Public Funds

- 1) Attempts by individuals or organizations to obtain tribal government control over lands in Alaska must be recognized and proclaimed as a threat to:
 - a) effective management of fish, game, and other resources; and
 - b) equitable allocation of fish and game stocks.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes federal recognition of Indian country in Alaska. The Alaska Outdoor Council urges public officials to vigorously oppose Indian country status in Alaska and urges public officials to delete public funds that are used in promoting Indian country recognition. (Reference: Historically Resolution 1-83, amended 85/86/97)

Policy 3-97: Hunting, Fishing and Trapping in Federal Conservation System Units

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the perpetuation of hunting, fishing, and trapping on a sustained yield basis within ANILCA created parklands and other federal conservation system units. The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes any efforts to eliminate or unnecessarily curtail these legal uses. (Reference: Historically Resolution 2-86, amended 97, Resolution 94-1)

Policy 6-97: Alternatives to Hunting Closures

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor council supports the continued efforts by member organizations to retain hunting opportunities in Alaska State Parks as permitted by statute. We specifically support the use of alternate methods, such as the use of bow & arrow in areas that otherwise would be closed to hunting for reasons of public safety. (Reference: Historically Resolution 5-86, amended 87/97)

Policy 9-97: Military Reservations

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council strongly opposes the expansion of military reservations in Alaska, or expansion of military use of public lands, without at least the same acreage and resource value of existing military reservation land being returned to unrestricted public land status. (Reference: Historically Resolution 3-90, amended 97)

Policy 15-97: Federal Encroachment

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council believes that the best way to preserve the Alaskan way of life and outdoor lifestyle is to oppose creeping federalism and the erosion of Alaska's states' rights with every means at our disposal. The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the filing of lawsuits in the federal court and congressional action to reverse federal encroachment on state fish, game, and land management responsibilities and authorities. Federal land and fish and game management policies have become progressively more restrictive in regard to traditional access and consumptive uses of fish and game on federal public lands in response to national preservationist and animal rights groups. (Reference: Policy/Resolution 5-92, revised 97, revised 00)

SECTION THREE: SECOND AMENDMENT AND GUN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Policy 15-83: Right to Keep and Bear Arms

- 1) It is the position of the Alaska Outdoor Council that we support the individual right to keep and bear arms, and to use them for legitimate purposes, as guaranteed by the Alaska Constitution and the United States Constitution. The Council actively supports programs of instruction in hunting and firearm safety.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports legislation to further strengthen the right to keep and bear arms, including concealed carry legislation.
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council is strongly opposed to and will oppose any legislation, state or federal, that will ban, require additional registration of, or prohibit legal ownership, possession, or use of semi-automatic rifles. (Reference: 15-83, amended 97, 00)

Policy 1-85: Hunter Education and Shooting Facilities

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council strongly supports the use of Pittman-Robertson funds by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, either through a department administered program or by assisting interested organizations, to provide those services to:
 - a) assure a continuing Hunter Safety Program in Alaska; and,
 - b) provide a percentage of those funds to the construction of shooting facilities.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council recommends that future funding for such facilities be expanded to include all shooting sports including rifle, pistol, shotgun, archery and muzzle loading. The Alaska Outdoor Council encourages the State of Alaska and its political subdivisions to fund and encourage firearm safety training to all Alaskan school children. The Alaska Outdoor Council urges the State, either through a department administered program or by assisting interested organizations, to develop an effective statewide Hunter education program. Further, to revise and improve the Hunter Education Program to make it more applicable to Alaska hunting conditions. (Reference: Policy 1-85 & Resolution 1-88, amended 97, 98, 00)

Policy 13-97: Endorsement of Political Candidates by the NRA-ILA

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council board shall apply whatever political pressure is appropriate to influence the NRA-ILA to seek the Alaska Outdoor Council's approval and support before endorsing or opposing any candidate for Alaskan public office. (Reference: Historically Resolution 2-96, amended 97)

Policy 16-97: Challenge the Brady Law

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports a legal challenge to the constitutionality of the Brady Law in Federal Court. (Reference: Resolution 1-95)

