

<u>Unit 13 within the SDA area:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wolves taken by permittees (SDA):	24	30	1	55
Wolves taken by trapping/hunting:	19	18	0	37
<i>Total take (trapping, hunting, and SDA):</i>	43	48	3	92
<u>Unit 13 (unit-wide):</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wolves taken by permittees (SDA):	24	30	1	55
Wolves taken by trapping/hunting:	32	32	0	64
<i>Total take (trapping, hunting, and SDA):</i>	56	62	3	119
<u>Unit 13 (unit-wide):</u>	<u>2008 Fall Estimate</u>	<u>2009 Spring Estimate</u>		
	273	145		

Initial potential take objective: The preliminary unit-wide take objective was 40-118 based on a 217-265 preliminary wolf estimate of the 2008 fall population. Over the course of the winter as wolf observations and reports increased, the population estimate was refined, as was the unit-wide take objective. The final population and harvest numbers are listed above.

Estimated effect of trapping and hunting: The reported take from trapping and hunting unit-wide was 64 wolves. This includes 32 males and 32 females. The 2008-09 total take of wolves for Unit 13 was 119.

Effectiveness of combined take: The spring 2009 Unit 13 population estimate is 145 wolves (3.6 wolves / 1000km²). The Unit 13 spring population objective of 135-165 wolves (3.3-4.1 wolves / 1000km²) has been attained annually since the spring of 2006 (first time since 1989). In the absence of the SDA program, hunters and trappers may have taken some additional wolves over the past few years, though the reported annual trapping and hunting take alone would have been insufficient to reduce the unit-wide population to the spring objective.

Summary of permittee interest & participation: Similar to the past years of the program, there was strong interest from the public in the SDA program in Unit 13. For 2008-09, 37 pilots were selected to participate in the Unit 13 SDA program. Of these pilots, 31 called in and flew a total of 212 days (refined through post-season pilot questionnaires). One pilot called in to fly 20 days, one 16 days; 10 pilots called in to fly 8 or more days. Twelve experienced pilots were responsible for the entire SDA take this season, similar to last season.

Program challenges: With fuel prices coming down recently, this may have encouraged a few more pilots to actively participate in the program this year compared to last year. Due to the need for taking wolves in some rough terrain and thick forested areas, aerial gunning was allowed in GMU 13 for the entire SDA season, similar to the 2007-08 season. A total of 51 wolves were taken by aerial shooting, 3 using Land & Shoot, and one was unknown. In March, pilots had to content with some ash in the air from Redoubt. It fell as far east as Glennallen, but the noticeable ash layer came east to about Lake Louise.

Remarks: The SDA program in Unit 13 has been successful in reducing the wolf population overall. Though land and shoot had been successful in initially reducing the unit-wide population, aerial shooting was instituted because high fuel costs limited permittee participation and the time pilots had to find wolves in open areas. The combination of Land & Shoot and aerial shooting has been essential in effectively reducing wolf numbers in Unit 13. Taking wolves Same Day Airborne has proven successful in this area, and the spring population objective was met for the 4th year in a row. The program was allowed to continue until the scheduled stopping date of 30 April 2008. Given natural mortality, and the reduction of the wolf population that occurred during this 6th year of the SDA program in Unit 13, our spring estimate is 145 wolves remaining in the unit [92 wolves in the control area] in the spring of 2009.

This program is proving successful through predicted moderate increases in moose observations during early winter surveys, as well as increases in the harvest. The 2008-2009 Unit 13 total moose harvest was 736 (includes the State general hunt and federal subsistence hunts). This is up 57% from the low of 468 in 2001, but still well below the unit-wide intensive management objective of 1050-2180. The general moose harvest in 13A was 211, which is at the bottom end of the 13A harvest objective of 210-420. The other subunits are still below objectives. The 2009-2010 hunting season was the first where the Board was able to expand hunting opportunity to moose hunters through limited non-resident drawing hunts (50 permits), as well as small resident-only any-bull drawing hunts (160 permits). These hunts will increase the number of hunters in the field slightly, and some additional moose are expected to be taken through these hunts. The Unit 13 state general hunt had a total of 3,586 hunters in 2008 (minimum 2,015 in 1990, and maximum 5,652 in 1996).