

BLM Alaska
Resource Advisory Council
Resolution 11-01
November 30, 2011

The following resolution was approved by a quorum of council members present during a vote at the November 30, 2011 council meeting held in Fairbanks Alaska. Council vice-chair Michael McDougall presiding in the absence of Council Chair Scott Hala. The resolution was forwarded to BLM State Director Bud Cribley.

WHEREAS, the current BLM cabin policy requires trapping proceeds be 25% of total annual income, and

WHEREAS, the profit margin in the trapping business is often very small, and

WHEREAS, changes to the BLM policy would allow for the practical, safe use of cabins to perform trapping activity, yet discourage the use of the cabins for inappropriate activities, and

NOW THEREFORE, the Alaska RAC recommends that BLM revise the long standing trapping cabin policy wording that requires substantial *income* to instead require substantial *effort*, and

be less prohibitive to trappers by omitting the 25% income requirement, and

consider other measures of proof of commercial activity, and

structure a trapper cabin permit fee in a way that minimizes the cost to the trappers. The cabin permit fee would be similar to that of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and

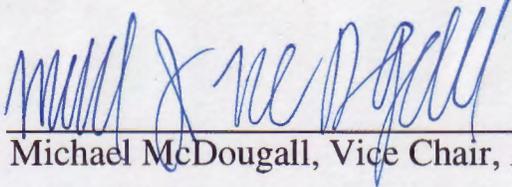
the RAC also recommends BLM consider incorporating the following elements in revising the existing policy regarding cabins:

- Limit a permanent cabin size not to exceed 400 sq. ft. Additionally allow for reasonable out-buildings, limited to: a) a maximum 120 sq. ft., three-sided wood shed/snow machine shelter, b) an elevated food cache, and c) a toilet. Existing cabins with similar characteristics to be used for this purpose be grandfathered in.
- Allow additional emergency line shelter(s) with a toilet and cache. Limit total size to 150 sq. feet per shelter site.
- Limit cabin use to activities relating directly to trapping only.

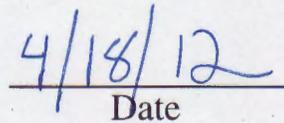
- Limit the use period from the month prior to the opening of trapping season, to the month after the end of the season (closure date may vary, based on weather conditions) in the area where the cabin is located,
- Require proof of commercial activity, including the following:
 - measure of effort through time (generally 60 days of trapping effort during the trapping season), and
 - receipts for investment (gas, trapping equipment, food, etc.), and
 - number of set traps (minimum 20), and
 - receipts of commercial sale (sealing certificate, fur harvest ticket, handicraft sale receipt), or
 - proof of barter of some furs.
- Issue a 5-year, renewable cabin permit. Reviewed annually by the agency and renewed based on satisfactory compliance with all terms of the permit.
- Charge a non-refundable \$100 administrative fee for issuing and renewing cabin permits.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council by a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 not voting.



Michael McDougall, Vice Chair, Alaska RAC



Date