SECTION FOUR: STATE OF ALASKA, FISH AND GAME

ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING

Policy 6-83: Funding of Fisheries and Wildlife Programs

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports continued and expanded funding of fish and wildlife programs, those of the Divisions of Wildlife Conservation, Sport Fish and Fish and Wildlife Protection of the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Public Safety.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the funding of programs to benefit the rapidly expanding sport fisheries and fund active management programs for game species for consumptive use, consistent with the sustained yield and common use principles. The most appropriate funding sources for these programs are State Fish and Game Funds paid by consumptive users through State license, tag, and stamp sales and Federal Aid monies from federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery and fishing tackle through the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux programs (Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts.)
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes use of any user-pay revenues to fund state programs which do not directly benefit hunters, trappers and sport fisherman, or which diminish consumptive use opportunities.
- 4) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports adequate annual general fund allocations to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to support administrative, boards, habitat protection, subsistence and public communication functions and to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection for fish and game law enforcement. (Reference: 6-83, amended 00)

Policy 4-83: Fisheries allocation

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council recognizes that the first and most important allocation is that necessary for biological escapement needs sufficient to meet the sustained yield mandate.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council requests the Alaska Board of Fisheries to more carefully consider the expanding economic potential of sport fishing and the value of the practice of sport fishing to Alaskans. (Reference: 4-83, amended 88, 00)
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council recognizes the destructive practices of Trawl Fishing in Alaska and opposes the use of Trawl Fishing Gear types in and around Alaskan Waters. (Reference: 4-83, amended 2022)
- 4) The Alaska Outdoor Council requests State and Federal Managers take immediate action to reduce the waste and habitat erosion caused by Trawl fishing up to the point of closure of Trawl Fisheries if needed. (Reference: 4-83, amended 2022)
- 5) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the reduction of bycatch solutions and the use of abundance-based management. (Reference: 4-83, amended 2022)

Policy 7-83: Fisheries Board Appointments

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the development of legislation to mandate that there be equalization of the Board of Fisheries to represent sport-fishing interests.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports legislation that would provide an amendment to the Alaska State Constitution as provided under Article XIII, Section 1, Alaska State Constitution, to establish a new system of appointing members to the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game.
- 3) The new regulatory boards, as created by this constitutional amendment, may be empowered with administrative authority to appoint the principle executive officer of the Department of Fish and Game, and that such appointment be subject only to confirmation by of the Alaska State Legislature in joint session.
- 4) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the autonomy of the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game and their associated advisory committee system and supports the creation of statutorily authorizing the boards to hire and administer their own staff and to develop and control their own budgets.
- 5) The boards should not be empowered to hire biologists, economists, sociologists or other professionals. (Reference: Resolution 3-83, 2-83 and 4-85)

Policy 9-83: Diversion of Pittman-Robertson, Dingel-Johnson, and State Fish and Game Funds

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council is opposed to any legislation or administrative action that would divert fish and/or wildlife conservation moneys from the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, Wallop-Breaux and State Fish and Game Funds. The Alaska Outdoor Council is concerned that diversion of the moneys would jeopardize established and well-accepted wildlife conservation programs. (Reference: 9-83, amended 85/97)

Policy 14-83: Fish and Wildlife Safeguard

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council strongly supports the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard program that operates on a statewide basis to stop the illegal taking and use of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.
- 2) This support shall be on a continuing financial basis. Member organizations are encouraged to support the program by having individual members serving on the regional Fish and Wildlife Safeguard Boards. (Reference: 14-83, amended 85/97)

Policy 1-89: Ethical Wildlife Harvest by State Employees

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes any state statute, regulation or policy that discourages or prohibits state employees from legally harvesting fish and game. The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes any law or policy that would restrict an employee's ability to legally trap and sell fur, act as a big game or sport fish guide, or participate in accordance with State Ethics laws. (Reference: 1-89)

Policy 7-97: Gulkana Egg Box Program

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council strongly supports full funding for the Gulkana Egg Box program or any other egg box program in Alaska. (Reference: Historically Resolution 6-86, amended 97)

SECTION FIVE: FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Policy 1-00: Active Management of Fish and Game

