Interim Annual Report to the Alaska Board of Game on Intensive Management for Caribou and Moose with Wolf Predation Control in Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area

Prepared by the Division of Wildlife Conservation
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Interim annual updates are limited to sections where data have been collected between the prior annual report in February and end of the regulatory year on 30 June. For complete information, see the prior annual report.

1) Predator data

Date(s) and method of most recent spring abundance assessment for wolves: May 2011- combination of predator control permittee and trapper interviews (winter 2010–2011), anecdotal observations by Department staff (Oct. 2010–May 2011), and trapper/hunter harvest records.

Table 3. Wolf abundance and removal in Wolf Control Area (WCA). Removal objective is 60–80% of pre-control fall abundance in year 1 of wolf predation control program, so estimated or confirmed number remaining by 1 May each regulatory year in the WCA must be at least 88. Regulatory year is 1 July to 30 June (e.g, RY10 is 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011).

Period	Regulatory Year	Fall abundance (range)	Harvest removal		Dept. control removal	Public control removal	Total removal	Spring abundance (range)[a]
			Trap	Hunt				
Year 1	2004–2005	380[bc] (350–410)	52	23	N/A	60	135	245 (215–275)
Year 2	2005–2006	335[c] (300–370)	58	10	N/A	17	85	250 (215–285)
Year 3	2006–2007	362[c] (300–425)	73	7	N/A	23	103	259 (197–322)
Year 4	2007–2008	382[c] (366–398)	57	14	N/A	27	98	284 (268–300)
Year 5	2008–2009	372[d]	82	11	84	49	226	146
Year 6	2009–2010	235[e]	31	4	15	10	60	175
Year 7	2010–2011	274[c] (262–285)	26	11	0	25	62	212 (200–223)

[a]Fall estimate minus all know wolf kills.
[b]Pre-control population estimate.
[c]Fall modeled estimate.
[d]Revised fall modeled estimate using results from a March 2009 reconnaissance survey and RY08 removal data. The original fall modeled estimate was 393–431.
[e]Revised fall modeled estimate using results from a March 2010 reconnaissance survey and RY09 removal data. The original fall modeled estimate was 262–299.

2) Habitat data and nutritional condition of prey species

Table 5a. Nutritional indicators for Fortymile Caribou in in FCH hunt area since the herd was added to the control program in year 3. A regulatory year is 1 July to 30 June (e.g, RY10 is 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011).

Period	Regulatory Year	Spring Birthrates (% of cows ≥36 months that gave birth)
Year 1	2004–2005	--
Year 2	2005–2006	80
Year 3	2006–2007	89
Year 4	2007–2008	90
Year 5	2008–2009	70
Year 6	2009–2010	70
Year 7	2010–2011	86

Table 5b. Nutritional indicators for moose in Unit 20E West and 20E Central moose survey areas in southern Unit 20E since program implementation in year 1 to year 7. A regulatory year is 1 July to 30 June (e.g, RY10 is 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011).

Period	Regulatory Year	Twinning Rates (% of cows observed with calf that had twins)
Year 1	2004–2005	24
Year 2	2005–2006	47
Year 3	2006–2007	27
Year 4	2007–2008	17
Year 5	2008–2009	41
Year 6	2009–2010	22
Year 7	2010–2011	21

Costs specific to implementing Intensive Management

Table 5. Proportional time of field level staff and cost ($1000 = 1.0) of ADF&G personnel salary plus operations for predation control and for other intensive management activities (e.g., habitat enhancement, wildlife survey efforts beyond normal Survey and Inventory work) in the Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area. Fiscal year (FY) is also 1 July to 30 June but the year is one greater than the comparable RY (e.g, FY 2010 is 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010).

Period	FY	Predation control[a]		Other IM activities		Total IM cost	Research cost[d]
		Time[b]	Cost[c]	Time	Cost		
Year 7	2011	0.4	3.5	12.7	166.4	169.9	67.1

[a] State or private funds only.

[b] Person-months (22 days per month)

[c] Salary plus operations

[d] Separate from implementing IM program but beneficial for understanding of ecological or human response to management treatment (scientific approach that is not unique to IM).