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports active science-based management of fish and game populations to provide reasonable and sustainable annual harvests for personal consumptive use. Providing reasonably abundant and productive game resources for common use by Alaska's sport, personal use and subsistence hunters and trappers is a primary constitutional responsibility of the State of Alaska.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the professional and judicious use of prescribed fires and other habitat improvement techniques, predator control, reintroduction of endemic species, selective harvest strategies, and other active management tools. The goals of active management should be to enhance and maintain fish and game resources at sustainable levels of abundance and productivity and provide reasonable opportunities for personal consumptive uses annually.
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council does not support active management that would result in the permanent extirpation of endemic fish and wildlife species, create unsustainably high population levels or harm habitats upon which fish and wildlife depend.
- 4) This policy is adopted because abundant, productive and accessible game resources are necessary to reduce conflicts between user groups and mitigate for diminished hunting and trapping opportunities resulting from increasingly restrictive federal management policies throughout Alaska. (Reference: Historically Policy 1-83, amended 88, 00, and 1-90, amended 00)

Policy 2-00: Waterfowl Management

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports conservation of waterfowl in Alaska according to sound scientific principles. This is necessary to avoid overexploitation of vulnerable species during the spring and summer by spring shooting and eggging that has led to depletion of Pacific black brant, cackling Canada, white-fronted and emperor geese populations and spectacled and Stellar's eiders in western Alaska.
- 2) Laws and regulations should be developed and rigorously enforced to ensure the full recovery of depleted species and the conservation of all waterfowl species breeding in Alaska for future generations of all hunters throughout the flyways.
- 3) Protection of the Spectacled and Stellar Eiders in the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge: The Alaska Outdoor Council encourages the Secretary of Interior to direct the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take all steps necessary to immediately halt all hunting of stellar and spectacled eiders and the taking of eider eggs in Alaska. (Reference: Resolution 4-91, 14, 14-97 amended into 2-97 in 00)
 - a. Taking should be restricted to those periods before and after nesting and brood rearing and regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska. Taking to meet subsistence needs should be limited so as not to exceed harvests in 1999, as the human population of rural Alaska grows in the future.
 - b. There should be no reallocation of harvests from the fall-winter seasons throughout the flyways to provide for increased spring taking on the nesting grounds. This recognizes that the greatest threats to Alaska's migratory waterfowl are continuing loss and degradation of wetlands and wintering areas in southern states and the potential for overexploitation on the breeding areas in Alaska. If sport waterfowling opportunities in Alaska and southern states are further restricted to accommodate substantially increased spring harvests in the north, waterfowl conservation programs will suffer significant loss of political and financial support from purchasers of state and federal waterfowl stamps and members of private waterfowl conservation organizations and further loss of privately owned wetlands currently maintained for waterfowl hunting in wintering areas.
 - c. There should be no commercial sale of waterfowl allowed that would provide economic incentives for overexploitation on the nesting grounds.
 - d. There should be no undue influence in the management of public waterfowl resources granted to subsistence hunters on the basis of race or culture under any co-management agreements in Alaska. As Alaska's foremost private wildlife conservation organization, the Alaska Outdoor

Council must be accorded a meaningful role in the regulatory process as the state and federal governments proceed with implementation of the amended Migratory Bird Treaty in Alaska. (Historically: Policy 2-97 and 14-97, amended 00)

Policy 3-83: International Caribou Herds

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council is opposed to any international treaty of agreement concerning the Porcupine Caribou Herd that in any way usurps the present management authorities of the state and territorial governments. Any such treaty should not be used as a mechanism to further federal controls of fish and wildlife resources. The Outdoor Council is opposed to any approach of the Canadian government to use a caribou treaty as language for settling their long-standing Native land claims.
- 2) Any international agreement that is negotiated between the United States and Canada should limit the scope of the agreement to protection of habitat of the international caribou herds and where necessary, the establishment of only harvest quotas for each country. (Reference: 3-83, amended 97)

Policy 10-97: Marine Mammal Protection Act and Marine Mammal Possession

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports a federally sponsored public education program to fully inform the public of the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act relating to possession and identification of marine mammal parts. The Alaska Outdoor Council supports an established procedure that will enable Alaskan citizens to register or otherwise document legal ownership of marine mammal parts in a manner that will not endanger the legal ownership of such parts. (Reference: Historically Resolution 2-91, amended 97)

Policy 11-97: Viewing Areas, Bears and Habituation

- 1) A popular myth promoted by persons intolerant of hunting or trapping is that those pursuits are incompatible with wildlife viewing, photography or nature study and appreciation. Based on that myth, many are led to believe that wildlife viewing can only be successful where hunting or trapping is prohibited, and wildlife is habituated to concentrations of people. Habituation of wildlife to concentrations of people can increase the risk of unnecessary injury or death for both wildlife and people unless the situations are intensively managed.
- 2) Sixty percent of Alaska is federal land where non-consumptive use has the priority over all hunting and trapping, including subsistence use. Where allowed, hunting and trapping seasons generally do not overlap with the times most viewers are afield.
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes the development of additional viewing areas that promote the habituation of wildlife, especially bears, to concentrations of people. Such areas are not needed to view wildlife and may create increased safety risks for wildlife and people, and commonly result in the demand for more unnecessary hunting and/or trapping closures.
- 4) If such areas are considered, they should only be allowed on federal lands, where there is already a general priority for non-consumptive uses, and in areas where closures do not conflict with historic hunting and trapping uses. (Reference: Historically Resolution 1-93, amended 97)

Policy 3-85: Harvest of Herring

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council is concerned with the possible over-harvest of herring to satisfy the currently lucrative foreign market in roe. This narrow use may not justify the risk to the broader benefits of herring stocks. Herring is a uniquely important prey species that supports a broad variety of fish and wildlife resources. The Alaska Outdoor Council supports active measures by the Department of Fish and Game to prevent over harvest and expand herring stocks. (Reference: Historically Policy 3-85)

Policy 12-83: Habitat Conservation

- 1) Even though specific Alaskan fish and wildlife populations have, in the past, been threatened, Alaska's habitats have remained largely intact and have provided the essential basis for population recovery in species ranging from sea otter, fur seal and walrus to caribou, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, beaver, salmon, char and trout.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council considers habitat conservation, or wise use, to be of critical importance to the long-term well-being of Alaska's unique fish and wildlife assemblage and to the well-being of her people. Natural resource extraction can be accommodated when it is undertaken within limits that ensure the undiminished capabilities of Alaska's habitats to sustain fish and wildlife at their optimum levels. The Alaska Outdoor Council, therefore, supports regulation of resource uses and human developments to ensure the protection of critical habitats (as defined by Alaska statutes) and the conservation of habitats in general. (Reference: Historically 12-83)

Policy 1-19: Wildlife Health Protecting Wildlife from Harmful Pathogens, Diseases and Parasites

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports science-based health monitoring of wildlife populations to ensure the long-term health and abundance of Alaska's wild game resources.
- 2) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the use of proactive management efforts to protect wildlife populations from the increasing threat from harmful foreign pathogens, infectious diseases, and nonendemic parasites.
- 3) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports continued efforts to identify and eliminate threats from harmful foreign pathogens, infectious diseases, and nonendemic parasites from domestic animals.

SECTION SIX: MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

Policy 8-97: Development of ANWR

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council supports the exploration for and possible development of oil resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in the best practicable manner compatible with the fish and wildlife resources of the region and in the best economic interests of all the people of the State of Alaska. (Reference: Historically Resolution 4-87, amended 97, reaffirmed 01)

Policy 12-97: The Golden Rule

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council encourages the Alaska delegation to demonstrate that certain federal laws, like Title VIII of ANILCA, violate the rights of Alaskans by introducing legislation to make the same or similar laws apply to other states. (Reference: Historically Resolution 3-95, amended 97)

Policy 17-97: Animal Rights Activists

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council encourages it's membership and other consumptive users of fish and wildlife to boycott the service of any air charter company or commercial pilot who participates in animal rights group anti-hunting/trapping activity. (Reference: 1997 resolution)

Policy 18-97: Public Trust Doctrine

- 1) The Alaska Outdoor Council graciously requests the Governor, the Alaska legislature, and the Alaska Congressional delegation to suffer no law which affects the rights of individuals to hunt or fish in Alaska, to be enacted or to remain in effect, unless it is consistent with the public trust and the public trust doctrine as originally embodied in the Alaska constitution. (Reference: 1997 Resolution)

These policies were amended and approved on March 28, 1993, April 9, 1994, March 7, 1999, March 5, 2000, March 25, 2001, March 18, 2002, and February 22, 2003, March 31, 2019. March 31, 2022

Executive Director Caleb Martin
Public Policy Director Rod Arno
President: Bill Iverson
Date: March 31,2022